THE SICILIAN ALAPIN
200 ANNOTATED GAMES

CHESS NOTES

2025

HOT

1 **B22**

□ **Stockfish dev-20230903-b25d68**

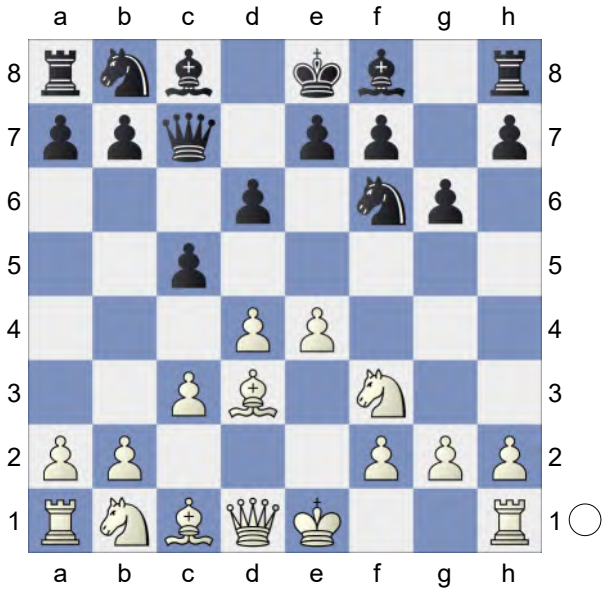
■ **LCZero 0.31-dag-5107404-T2-52**

TCEC 25 Premier P/O 2023 (3.1) 4.10.23

[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

Inf 60/(108) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Qc7 5.Nf3 g6**



6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Re1 Nc6N

[8...a6 9.e5 Nd5 10.Be4 Nb6 11.Bf4 d5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nbd2 Nc6 14.Qe2 Na4 15.Rab1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Rac8 18.Nf1 Qb6 19.Be3 Bd7 20.h4 Bb5 21.h5 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 gxh5 23.Qa3 1-0 (32) Hickl,J (2535)-Gostisa,L (2410) Lippstadt 1994 (7)]

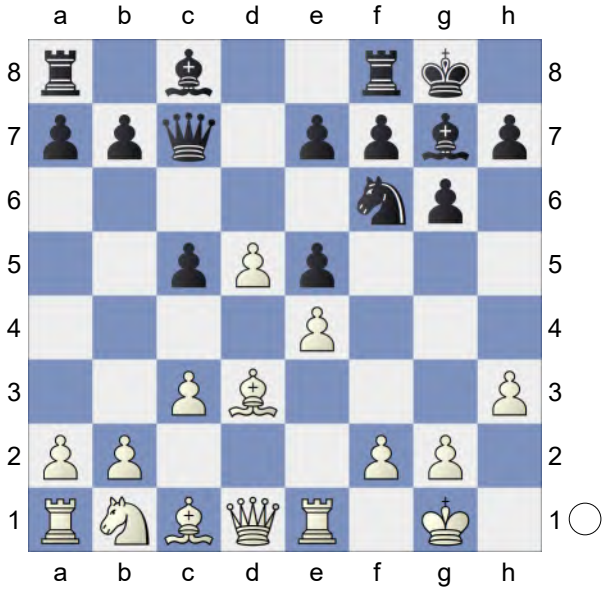
[8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.a4 b6 13.Bc4 Nf8 14.Ng5 Rd7 15.a5 Rb8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Bb5 Rd8 18.Nc4 Kamsky,G (2695)-Polgar,J (2630) Madrid 60/(108) 1994]

[8...Rd8 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bf4 b5 11.e5 Nd5 12.exd6 exd6 13.Bg5 Rf8 14.Be4 Bb7 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.Qd2 Nb6 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 Chapter-1. e4 c5 2. a3 Nc6: all lines 2010]

[8...h6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Be4 Nb6 12.Bf4 Be6 13.Qc1 Kh7 14.h4 Qc8 15.h5 Bf5 16.e6 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 g5 18.Bxg5 f5 19.Re1 hxg5 20.Nxg5+ Kg8 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qg5 1-0 (31) Loheac Amoun,F (2600)-5.♗f4 00 6.e3 c5 (2340) 32 Plovdiv 2012]

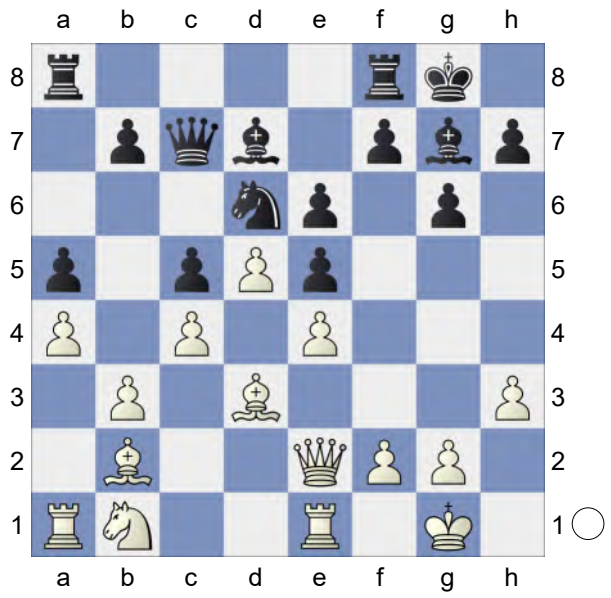
[8...Nfd7 9.Bg5 Nc6 10.Na3 a6 11.Nc2 b5 12.Bf1 Re8 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.a4 Na5 15.Qd1 Nb3 16.Ra3 c4 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 e5 19.f3 Nf8 20.Kh1 Ne6 21.Be3 h5 22.axb5 axb5 23.b4 ½-½ (47) Ochsner,T (2300)-Sahl,B (2415) DEN-ch Esbjerg 1997 (8)]

9.d5 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5

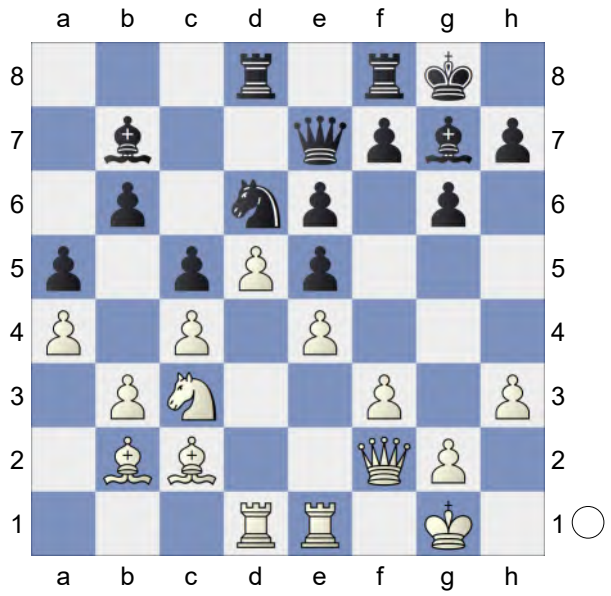


White is slightly better. **11.a4 Bd7 12.Qe2 e6 13.c4 Ne8 14.b3 a5 15.Bb2 Nd6**

(Diagram)

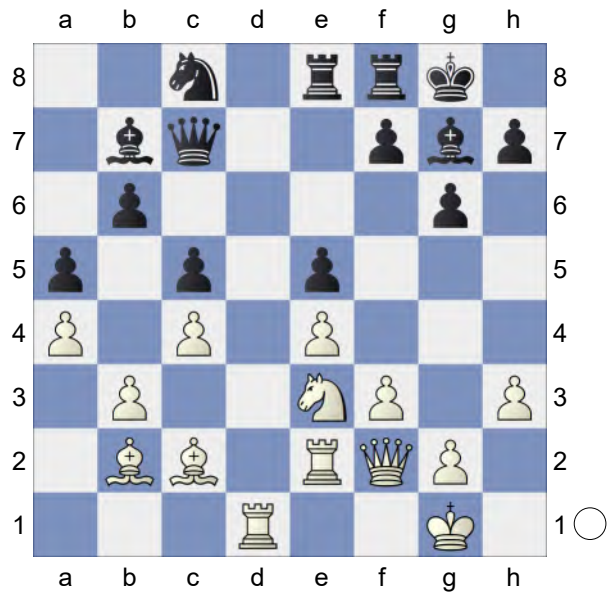


16.Nc3 Rad8 17.f3 b6 18.Qf2 Bc8 19.Rad1 Qe7 20.Bc2 Bb7

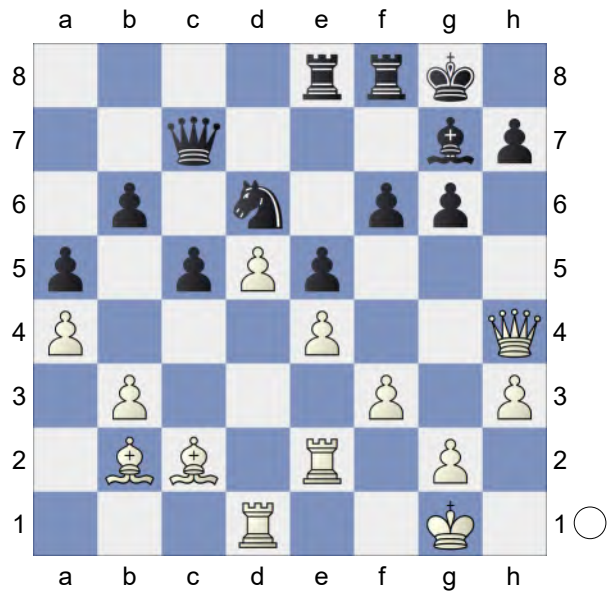


21.Re2 Rde8 22.Rde1 Qd8 23.Rd1 -0.01/22
[23.Rd2± 0.65/20]
23...exd5 0.66/23
[23...Qe7!= -0.01/22]
24.Nxd5± Nc8 25.Ne3 White is much more active. **25...Qc7**

(Diagram)

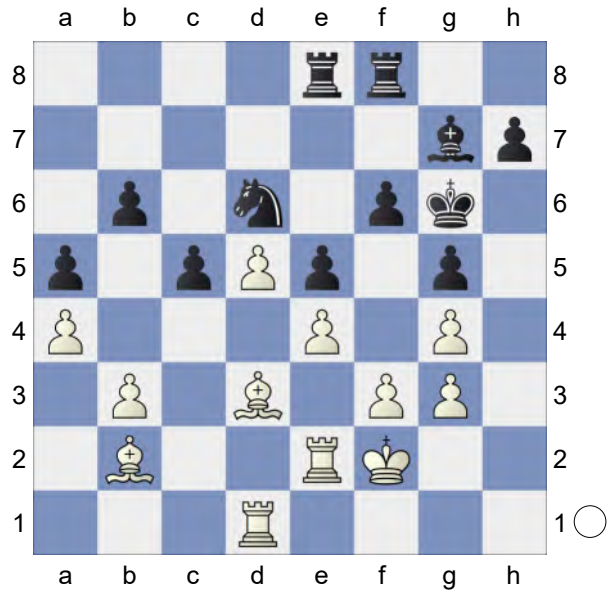


26.Nd5 -0.01/22
[26.Red2± 0.67/22]
26...Qd8!= 27.Ne3 0.01/20
[27.f4± 0.87/22]
27...Qc7! 28.Qh4 f6 29.Nd5 Bxd5 30.cxd5
[Don't play 30.Rxd5?! Ne7∓]
30...Nd6

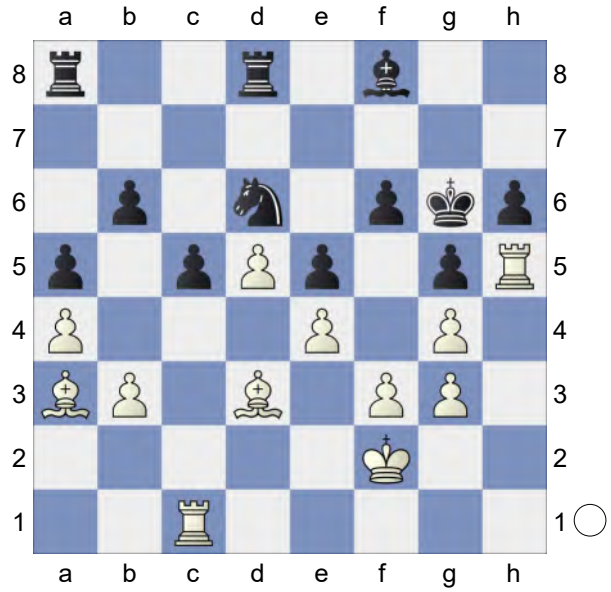


31.Bd3 Qd7 32.Qg4 Qxg4 33.hxg4
[Of course not 33.fxg4 f5=]
33...Kf7 Black is weak on the light squares **34.Kf2 g5** 1.31/21
[⌓34...Rh8 0.71/21]

35.g3 Kg6

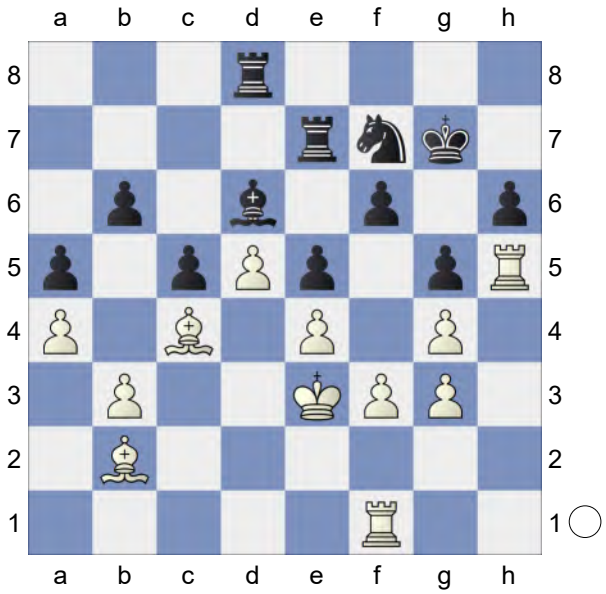


36.Rh1 Rh8 37.Rh5 h6 38.Ba3 Ra8 39.Rc2 Rhd8 40.Rc1 Bf8

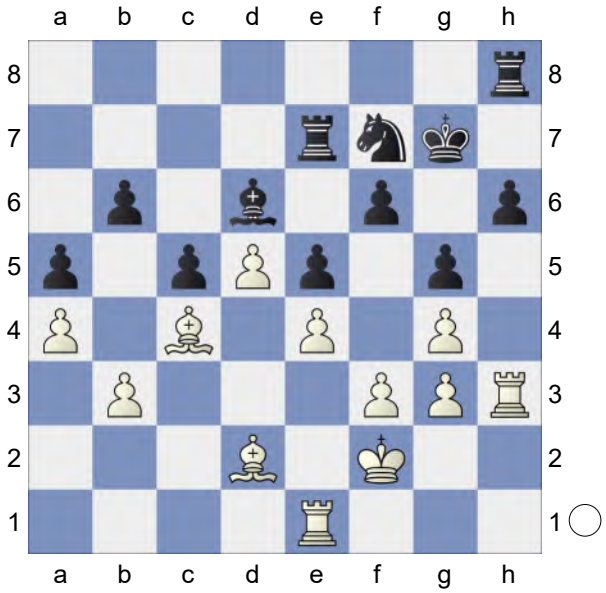


41.Ke3 Nf7 42.Bb2 Bd6 43.Bc4 Ra7 44.Ra1 Re7 45.Rf1 Kg7

(Diagram)



46.Bc3 Bc7 47.Re1 Bd6 48.Kf2 Rh8 49.Bd2 Rd8 50.Rh3 Rh8

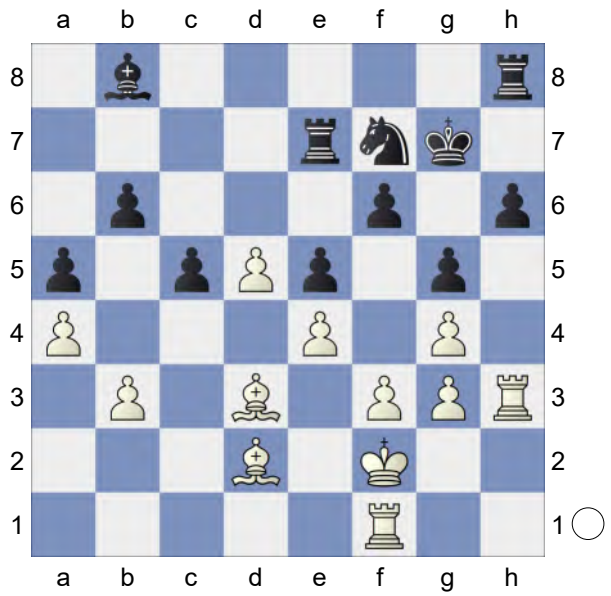


51.Ba6 Ra8 52.Be2 Rh8 53.Ba6 0.01/21

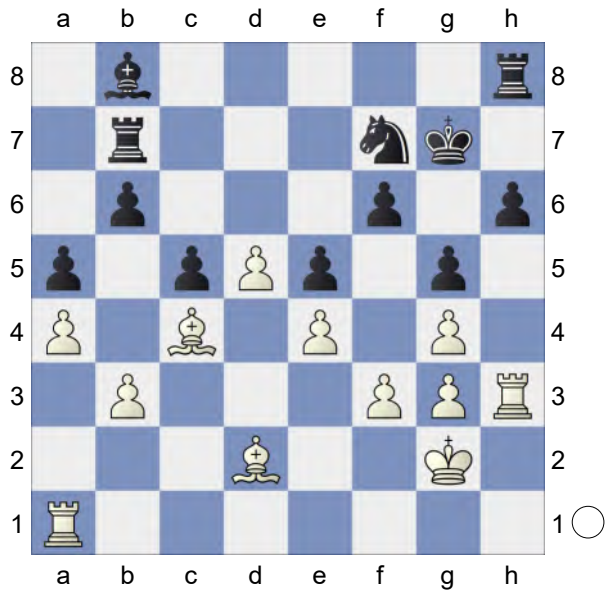
[53.Ke3± 1.39/22]

53...Ra8 54.Bd3 Rh8 55.Rf1 Bb8

(Diagram)

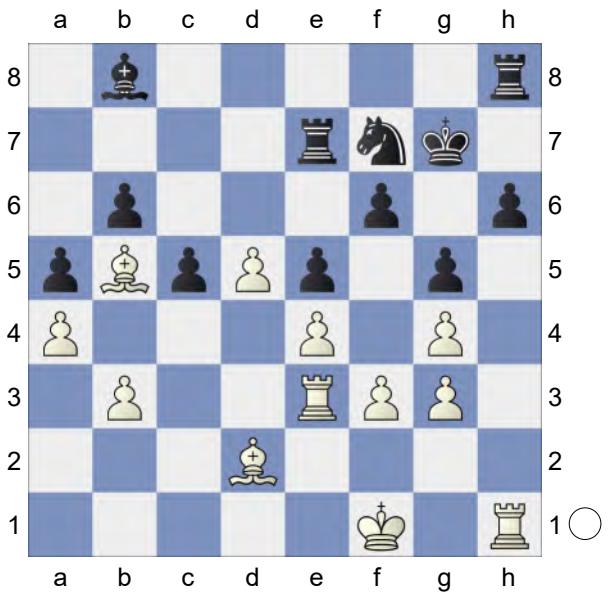


56.Kg2 Bc7 57.Kh2 Bb8 58.Bc4 Nd6 59.Kg2 Rb7 60.Ra1 Nf7 1.38/21
[Better is 60...Kg8!± 0.61/21]

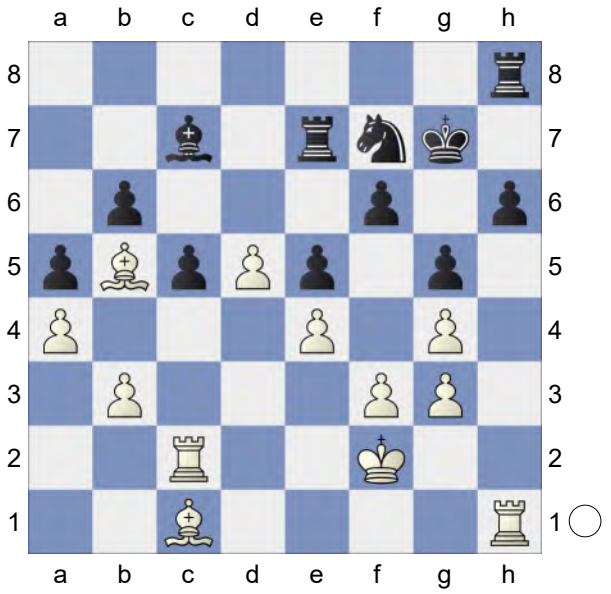


61.Kf1 Re7 62.Rh1 Bd6 63.Re1 0.89/20
[⌓63.Ke2 1.40/20]
63...Rg8 1.47/21
[⌓63...Rd7 0.89/20 64.Ke2 Be7]
64.Re3 Rh8 65.Bb5 Bb8

(Diagram)

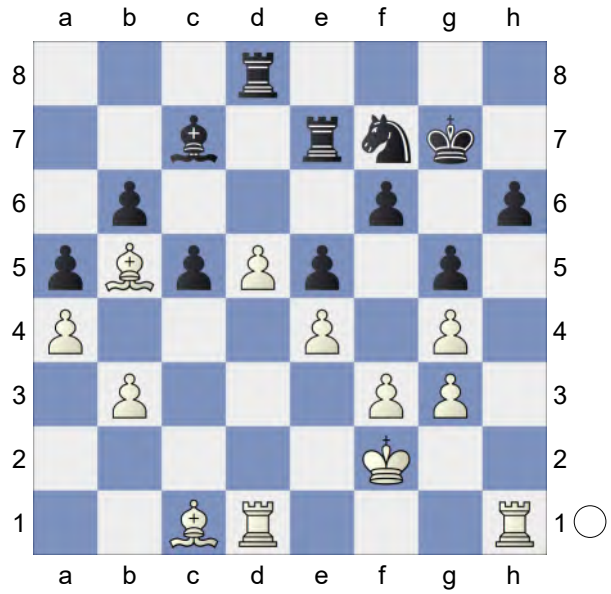


66.Ke1 Bc7 1.38/22
[⌓66...Nd6 1.00/20]
67.Bc1 Bb8 68.Kf2 Bc7 69.Rc3 Bb8 70.Rc2 Bc7 0.37/24
[70...Nd6± 1.31/23]

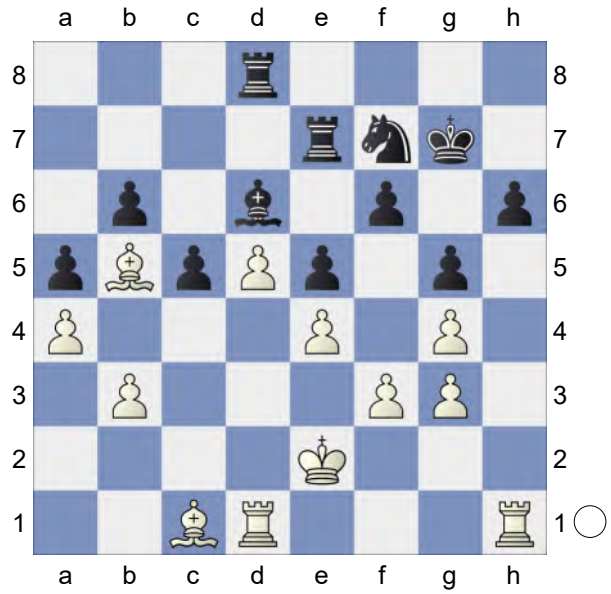


71.Re2± Rd8 72.Bc4 Bd6 73.Bb5 -0.01/21
[73.Ke3± 1.40/23]
73...Rh8 1.40/22
[73...Bc7!= -0.01/21 remains equal.]
74.Ree1 Bc7 75.Rd1 1.31/24
[⌓75.Ke2 0.95/23]

75...Rd8

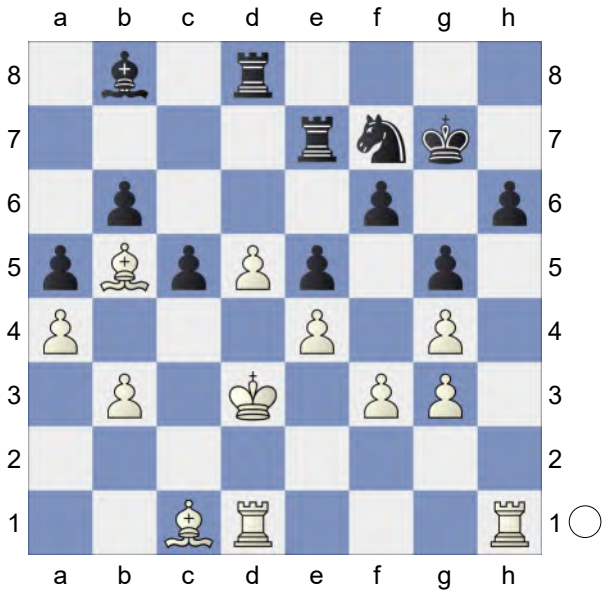


76.Rh5 Bd6 1.45/21
[⌓76...Bb8 1.04/23 77.Rdh1 Bd6]
77.Be3 Rg8 78.Rhh1 Rd8 1.41/20
[Black should try 78...Rc7 0.85/22 79.Rc1 Be7]
79.Bc1 -0.01/22
[79.Ke1± 1.41/20]
79...Rh8 0.53/22
[79...Bc7!= -0.01/22]
80.Ke2 Rd8

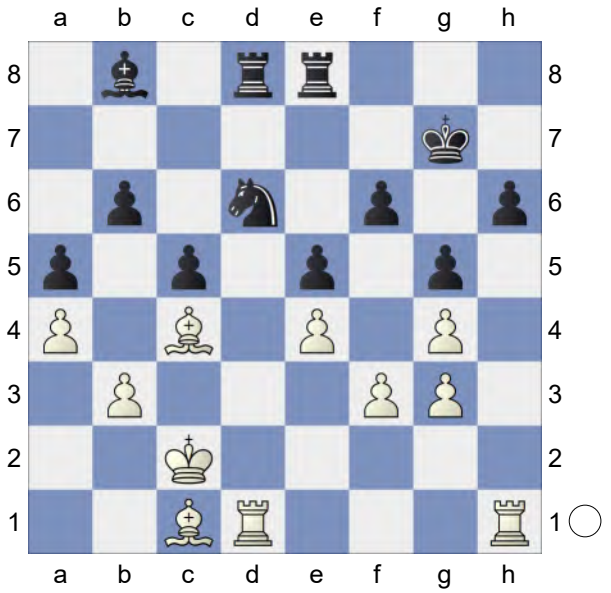


81.Kd3 Bb8

(Diagram)

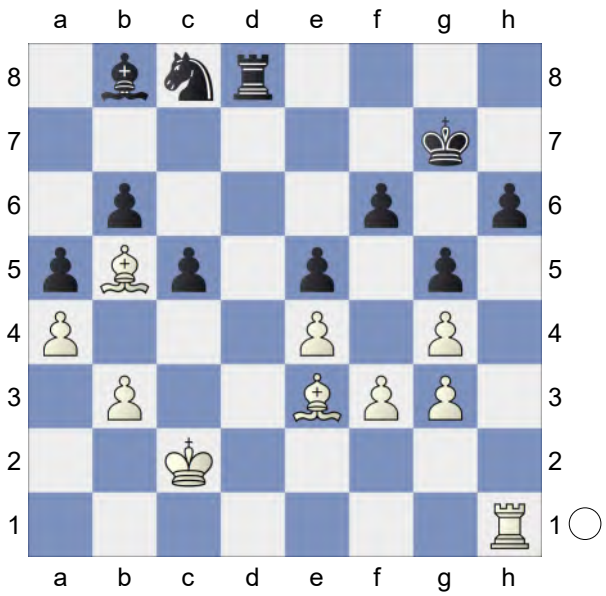


82.d6 -0.01/23 **Nxd6** The position is equal. **83.Kc2 Rc8**
[83...Kg6 looks sharper. 84.Bc4 Bc7 85.Bd5 Nc8]
84.Ba6 White has compensation.
84...Rd8 85.Bc4 Ree8

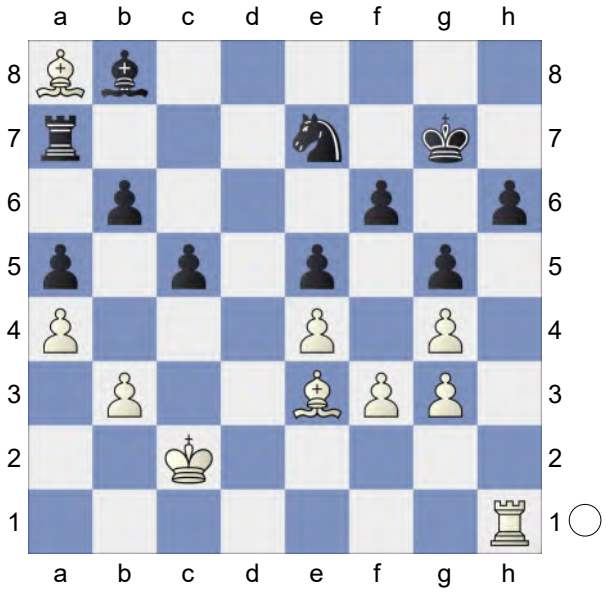


86.Bd5 Nc8 87.Bc6 A strong pair of Bishops. **87...Rf8 88.Rxd8 Rxd8 89.Be3 Ne7 90.Bb5 Nc8**

(Diagram)

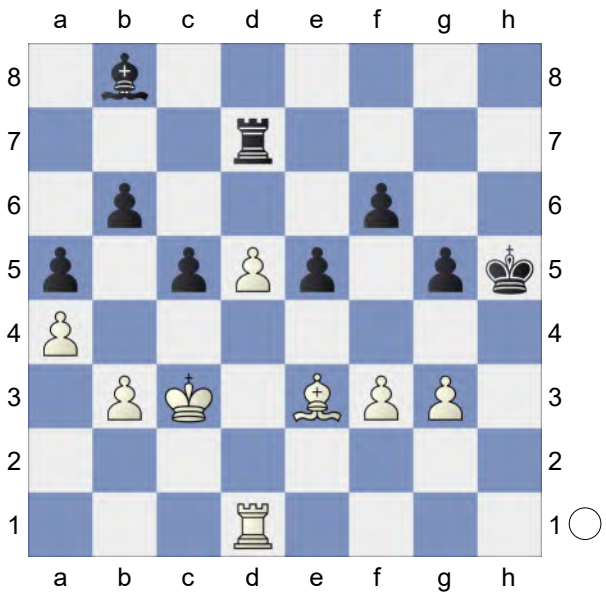


91.Bc6 Ne7 92.Bb5 Nc8 93.Ba6 Ne7 94.Bb7 Prevents Nc6. **94...Rd7 95.Ba8 Ra7**



96.Bd5 Nxd5 97.exd5 Rd7 98.Rd1 Kg6 99.Kc3 h5 100.gxh5+ Kxh5

(Diagram)



White really could win this.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

2 **B22**

□ **LCZero 0.31-dag-5107404-T2-52**

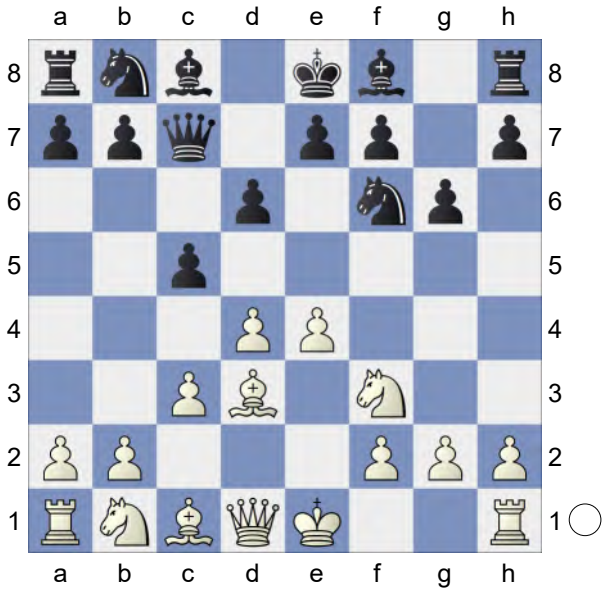
■ **Stockfish dev-20230903-b25d68**

TCEC 25 Premier P/O 2023 (6.1) 4.10.23

[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

Inf 60/(108) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Qc7 5.Nf3 g6**



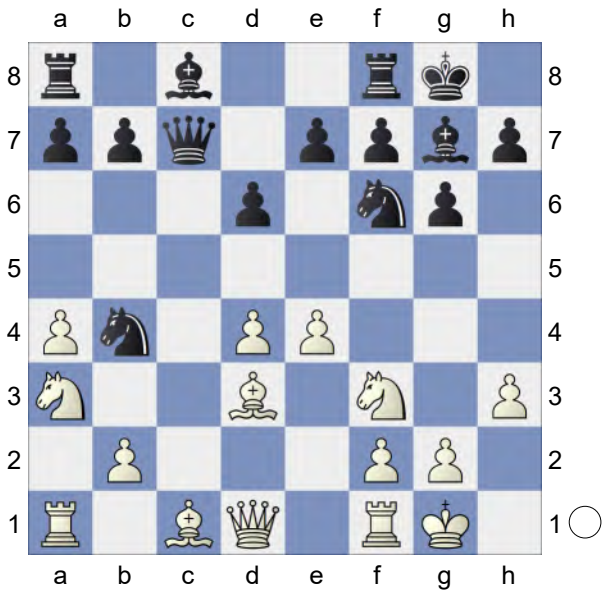
6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.a4N

[8.Re1 a6 *(8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.a4 b6 13.Bc4 Nf8 14.Ng5 Rd7 15.a5 Rb8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Bb5 Rd8 18.Nc4* Kamsky,G (2695)-Polgar,J (2630) Madrid 60/(108) 1994*; 8...Rd8 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bf4 b5 11.e5 Nd5 12.exd6 exd6 13.Bg5 Rf8 14.Be4 Bb7 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.Qd2 Nb6 17.Bxb7 Qxb7* Chapter-1. e4 c5 2. a3 Nc6: all lines 2010*; 8...h6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Be4 Nb6 12.Bf4 Be6 13.Qc1 Kh7 14.h4 Qc8 15.h5 Bf5 16.e6 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 g5 18.Bxg5 f5 19.Re1 hxg5 20.Nxg5+ Kg8 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qg5* 1-0 (31) Loheac Amoun,F (2600)-5. ♗f4 00 6.e3 c5 (2340) 32 Plovdiv 2012*)* 9.e5 Nd5 10.Be4 Nb6 11.Bf4 d5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nbd2 Nc6 14.Qe2 Na4 15.Rab1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Rac8 18.Nf1 Qb6 19.Be3 Bd7 20.h4 Bb5 21.h5 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 gxh5 1-0 (32) Hickl,J (2535)-Gostisa,L (2410) Lippstadt 1994 (7)]

[8.Bg5 Nc6 9.d5 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.c4 Nh5 12.Nc3 Nf4 13.Re1 a6 14.Bf1 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bd7 17.f3 Rad8 18.Bf2 f5 19.g3 Ng6 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Ne4 b6 22.b4 cxb4 1-0 (33) Yugoslav Qa5 (2680)-Benhadi,A (2532) USCCC-1 Final 7476 1974 (9)]

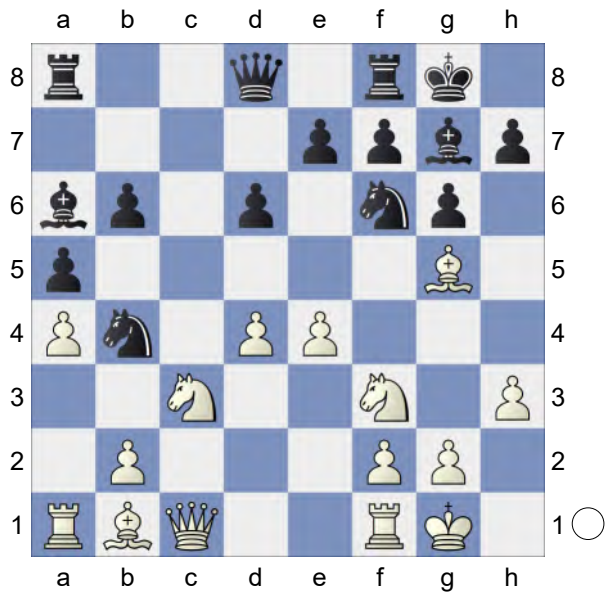
8...Na6 9.Na3 cxd4 10.cxd4

White is slightly better. **10...Nb4**



11.Nb5 Qd8 12.Bb1 a6 13.Nc3 a5 14.Bg5 b6 15.Qc1 Ba6

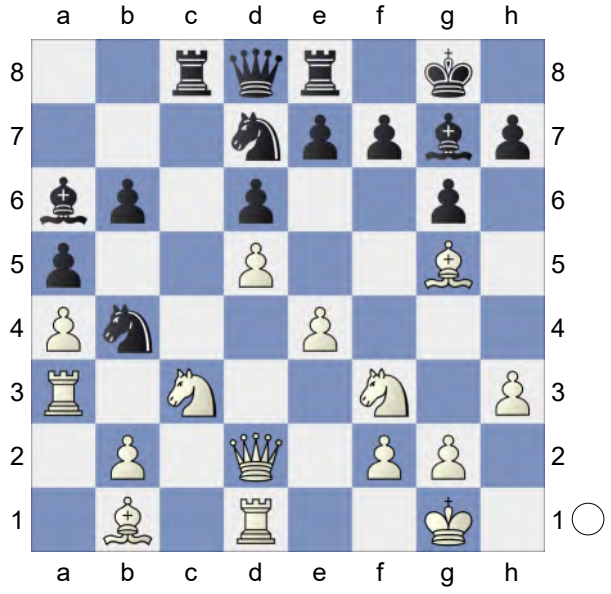
(Diagram)



16.Rd1 Rc8 17.Qf4 Re8 18.Ra3 Rc4 19.Qd2

[19.Bh6 feels hotter. Qc7 20.d5 Nd7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Nd4]

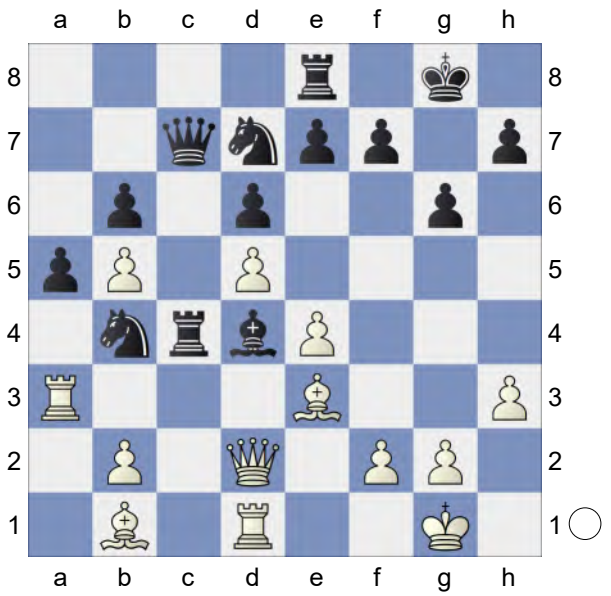
19...Rc8 20.d5 Nd7



21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.axb5 Rc4 23.Bh6 Bf6 24.Be3 Qc7 25.Nd4 Dodges Nc2

25...Bxd4

(Diagram)



26.Bxd4 Nc2 27.Bxc2 Rxc2 28.Qh6 Ne5 0.62/21

[28...f6= 0.17/22 deserves consideration.]

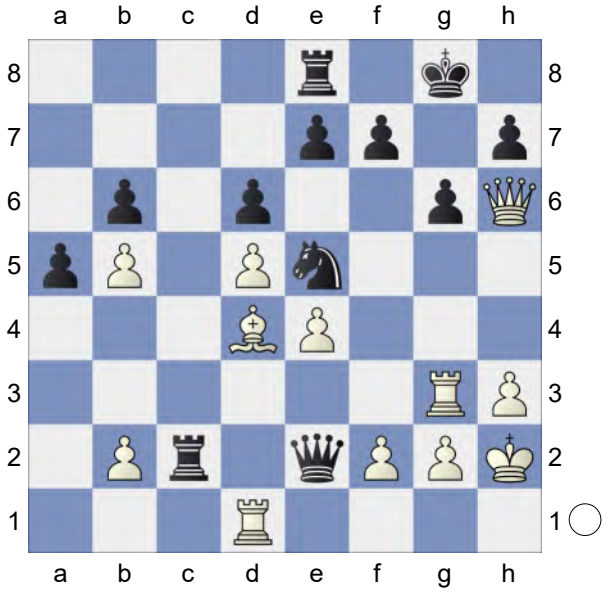
29.Rg3 0.01/20

[29.f4 Rd2 30.Rxd2 Qc1+ 31.Kh2 Qxd2=]

[29.Rc3± 0.62/21 Rxc3 30.Bxc3]

29...Qc4= 30.Kh2 Hoping for Bxe5.

30...Qe2



31.Rdd3 Qf1 aiming for ...Rc1.

[31...Nxd3 32.Qg7#]

[31...Qxe4? 32.Rge3 Qf5

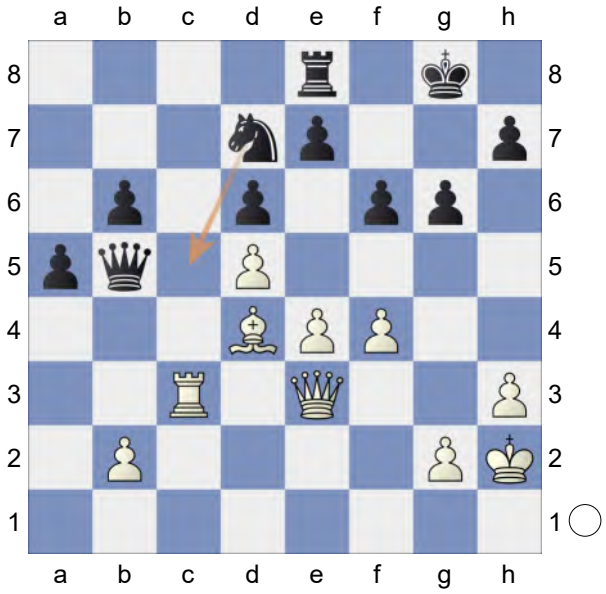
(32...Qxd5? 33.Bxe5 Discovered Attack *Qxe5+ 34.Rxe5+-)* 33.f4+-]
[31...Qe1 is interesting. 32.Rg5 Rxf2 33.Bxf2 Qxf2 34.Rdg3 Qxb2 35.Rh5 Nf3+]

32.Rc3 Rxc3 33.Rxc3 f6 0.65/21
[33...Qxb5= 0.22/23 might be stronger. 34.f4 Qa4 *(34...Qb4? 35.Rd3+-)*]

34.Qe3±
[34.Bxb6 Qxb5 35.Bd4 Qe2=]

34...Qxb5 35.f4
[35.Bxb6 Nc4 36.Qe2 Qxb6∓]

35...Nd7
[35...Nc4? 36.Qd3+-]

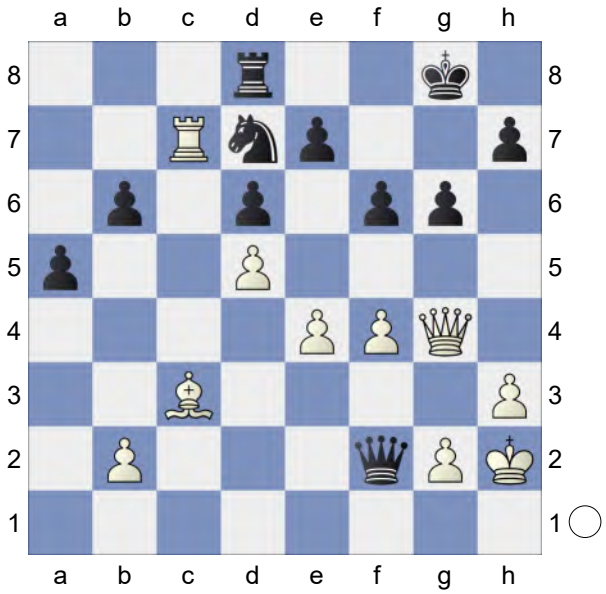


36.Rc7 White has compensation.

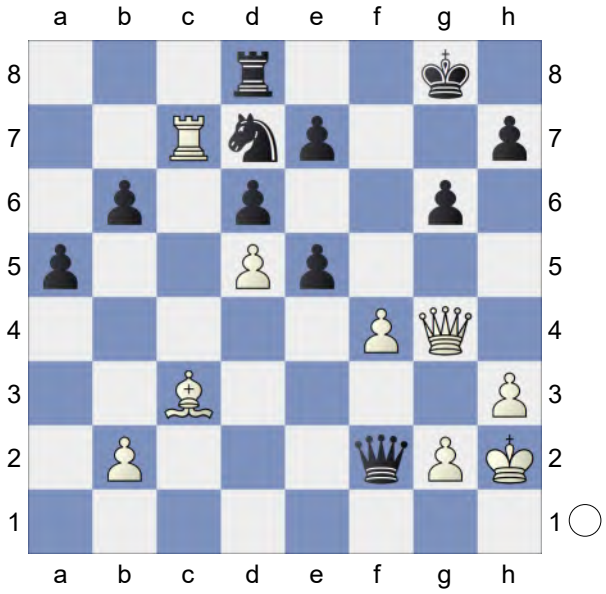
36...Rd8 0.55/18
[36...Kf8= 0.18/20]

37.Qf3 Qg4 is the strong threat. **37...Qa4 38.Bc3 Qc2 39.Qg4 Qf2!**

(Diagram)

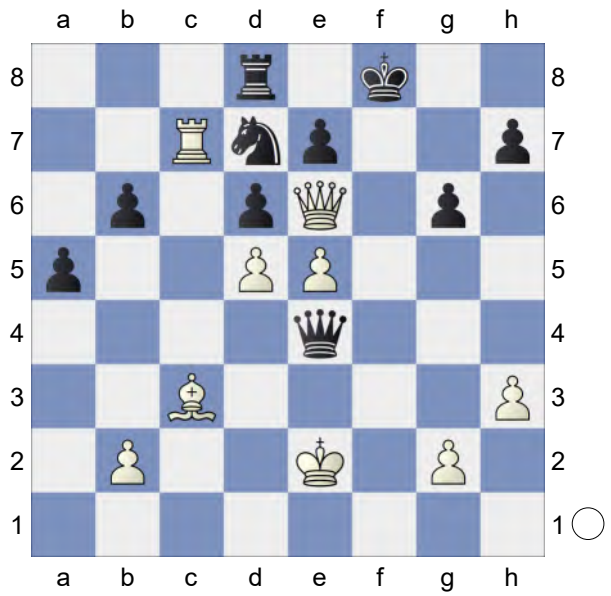


40.e5! Decoy **40...fxe5**

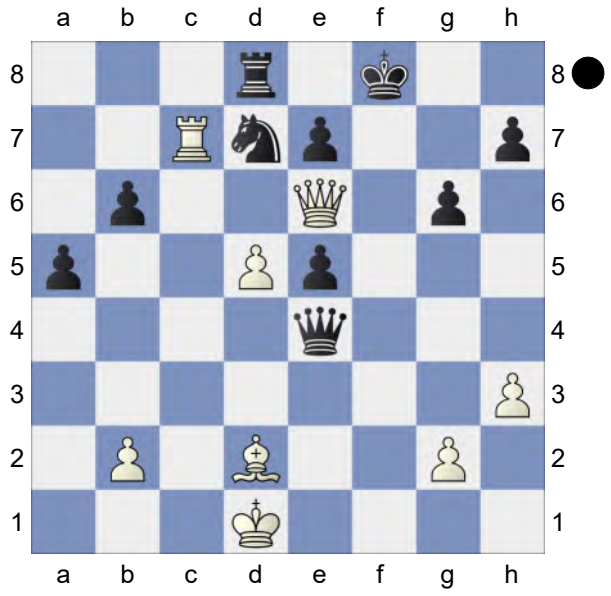


41.Qe6+ The position is equal. **41...Kf8 42.fxe5 Qf4+ 43.Kg1 Qc1+ 44.Kf2 Qf4+ 45.Ke2 Qe4+**

(Diagram)

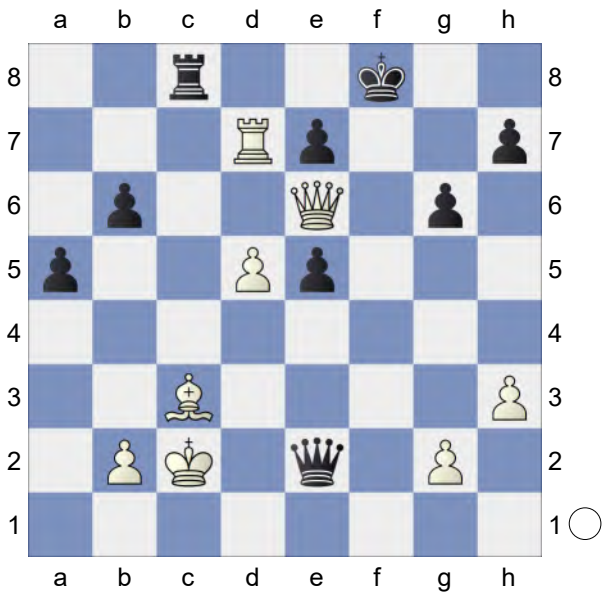


46.Kd1 Really sharp! **46...dxe5 47.Bd2!**
[47.Rxd7? is the wrong capture. Qa4+ 48.Kc1 Qxd7-+ *(48...Rxd7? 49.Qxe5 Rd6 50.Qh8+ Kf7 51.Qxh7+ Ke8 52.g4-+)*]

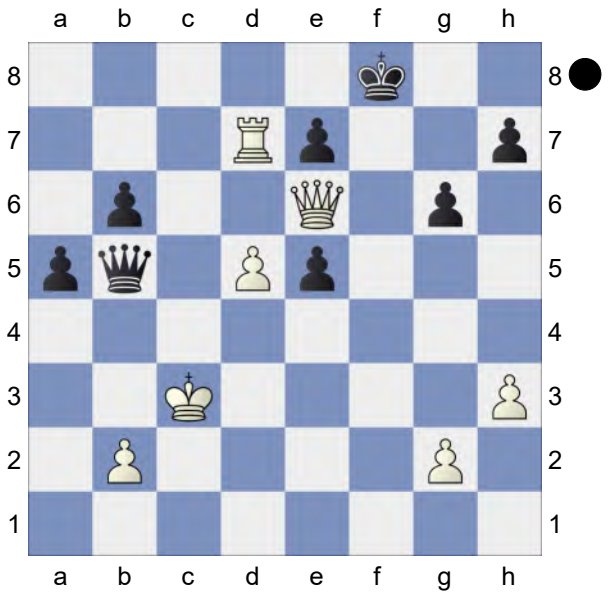


White threatens Bh6+ and mate. **47...Qd3! 48.Rxd7 Qf1+! 49.Kc2** Threatening mate with Bh6+. **49...Rc8+ 50.Bc3 Qe2+**

(Diagram)



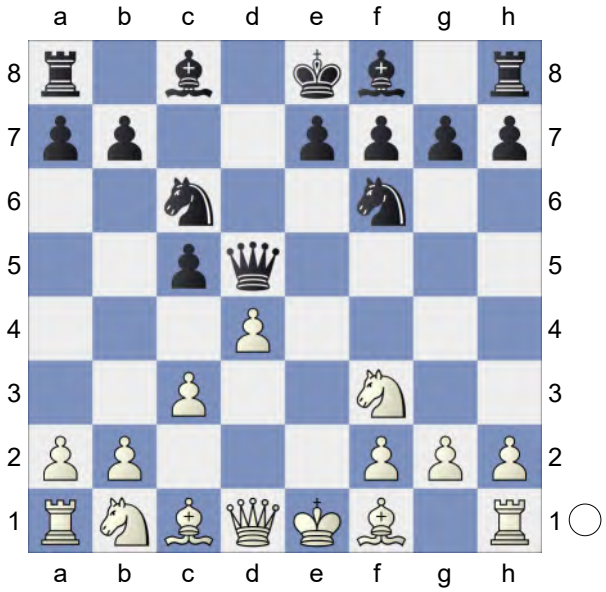
51.Kb3 Rxc3+ 52.Kxc3 Qe3+ 53.Kc2 Qe2+ 54.Kb3 Qb5+ 55.Kc3



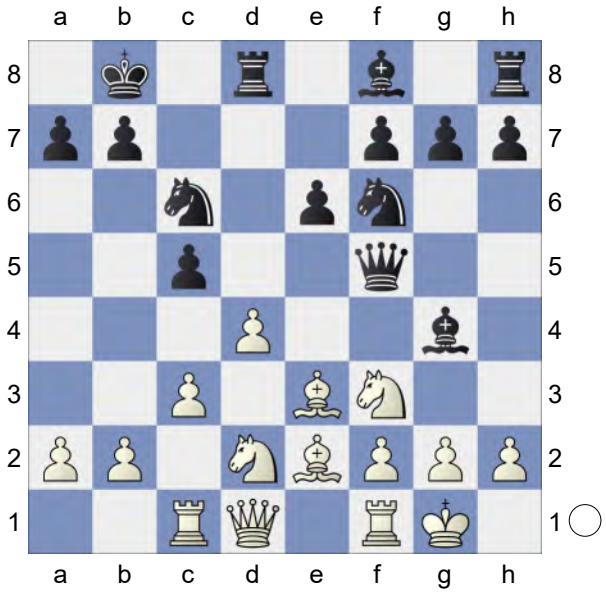
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

3 **B22**
□ **LCZero0.28.0-rc1_69146** **3614**
■ **Komododragon2747** **3582**
TCEC 21 Premier 2021 (53.4) 09.07.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6

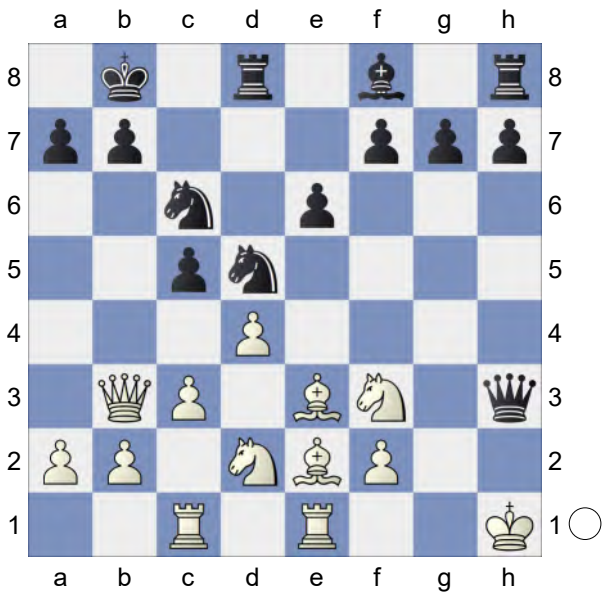


6.Be3 Bg4 7.Be2
[7.dxc5 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 e5 9.b4 Nd5 10.Kc2 a5 11.b5 Bf5+ 12.Kb2 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bxc5 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.Nxe5 Rb8+ 16.Kc1 Bxe3+ 17.Nd2 Rd8 18.Nec4 Bh6 19.Be2 0-0 20.Rd1 a4 21.g4 Bg6 ½-½ (39) Dardha,D (2602)-Niemann,H (2692) 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (7.6)]
7...0-0-0 8.0-0 e6 9.Nbd2 Kb8N
[9...Bd6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.Qc2 Rd7 13.Nb3 Qh5 14.Rfe1 Rhd8 15.Nbd4 Rc7 16.Rad1 Nd5 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.Nd4 Rc5 19.Qe4 Nf6 20.Bxg4 Nxg4 21.Nf3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Nxh2 23.Rd3 Nxf3+ 24.Rxf3 0-1 (30) Khlian,E (1388)-Sketch (2180) World Championship Match, 27th Game 23 (1)]
10.Rc1 Qf5

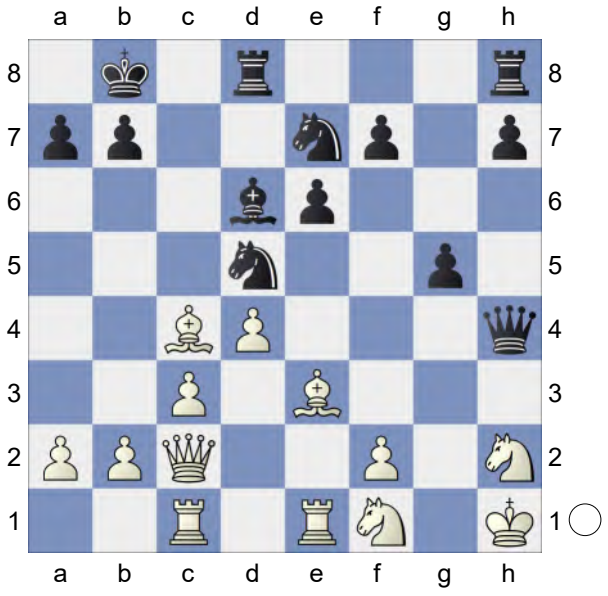


11.Qb3 White is slightly better. **11...Nd5 12.h3**
[12.dxc5 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Qxc5∓]
12...Bxh3 Demolition **13.gxh3 Qxh3** White must now prevent ...Nxe3. **14.Rfe1** 0.01/20
[14.dxc5 Qg4+ 15.Kh1 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Qh3+ 17.Kg1 Rxd2 18.Nxd2 Qxe3+ 19.Kg2 Qxe2+ 20.Rf2 Qg4+ 21.Kh1 Bxc5∓]
[14.Rfd1± 0.40/20]
14...Qg4+!= 15.Kh1 Qh3+

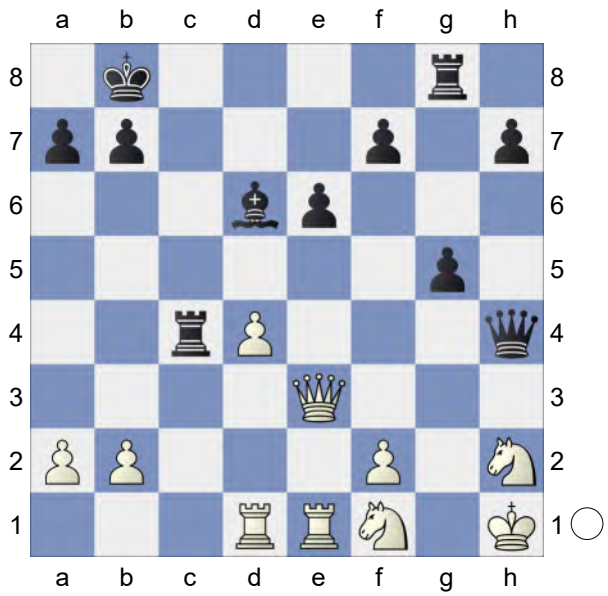
(Diagram)



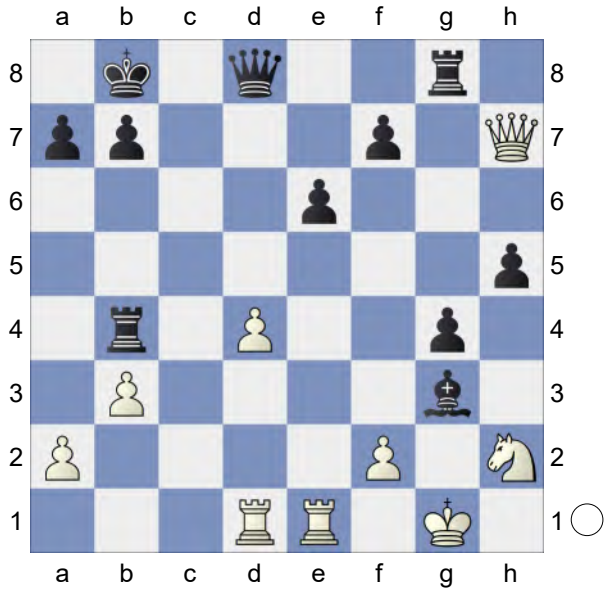
16.Nh2 0.48/21
[16.Kg1= -0.01/22 is more appropriate. Qg4+ 17.Kf1 Qh3+ 18.Kg1]
16...Bd6± 17.Ndf1 Qh4 0.89/21
[17...cxd4± 0.48/21 18.cxd4 Nxe3 19.fxe3 *(19.Rxc6? Qg2#; 19.Qxe3 Qh4±)* 19...Nb4]
18.Bb5 c4 19.Qc2 Nce7 20.Bxc4 g5



21.Bxd5 Nxd5 22.Rcd1 Rhg8 23.c4 Rc8 24.Qd3 Nxe3 25.Qxe3
[25.fxe3?! g4 26.Kg1 Rg5=]
25...Rxc4



26.Kg1 0.47/17
[White should try 26.d5± 1.06/19]
26...h5 27.Qd3 Rb4 28.b3 g4 29.Ng3
[29.Qh7 is more complex. Rf8 30.Qg7 Rd8 31.Re4]
29...Qd8 30.Qh7
[30.Nxh5 Bxh2+ 31.Kxh2 Qh4+ 32.Kg2 Qxh5 33.Qg3+ Ka8]
30...Bxg3



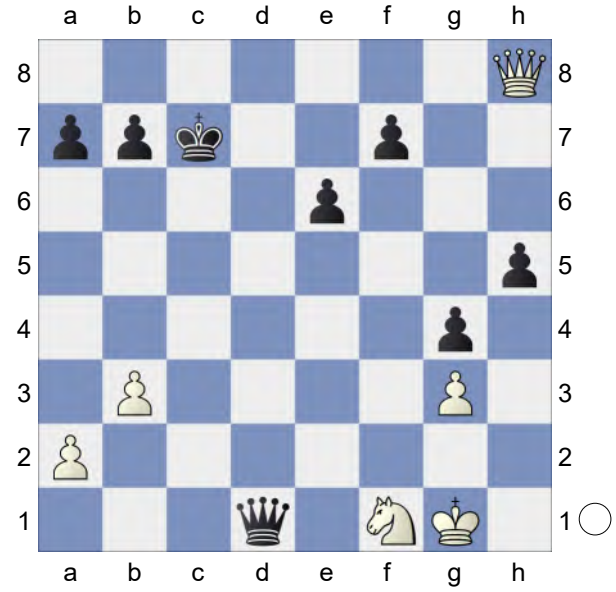
31.fxg3 Rxd4 32.Nf1! Rh8 1.45/21
[⌓32...Rg5 0.91/21 33.Qe4 Rxd1 34.Rxd1 Qxd1 35.Qf4+ Kc8 36.Qxg5 Qd4+ 37.Kg2 Qb2+ 38.Nd2

f5]

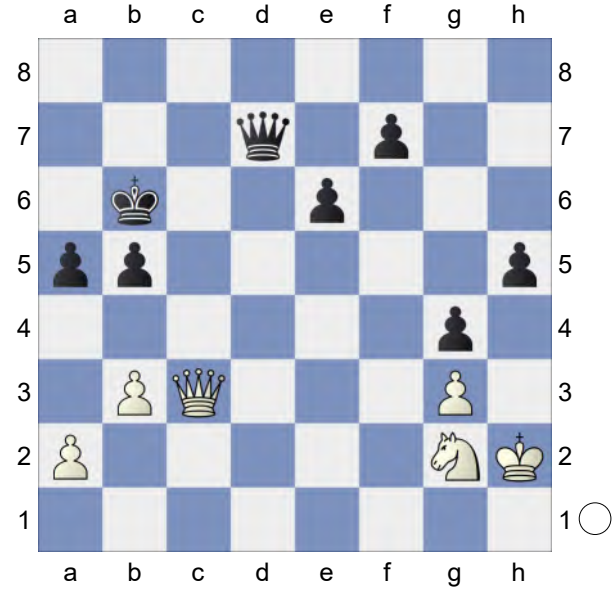
33.Qg7±

[33.Qxf7? Rxd1 34.Qxe6 Qd4+ 35.Kg2 Rf8-+ *(35...Rxe1? 36.Qxe1 a6 37.Nd2-+)*]

33...Rxd1 34.Rxd1 Qxd1 35.Qxh8+ Kc7



36.Qf6 Qd7 37.Ne3 b5 38.Ng2 White is more active. **38...a5 39.Kh2 Kc6 40.Qc3+ Kb6**



41.Qe3+ Ka6 42.Qf4 Kb7 43.Qg5 1.64/22

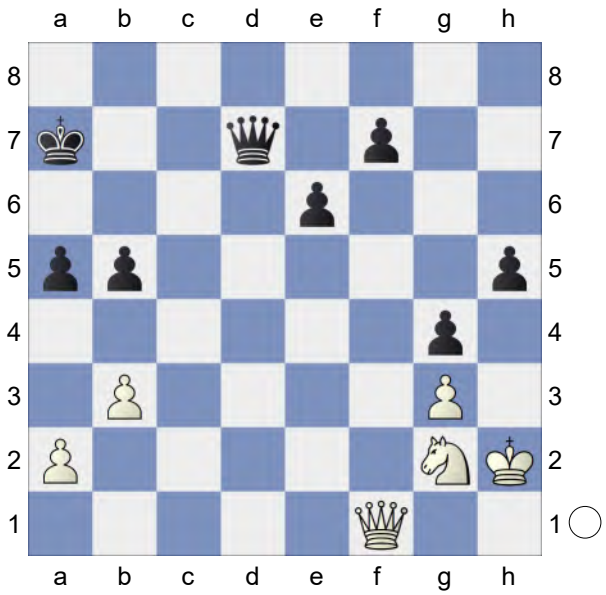
[43.Qe5± 1.25/23]

43...Kc6 44.Qc1+ Kb7 45.Qf1 1.03/22

[⌓45.Qc5 1.42/22]

45...Ka7 1.41/22

[⌓45...Ka6 1.03/22 46.a4 f5]



46.Qc1 -0.01/22

[46.Qg1+± 1.41/22 Kb7 47.Qc5]

46...Kb6 1.21/22

[46...Kb7= -0.01/22 keeps the balance.]

47.Qe3+ -0.01/21

[47.Qb2± 1.21/22]

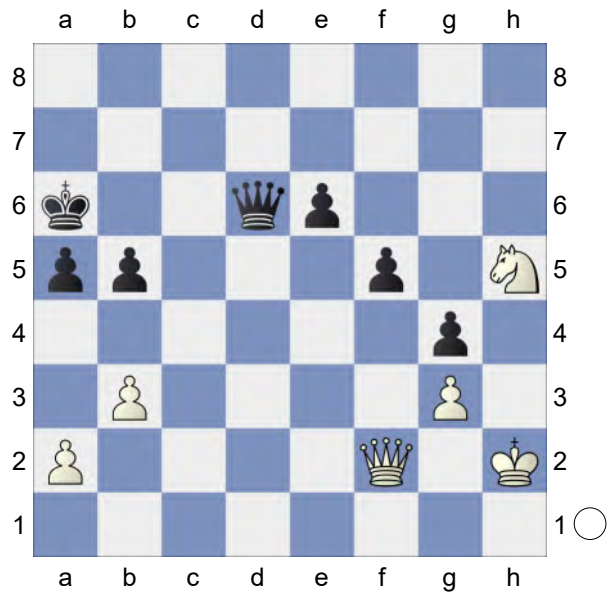
47...Ka6!= 48.Nf4 Qd1 49.Qf2 Inhibits Qc2.

[49.Nxh5?! Qc2+ 50.Kg1 Qb1+ 51.Kf2 Qxa2+ 52.Ke1 Qa1+ 53.Kd2 Qb2+ 54.Kd1 a4 55.bxa4 Qb1+ 56.Kd2 Qa2+ *(56...bxa4 57.Qc3=)* 57.Kc1 Qa1+ *(57...Qxa4 58.Qc3=; 57...bxa4 58.Qc3=)* 58.Kd2 Qb2+ *(58...bxa4 59.Qc3=; 58...Qxa4 59.Qd3=)* 59.Ke1 Qb4+ *(59...bxa4 60.Qc5=)* 60.Kd1 bxa4= *(60...Qxa4+ 61.Ke1=)*]

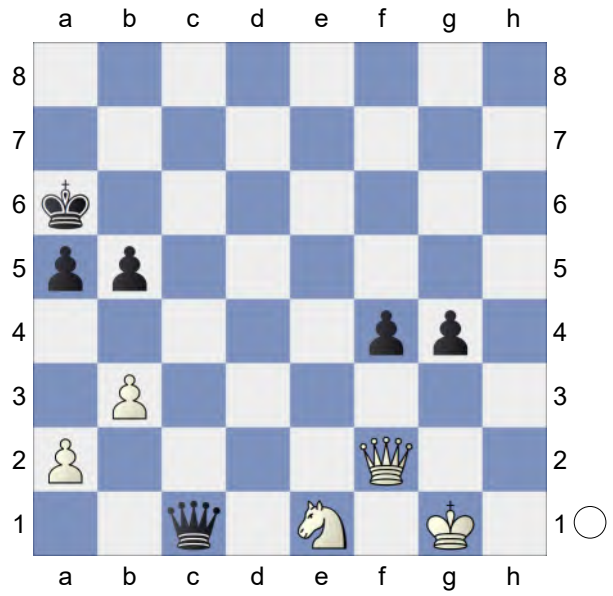
49...Qd6 1.95/19

[49...Qd8± 1.00/20 50.Qc5 *(50.Nxh5 Qh8=)* 50...Qd7]

50.Nxh5+- f5

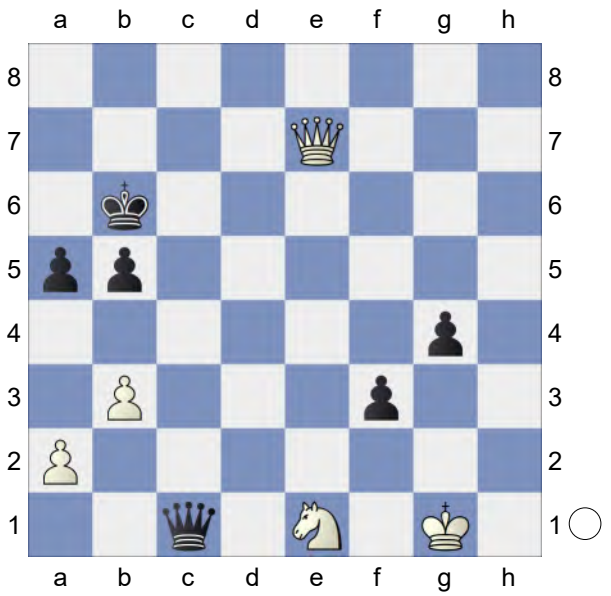


51.Nf4 e5 52.Ng2 Qh6+ 53.Kg1 Qc1+ 54.Ne1 f4 55.gxf4 exf4

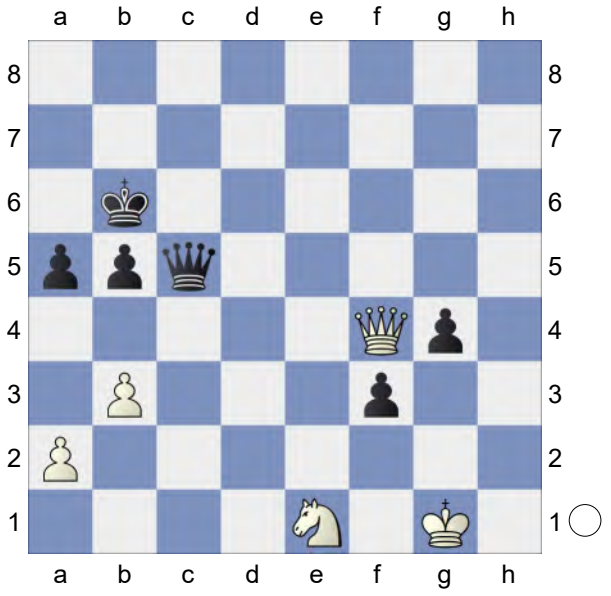


56.Qe2 Hoping for Kf1! **56...f3** 1.51/21
[56...Qc3!± 0.69/18]
57.Qe6+± Ka7 0.83/23
[⌓57...Kb7 1.36/22]
58.Qe7+ Kb6

(Diagram)



59.Qd6+! Qc6 60.Qf4 Qc5+!

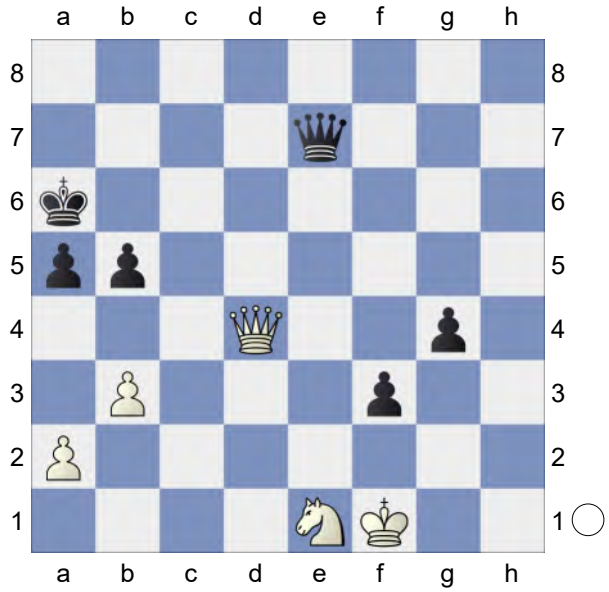


61.Kf1 Qe7 (-> ...Qe2+) **62.Qd4+**
[62.Qxg4 Qe2+ 63.Kg1 f2+ *(63...Qxe1+? 64.Kh2-+)* 64.Kh2 Qxg4 *(64...fxe1R+ 65.Qxe2 Rxe2+ 66.Kh3 Rxa2 67.Kg3 Rb2 68.Kg4 Rxb3 69.Kh5 a4 70.Kg6 a3 71.Kf5 a2 72.Kg6 a1Q 73.Kg5 Qe5+ 74.Kg6 Rg3+ 75.Kf7 Rg7+ 76.Kf8 Qe7#)* 65.b4 Qf4+ *(65...fxe1R 66.bxa5+ Kxa5 67.a4 Re2+ 68.Kh1 Qg2#; 65...Qg1+ 66.Kh3 f1Q+ 67.Kh4 Qf6+ 68.Kh5 Qh8#)* 66.Kh3

f1Q+ 67.Ng2 Qh1#]

62...Ka6 1.05/20

[Black should play 62...Kc6± 0.50/22 63.Qd2 *(63.Qxg4 Qe2+ 64.Kg1 f2+* Discovered Attack, Double Attack *65.Kh2 Qxg4 66.Nd3 Qg1+ 67.Kh3 f1Q+ 68.Kh4 Qf6+ 69.Kh5 Qh8#)* 63...Qh7 64.Qc1+ *(64.Qxa5 Qh1+ 65.Kf2 Qh2+ 66.Ke3 Qe2+ 67.Kd4 f2=)* 64...Kb7]



63.Qd3 0.33/20

[63.Qxg4 leads to mate. Qe2+ 64.Kg1 f2+ *(64...Qxe1+? 65.Kh2-+)* 65.Kh2 Qxg4 *(65...fxe1R+* is a self mate. *66.Qxe2 Rxe2+ 67.Kg3 Rxa2 68.Kf4 Rb2 69.Kg4 a4 70.bxa4 bxa4 71.Kh3 a3 72.Kg3 a2 73.Kf4 a1Q 74.Ke5 Re2+* Discovered Attack (Double Check) *75.Kf5 Qf1+ 76.Kg6 Rg2+ 77.Kh7 Qh1#)* 66.Nd3 f1Q *(66...f1R 67.Nc5+ Ka7 68.Nd3 Rg1 69.Nf2 Qg3#; 66...Qg1+ 67.Kh3 f1Q+ 68.Kh4 Qf6+ 69.Kh5 Qh8#)* 67.Nc5+ Ka7 68.a4 Qh4#]

[Better is 63.Qd2!± 1.05/20]

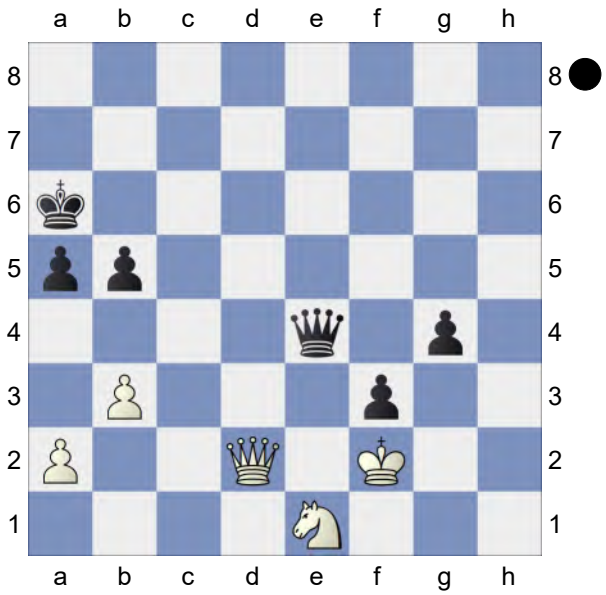
63...Qe5± 64.Qd2

[Don't play 64.Qg6+ Kb7 65.Qd3 a4±]

64...Qe4 0.84/20

[64...Qg3= 0.27/19 remains equal.]

65.Kf2

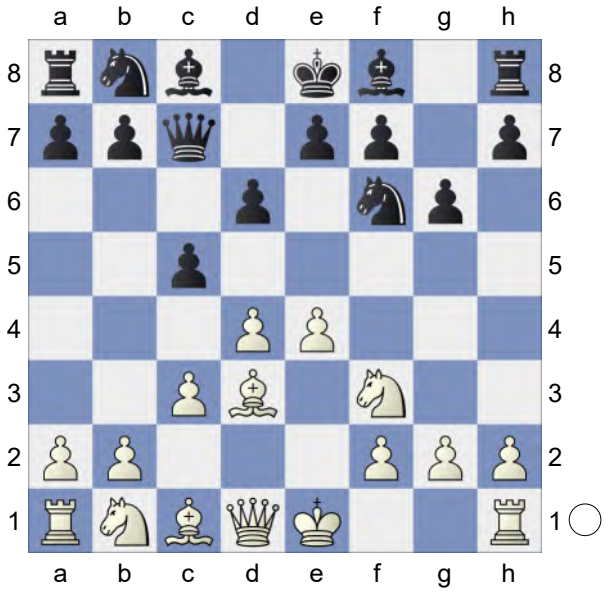


Black defended with fortune.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
½-½

4 **B22**
□ **Komododragon** **3587**
■ **Rubichess** **3508**
TCEC 25 Premier P/O 2023 (3.2) 4.10.23
[Kitty Kat]

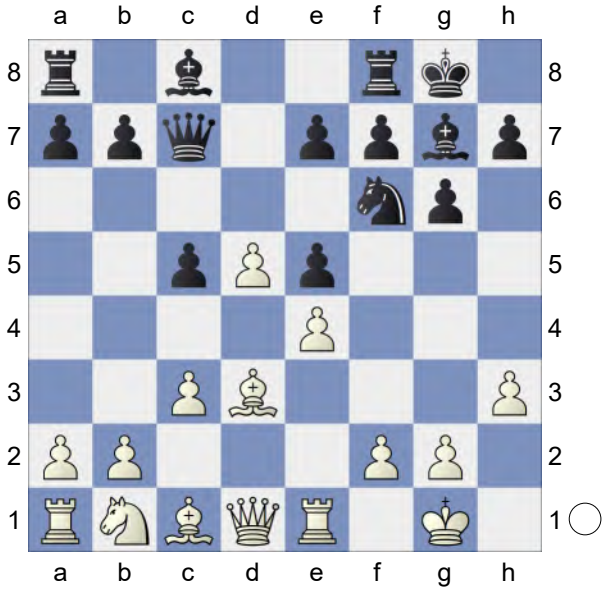
B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

Inf 60/(108) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Qc7 5.Nf3 g6**



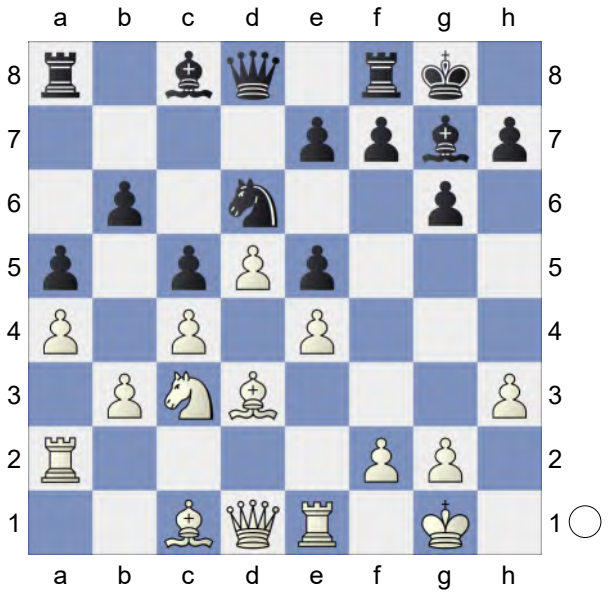
6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Re1 Nc6N
[8...a6 9.e5 Nd5 10.Be4 Nb6 11.Bf4 d5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nbd2 Nc6 14.Qe2 Na4 15.Rab1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Rac8 18.Nf1 Qb6 19.Be3 Bd7 20.h4 Bb5 21.h5 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 gxh5 23.Qa3 1-0 (32) Hickl,J (2535)-Gostisa,L (2410) Lippstadt 1994 (7)]
[8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.a4 b6 13.Bc4 Nf8 14.Ng5 Rd7 15.a5 Rb8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Bb5 Rd8 18.Nc4 Kamsky,G (2695)-Polgar,J (2630) Madrid 60/(108) 1994]
[8...Rd8 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bf4 b5 11.e5 Nd5 12.exd6 exd6 13.Bg5 Rf8 14.Be4 Bb7 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.Qd2 Nb6 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 Chapter-1. e4 c5 2. a3 Nc6: all lines 2010]
[8...h6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Be4 Nb6 12.Bf4 Be6 13.Qc1 Kh7 14.h4 Qc8 15.h5 Bf5 16.e6 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 g5 18.Bxg5 f5 19.Re1 hxg5 20.Nxg5+ Kg8 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qg5 1-0 (31) Loheac Amoun,F (2600)-5.♗f4 00 6.e3 c5 (2340) 32 Plovdiv 2012]
[8...Nfd7 9.Bg5 Nc6 10.Na3 a6 11.Nc2 b5 12.Bf1 Re8 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.a4 Na5 15.Qd1 Nb3 16.Ra3 c4 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 e5 19.f3 Nf8 20.Kh1 Ne6 21.Be3 h5 22.axb5 axb5 23.b4 ½-½ (47) Ochsner,T (2300)-Sahl,B (2415) DEN-ch Esbjerg 1997 (8)]

9.d5 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5

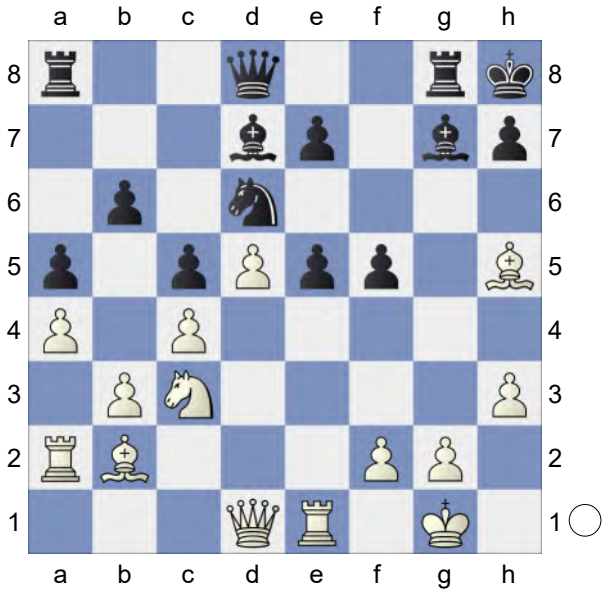


White is better. **11.c4 b6 12.b3 a5 13.a4 Ne8 14.Ra2 Nd6 15.Nc3 Qd8**

(Diagram)

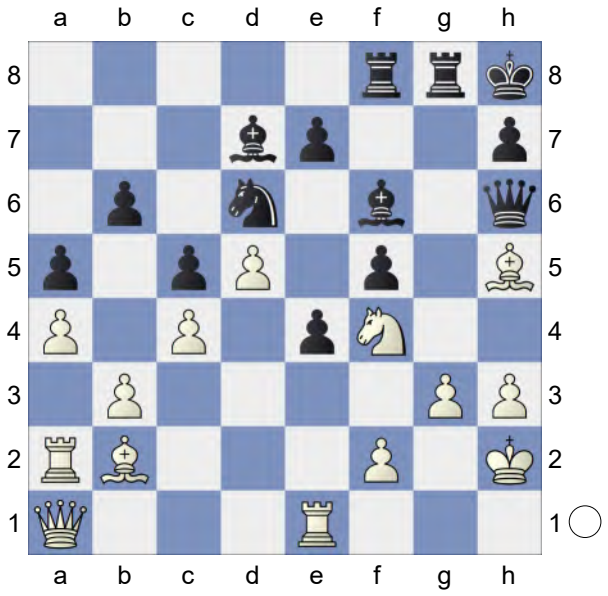


16.Be2 Bd7 17.Bg4 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Bh5 Kh8 20.Bb2 Rg8



21.Ne2 Qf8 22.Qa1! e4 23.Kh2 Bf6 24.g3 Qh6 25.Nf4 Raf8

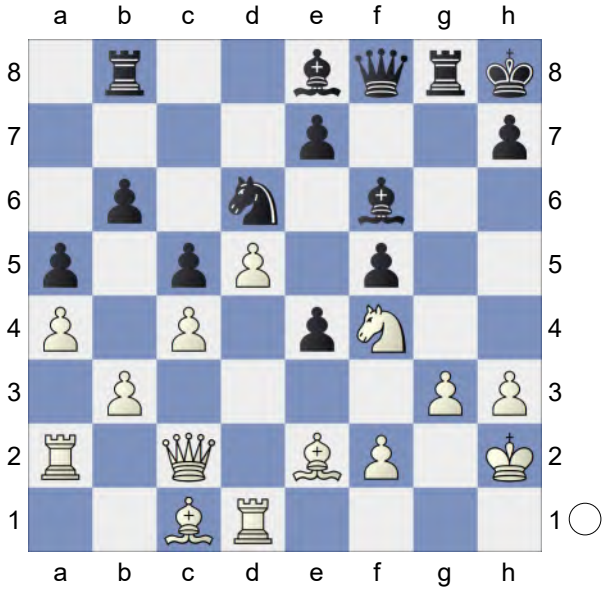
(Diagram)



26.Qd1 Ra8 27.Bc1

[27.Qd2 feels hotter. Rg7 28.Bd1 Re8 29.Bxf6 exf6 30.Qe3]

27...Qf8 28.Qc2 Rd8 29.Rd1 Rb8 30.Be2 Be8



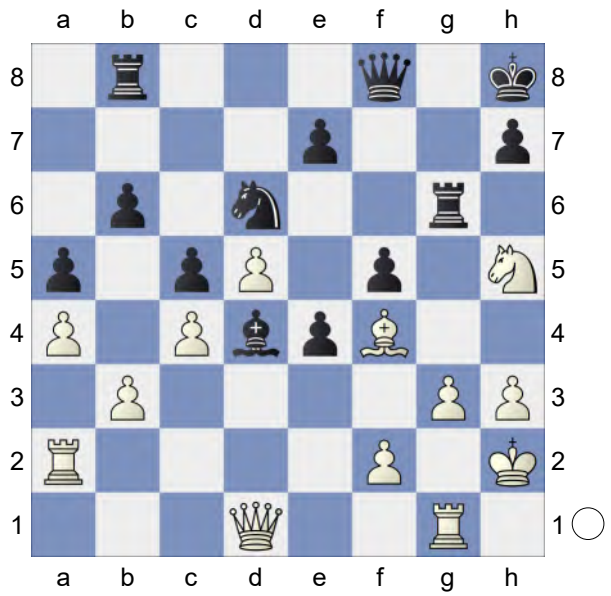
31.Rg1

[31.Ne6 with more complications. Qf7 32.Qd2 Be5 33.Qh6]

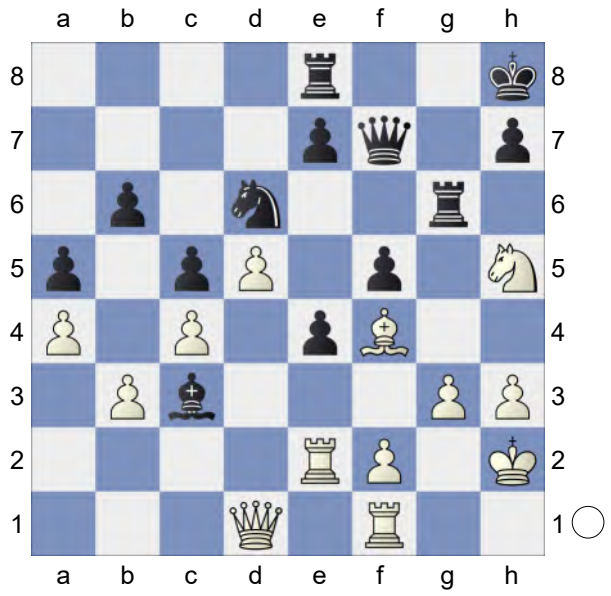
31...Bf7 32.Qd1

[32.Bh5 is interesting. Qg7 33.Qd1 Rbc8 34.Be3]

32...Be5 33.Bh5 Bxh5 34.Nxh5 Rg6 35.Bf4 Bd4

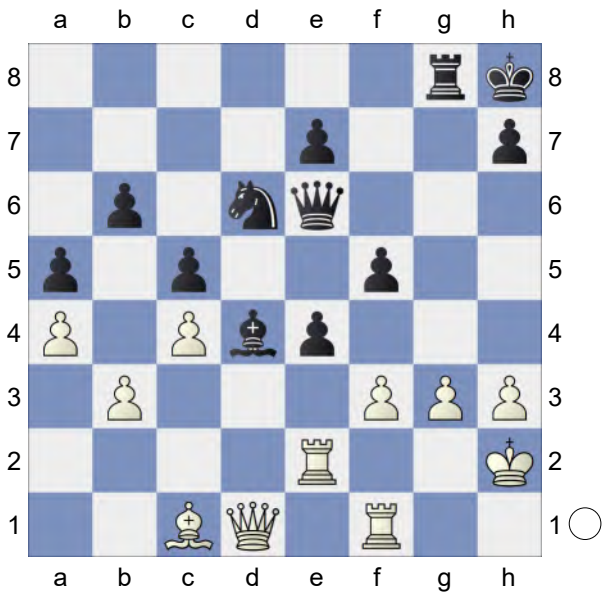


36.Rd2 Bc3 37.Rc2 Bd4 38.Rf1 Re8 39.Rd2 Rxd4 would now be deadly. **39...Bc3 40.Re2 Qf7**

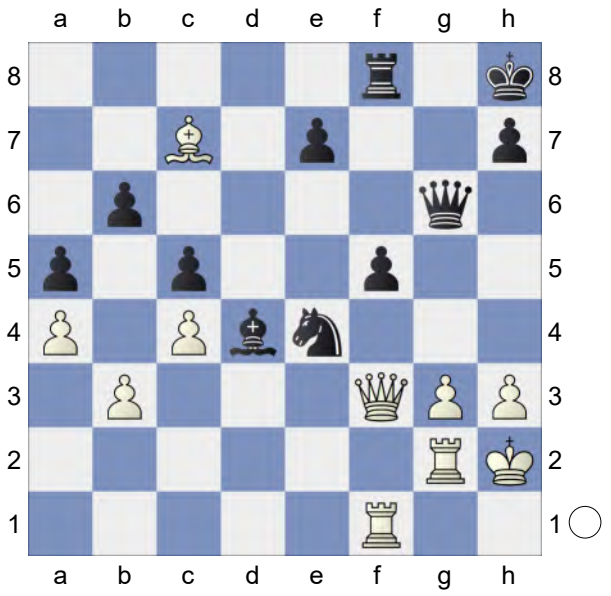


41.Bc1 Bd4 42.Nf4 Rf6 43.f3 Rg8 44.Ne6 Rxe6 45.dxe6 Qxe6

(Diagram)

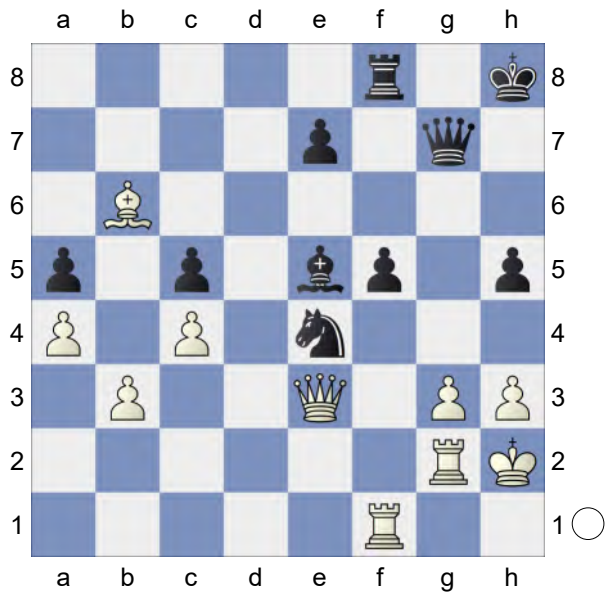


46.fxe4 Nxe4 47.Rg2 Be5 0.76/22 [47...Qg6± 0.40/23] **48.Bf4± Bd4 49.Qf3! Qg6 50.Bc7 Rf8**

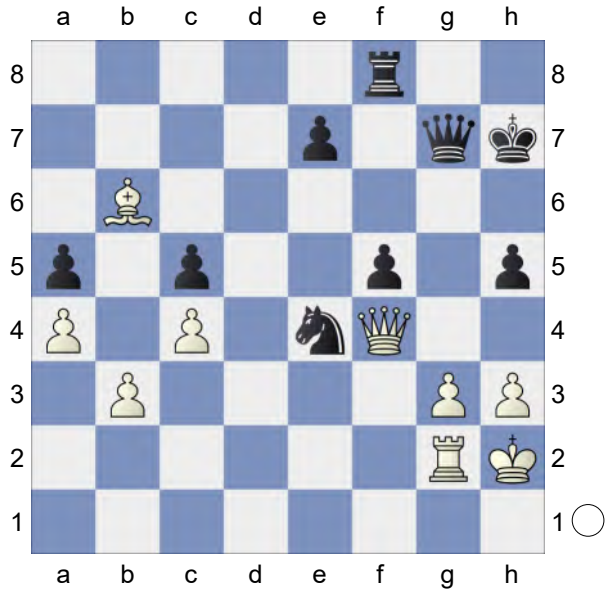


51.Qf4 Qg7 Against Be5. ...e5 is the strong threat. **52.Bxb6 Be5 53.Qe3 h5**

(Diagram)

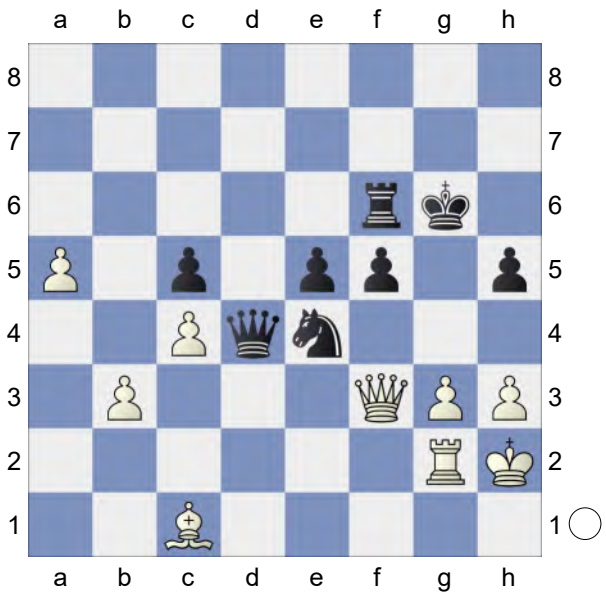


54.Rf4! Bxf4 55.Qxf4 Kh7

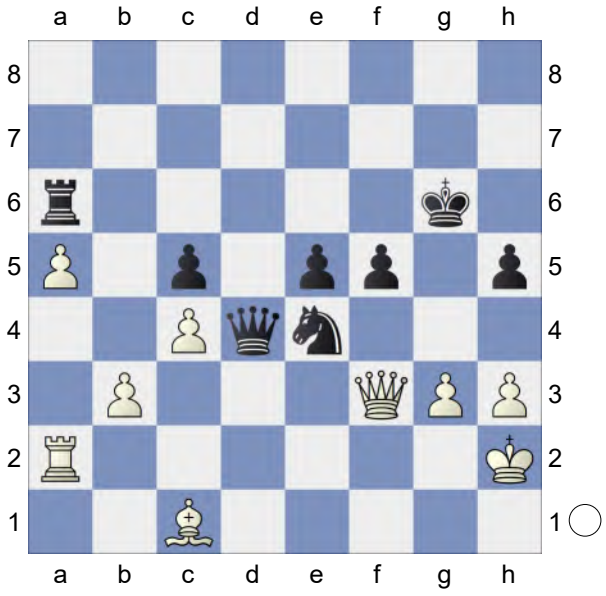


56.Bxa5 e5 57.Qf3 Kg6 58.Bd2! Qd7 59.Bc1 Qd4 60.a5 aiming for Ra2.
60...Rf6

(Diagram)

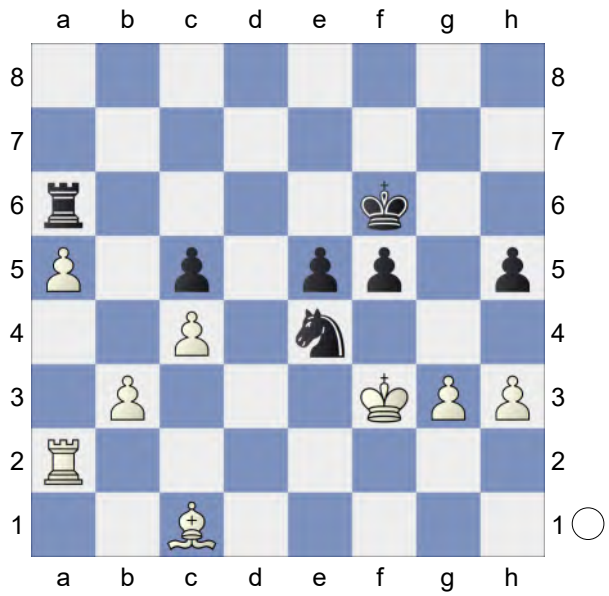


61.Ra2 Black must now prevent a6.
61...Ra6

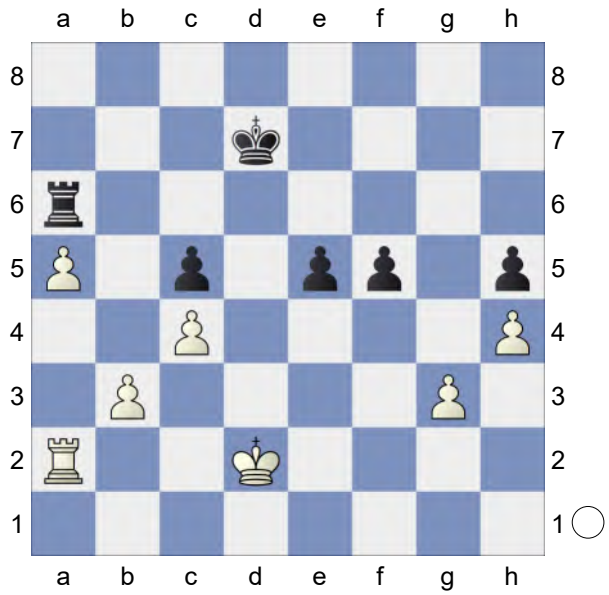


62.Kg2! Nf6 63.Qb7 Really sharp!
63...Qe4+ 64.Qxe4 Nxe4 Endgame. KRB-KRN **65.Kf3 Kf6**

(Diagram)

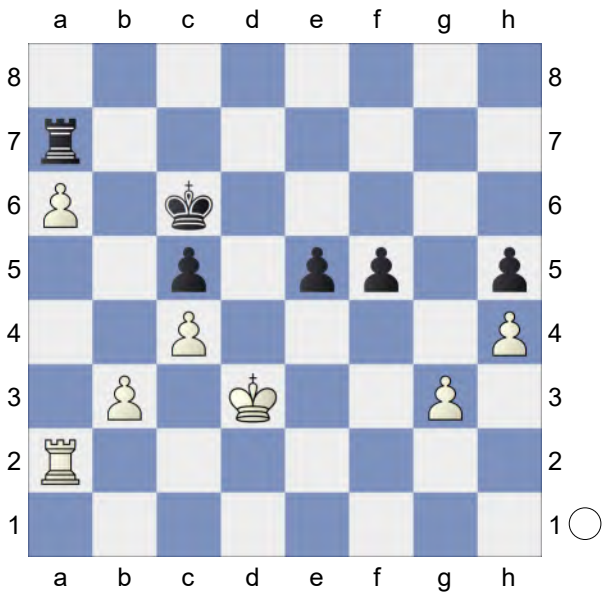


66.Be3 Ng5+ 67.Bxg5+ Kxg5 KR-KR
68.h4+ Kf6 69.Ke2 Ke6 70.Kd2 Kd7



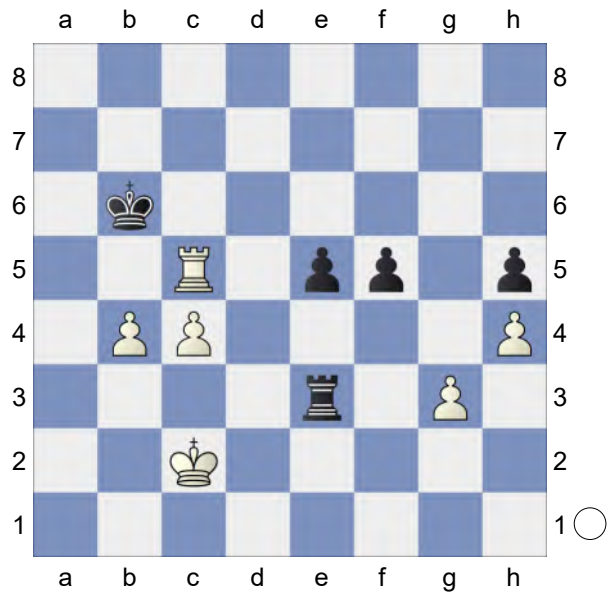
71.Ra1 Ra7 1.44/24
[⌓71...Kc7 0.96/22 72.Ke2 Kd7]
72.a6 Kc6 73.Ke3 Kd6 2.00/27
[73...Kb6± 1.03/24]
74.Ra2 Kd7 75.Kd3 Kc6

(Diagram)

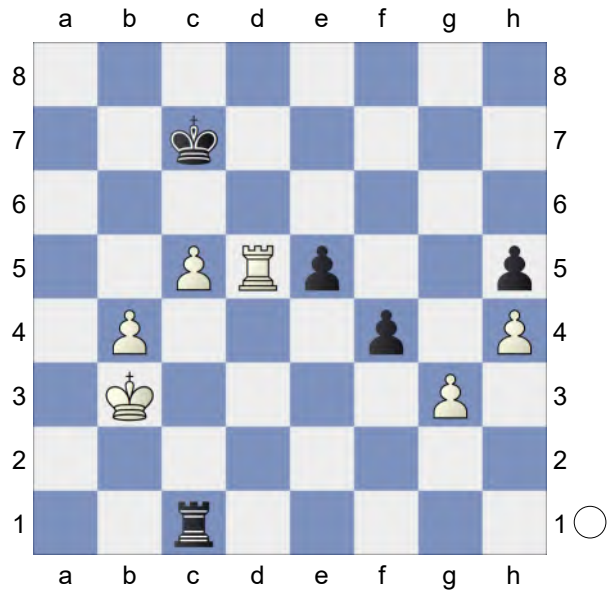


76.Ra5 Ra8 77.Kc3 Kb6 2.28/25
[⌓77...e4 1.63/25 78.b4 cxb4+ 79.Kxb4 Re8]
78.b4+- Rxa6 2.86/24
[78...f4 1.61/23 was called for.]
79.Rxc5
[79.bxc5+ Kxa5 80.Kb3 Rc6 81.Kc3 Rxc5 82.Kb3 Rc8 83.Kc2 Rd8 *(83...Rxc4+ 84.Kd3 Kb4 85.Kd2 Rc3 86.Ke2 Rxg3 87.Ke1 e4 88.Ke2 f4 89.Ke1 Kc3 90.Kf1 Kd3 91.Kf2 e3+ 92.Kf1 Rg7 93.Ke1 Rg1#)* 84.c5 Kb5 85.Kb3 Kxc5 86.g4 fxg4 87.Kc3 g3 88.Kb3 g2 89.Kc3 g1Q *(89...g1R 90.Kb3 Rg2 91.Kc3 Kb5 92.Kb3 Rd3#)* 90.Kb2 Rd2+ 91.Kb3 Qg3+ 92.Ka4 Ra2#]
79...Ra3+ 80.Kc2 Re3

(Diagram)

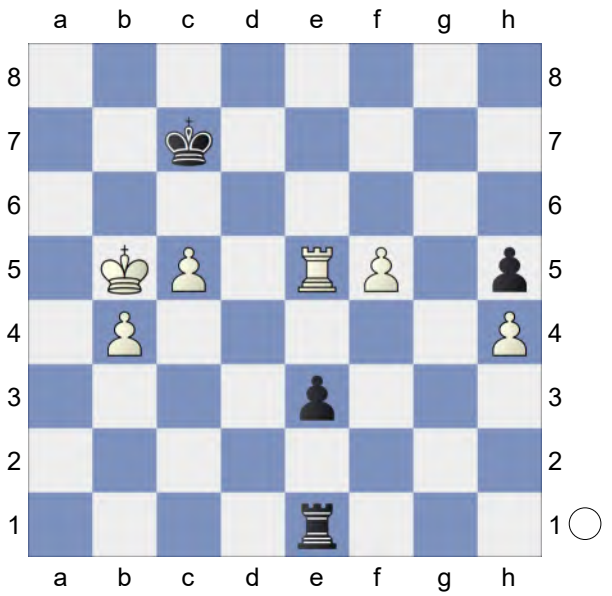


81.Rd5 Re4 3.14/24
[⌓81...Kc7 1.90/22 82.Kd2 Re4]
82.Kb3 Re1 83.Rd6+ Kc7 84.c5 Rc1 85.Rd5 f4

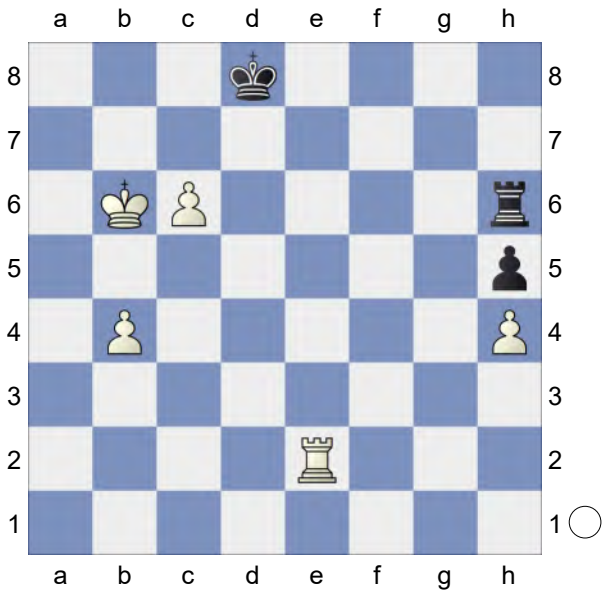


86.gxf4 e4? 7.08/23
[86...exf4 2.73/20 87.Rxh5 *(87.Rf5 Rf1+-)* 87...Kd7]
87.Re5 Re1 88.Kc4 e3 89.Kb5
[89.Rxh5 e2 90.Kd3 *(90.Rh7+ Kb8+-)* 90...Rb1 91.Kxe2 Rg1]
89...Kd8 90.f5 Kc7

(Diagram)



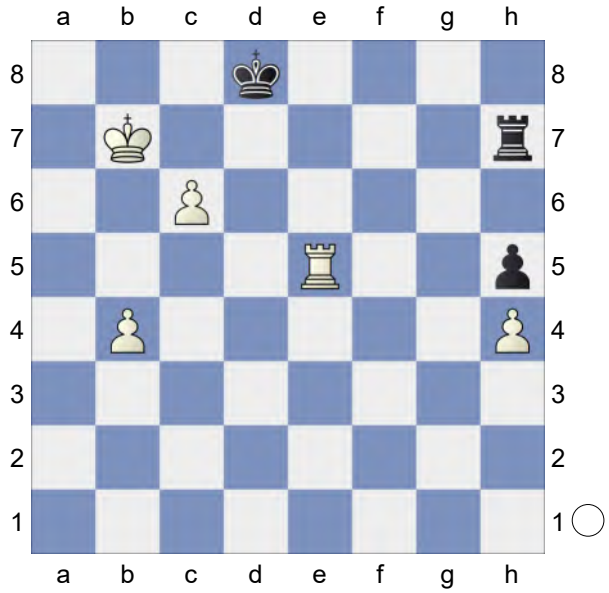
91.Re7+ Kd8 92.f6 White threatens c6 and mate. **92...e2 93.Kb6** c6 would kill now. **93...Rf1 94.Rxe2** Intending c6 and mate. **94...Rxf6+ 95.c6 Rh6**



96.Re5 15.64/21
[⌓96.Kb7 #14/22 Rh7+ 97.Kb8 Rg7 98.b5 *(98.Rd2+ Ke7 99.Rd7+ Kf8 100.Rxg7 Kxg7 101.c7 Kf6 102.b5 Kf7)* 98...Rh7 99.b6 *(99.Rd2+ Ke7 100.Rd7+* Skewer *Kf6 101.Rxh7 Kf5 102.c7 Kg6 103.Re7 Kf6)* 99...Rh8 100.b7 *(100.c7+ Kd7+ 101.Kb7 Rf8 102.Rd2+ Ke6 103.c8Q+* Promotion

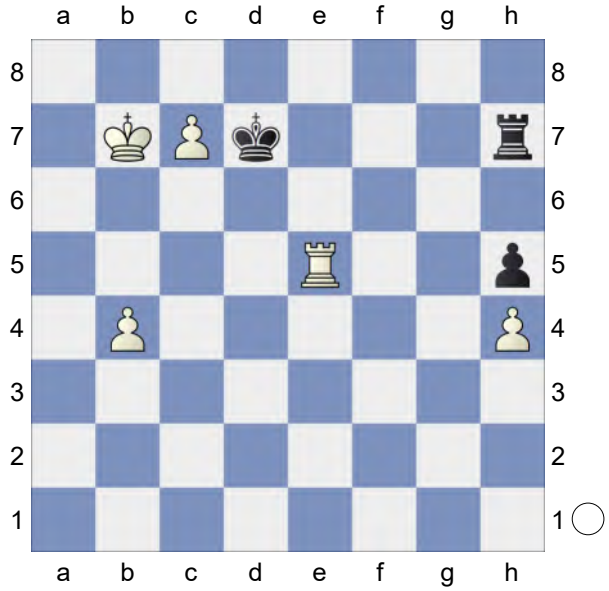
Rxc8 104.Kxc8 Kf5) 100...Rh7 101.Re5 *(101.Rd2+ Ke7 102.c7 Rf7 103.c8Q Kf6 104.Rf2+ Kg7)*]

96...Rh8 97.Kb7 Rh7+



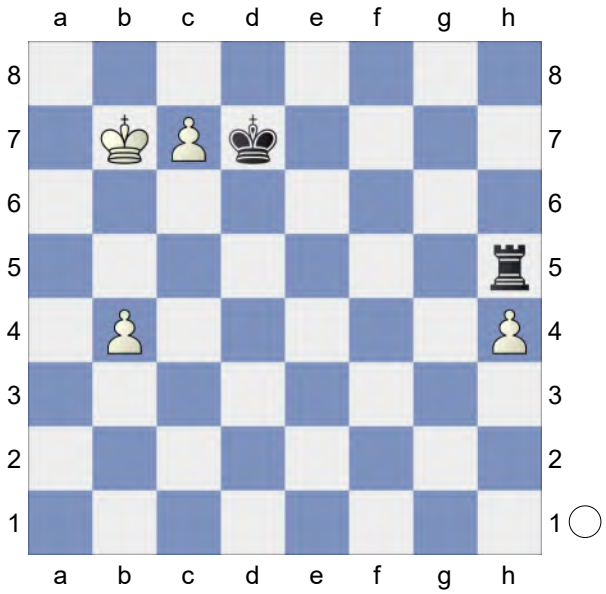
98.c7+? 3.09/23 **Kd7?** #20/20

[98...Rxc7++- 3.09/23 99.Ka6 Rc4]



99.Rxh5!! Promotion **99...Rxh5**

(Diagram)



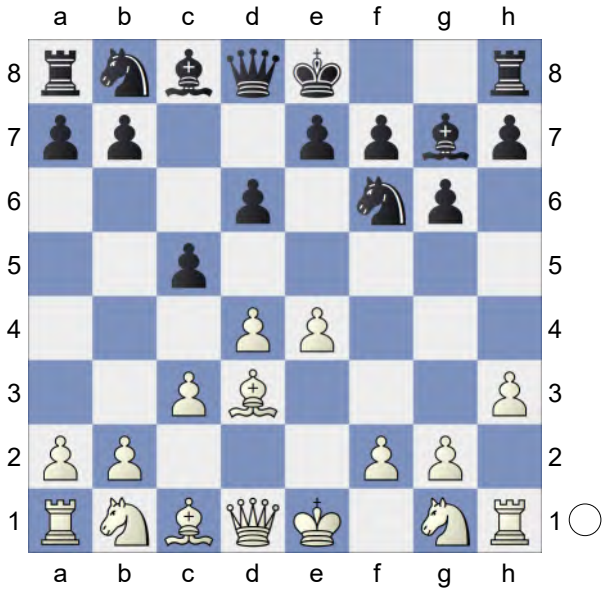
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

1-0

5 **B22**
□ **LCZero v0.26.3_T60.66740** **3575**
■ **Ethereal Tcec S20 Divp** **3482**
TCEC 20 Premier 2020 (44.3) 10.01.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 g6 5.h3 Bg7



6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6

[7...Qc7 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.Be3 b6 10.Nbd2 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Ba6 Bd7 13.a4 h6 14.Rfd1 Rad8 15.Rac1 Nb8 16.Bb5 Bc8 17.a5 Bb7 18.axb6 axb6 19.Qc4 Ne8 20.Bxe8 Rfxe8 21.b4 Ba6 22.b5 1-0 (58) Degraeve,J (2515)-Movsesian,S (2630) EU-chT (Men) 11th 1997 (5.2)]

8.Re1N

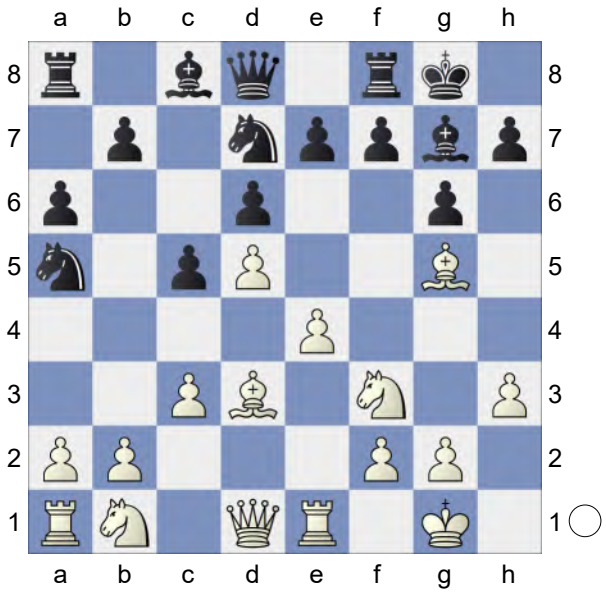
[8.d5

A) 8...Na5 9.c4 a6 10.a4 *(10.Nc3 Rb8 11.a4 Bd7 12.Qc2 b5 13.cxb5 c4 14.Be2 axb5 15.axb5 Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Rxb5 17.Nd4 Rb7 18.Nc6 Nxc6 19.dxc6 Rb6 20.Bxc4 Qc7 21.Ra6 Rc8 22.Be3 Rxc6 23.Rxc6 Qxc6 24.Rc1 e6* ½-½ (44) Wittram,T (2585)-10.Nf3 b5 11.Bf6 (2495) Austrian Team Championship 2004*)* 10...e5 11.Nc3 Nh5 12.Re1 Bd7 13.Be3 b6;

B) 8...Nb8 9.c4 e5 10.Nc3 Ne8 11.a3 Na6 12.Rb1 f5 13.b4 Nf6 14.Bd2 Qe7 15.Re1 Kh8 16.Qc2 ½-½ Magem Badals,J (2546)-Oratovsky,M (2499) Espana 122/(192) 2014]

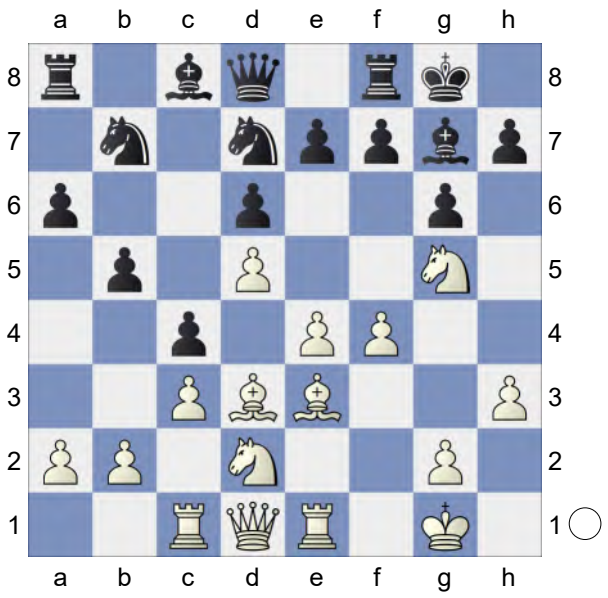
[8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Re1 Nd7 11.Nbd2 a6 12.a4 Rb8 13.Nf1 e6 14.Bg5 Nde5 15.Bf4 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Be5 17.Bh6 Bg7 18.Bf4 e5 19.Bh2 Be6 20.Ne3 Na5 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 c4 ½-½ (31) Balmiza Jimenez,F (2385)-Witte,V (2579) C) 5...d5 (4)]

8...Nd7 9.d5 Na5 10.Bg5 a6

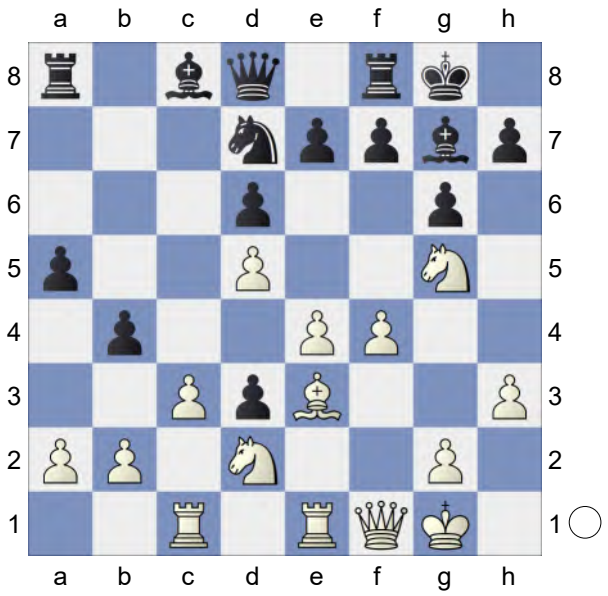


White is slightly better. **11.Nbd2 b5 12.Rc1 Qe8 13.Be3** White has more active pieces. **13...Nb7 14.Ng5 Qd8 15.f4 c4**

(Diagram)

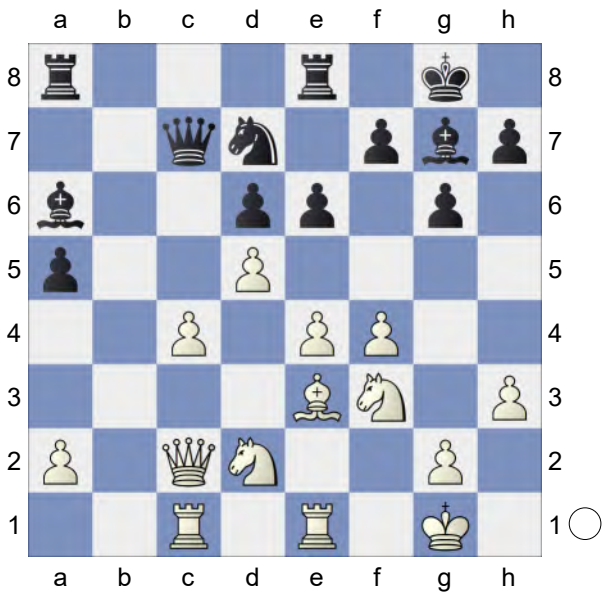


16.Bc2 Nbc5 17.Qe2 a5 18.Qf2 Nd3 19.Bxd3 cxd3 20.Qf1 b4

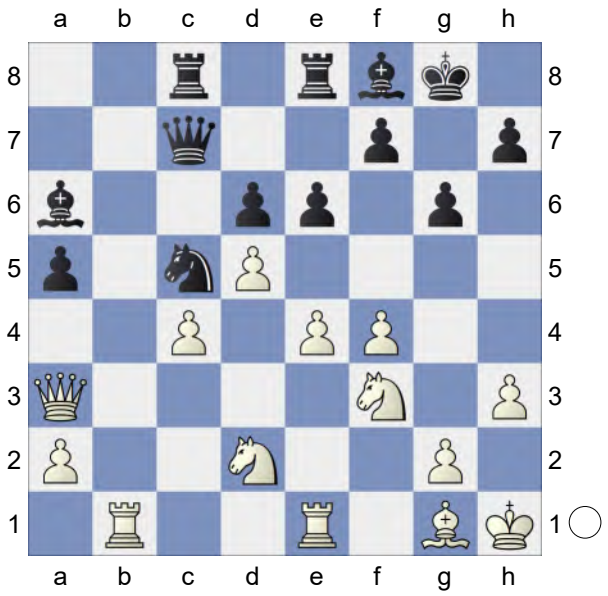


21.Qxd3 Ba6 22.Qc2 bxc3 23.bxc3 Qc7 24.Ngf3 e6 25.c4 Rfe8

(Diagram)

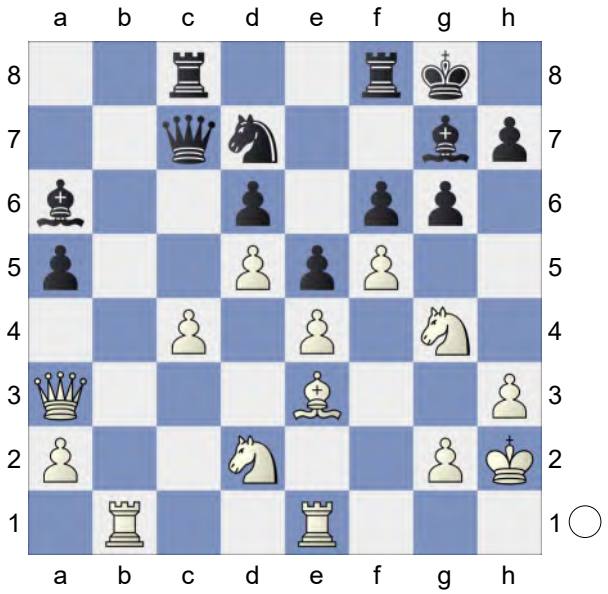


26.Kh1 Rac8 27.Qa4 Bb2 28.Rb1 Bg7 29.Bg1 Nc5 30.Qa3 Bf8

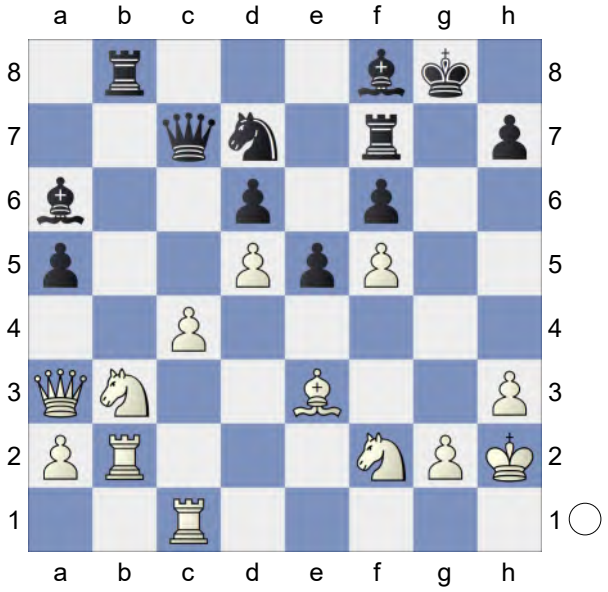


31.f5 e5 1.45/17
[Black should try 31...gxf5 0.75/18 32.Nh4 f4]
32.Nh2± Nd7 33.Ng4 Bg7 1.64/19
[33...Qd8± 1.21/16 34.Be3 f6]
34.Be3+- f6 2.00/21
[34...Rb8± 1.58/16 keeps fighting. 35.Kh2 Kh8]
35.Kh2 Rf8

(Diagram)

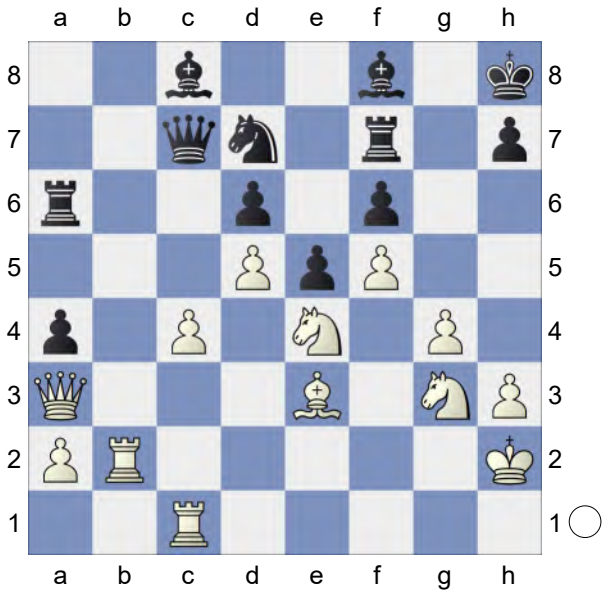


36.Rec1 Rf7 37.Rb2 Re8 38.Nb3 gxf5 39.exf5
[39.Qxa5? Qxa5 40.Nxa5 fxg4 41.hxg4 Bf8-+]
39...Bf8 40.Nf2 Rb8

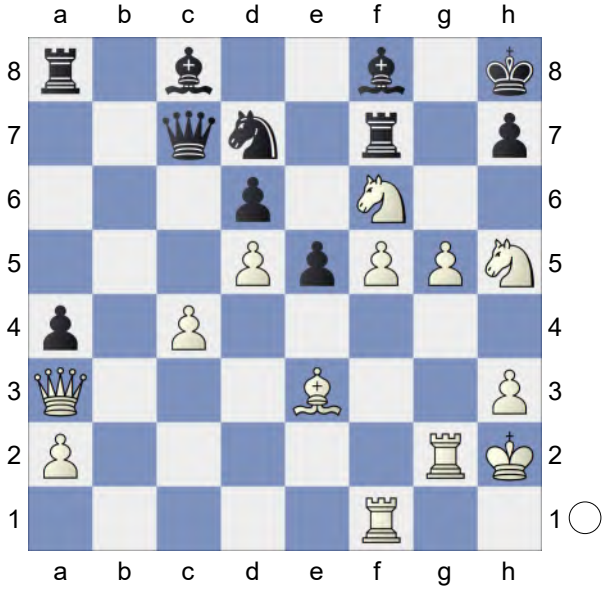


41.Ne4
[41.Qxa5? Qxa5 42.Nxa5 Rxb2-+]
41...Bc8 42.g4
[42.Qxa5? Qxa5 43.Nxa5 Rxb2-+]
42...a4 43.Nbd2 A dynamic duo of knights. **43...Ra8 44.Nf1 Kh8 45.Nfg3 Ra6**

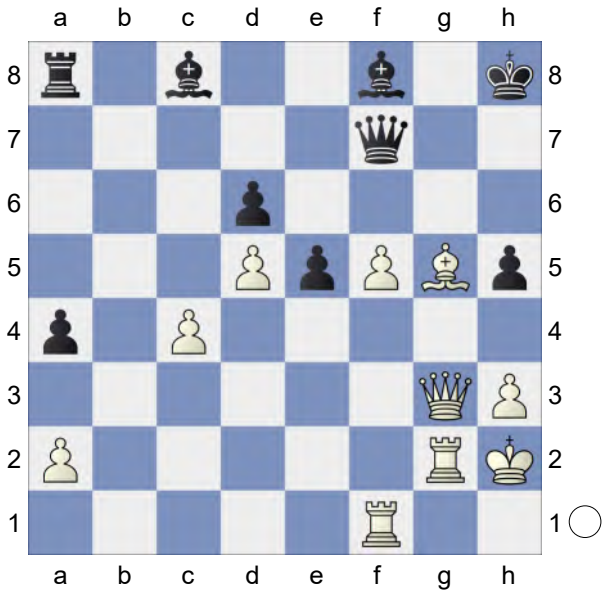
(Diagram)



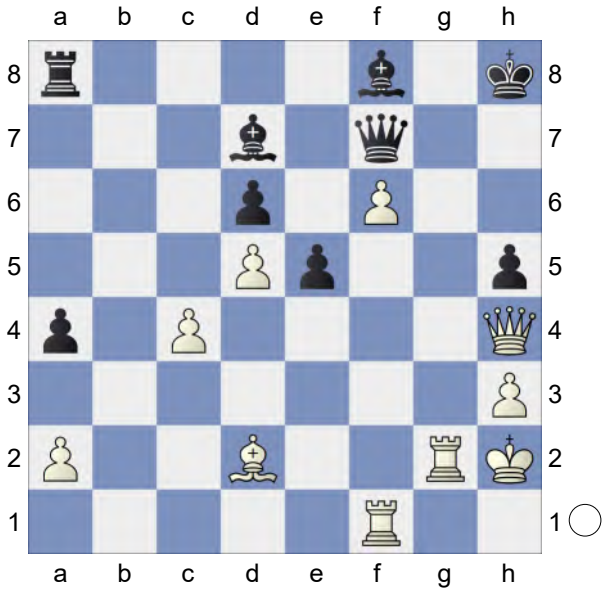
46.g5 Nc5 47.Nxf6
[47.gxf6 Nxe4 48.Nxe4 Bxf5+-]
47...Ra8 5.03/20
[47...Be7 3.24/19 is a better defense. 48.Ng4 Rxf5 49.Nxf5 Bxf5]
48.Rg2 Ra6 49.Rf1 Ra8 50.Ngh5 Nd7 7.38/20
[⌓50...Be7 4.39/19 51.Bxc5 Qxc5]



51.g6 Nxf6 52.gxf7 Qxf7 53.Nxf6 White threatens Rfg1! and mate. **53...Qxf6 54.Bg5 Qf7 55.Qg3** White wants to mate with Bf6+! **55...h5**

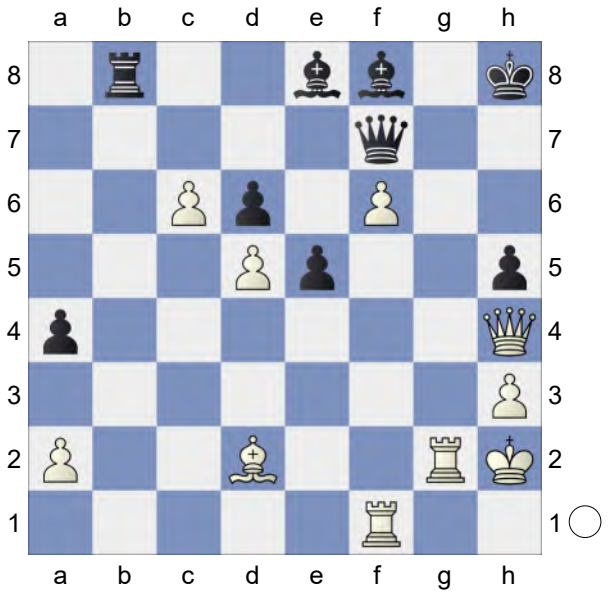


56.Qh4 Bg7 Prevents Bf6 **57.f6 Bf8**
58.Bd2 Threatening mate with Rg5.
58...Bd7

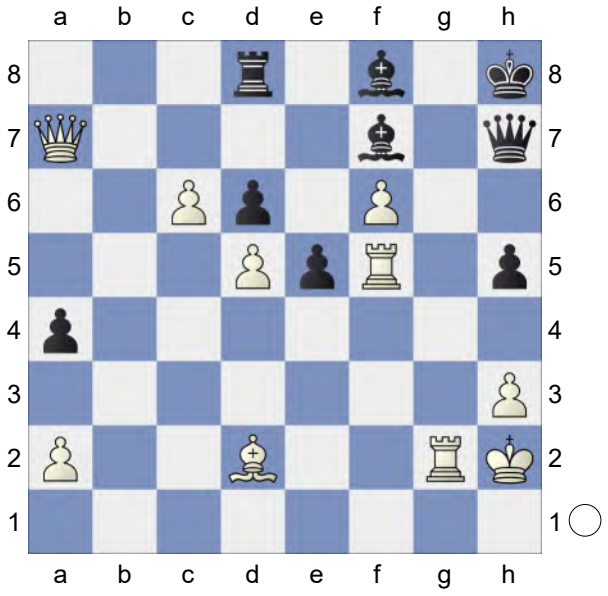


59.c5! aiming for Rg5. **59...Be8 60.c6**
Qg5 would now be deadly. **60...Rb8**

(Diagram)

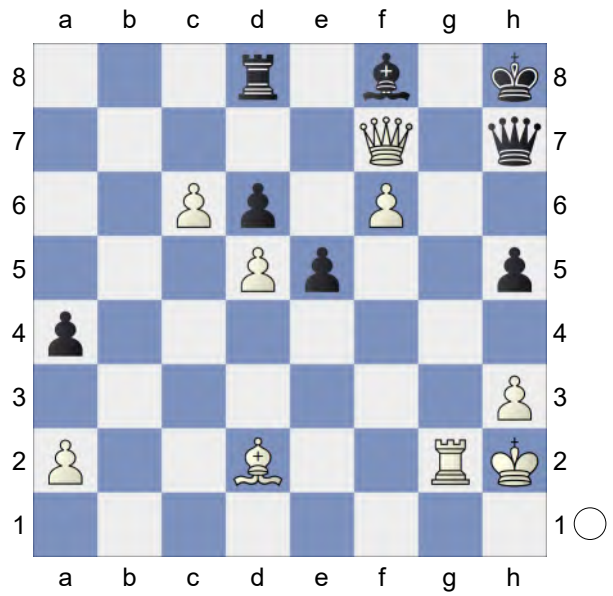


61.Rf5 Rgg5 would kill now. **61...Qh7**
62.Qf2 Bf7 63.Qa7 Rd8

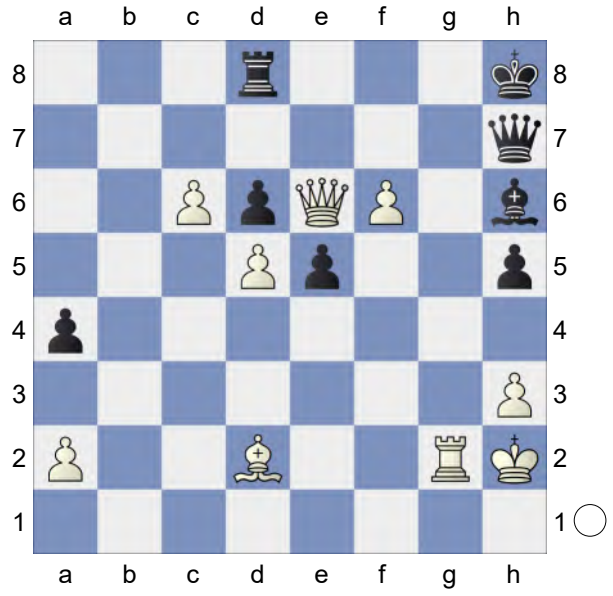


64.Qb7! Intending c7 and mate.
64...Qxf5
[64...Re8 65.Qd7]
65.Qxf7 Qh7

(Diagram)



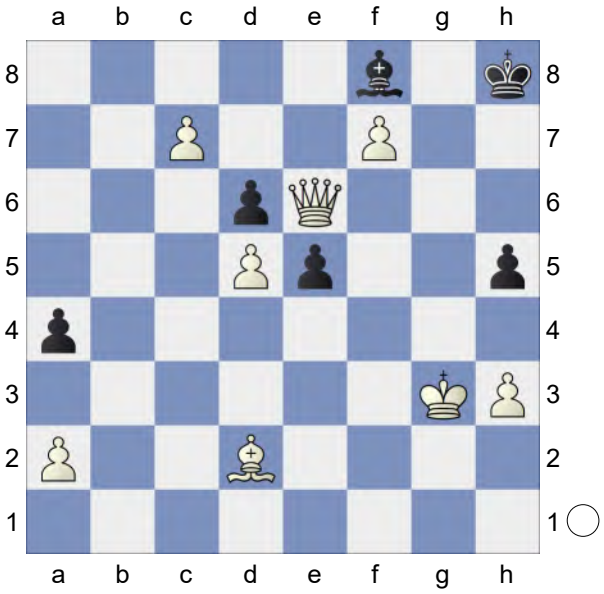
66.Qe6 Bh6



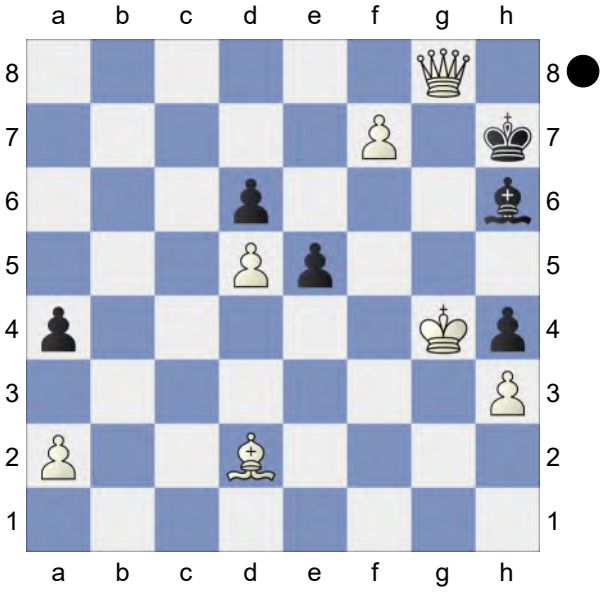
67.c7! Rg8 68.Rxg8+

[And not 68.c8B Rxg2+ 69.Kxg2 Qe4+ 70.Kh2 Bf4+ 71.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 72.Kg2 Qd2+ 73.Kf1 Qd1+ 74.Kf2 Qd2+ 75.Kg3 Qf4+ 76.Kg2 Qd2+ 77.Kf1 Qc1+ 78.Ke2 Qc4+ 79.Kf2 *(79.Kd2 Qd4+ 80.Ke2 Qc4+ 81.Kf2 Qf4+ 82.Ke2 Qe4+ 83.Kd2 Qd4+ 84.Ke2 Qc4+=)* 79...Qh4+ 80.Kg1 *(80.Ke2 Qc4+ 81.Kf2 Qf4+ 82.Ke2 Qc4+=)* 80...Qg3+ 81.Kh1 Qf3+ 82.Kg1 Qd1+ 83.Kg2 Qd2+=]

68...Qxg8 Endgame. KQB-KQB **69.f7** White mates. **69...Qg3+ 70.Kxg3 Bf8**



71.c8Q h4+ 72.Kg4 Kh7 73.Qh6+ Bxh6 74.Qg8#



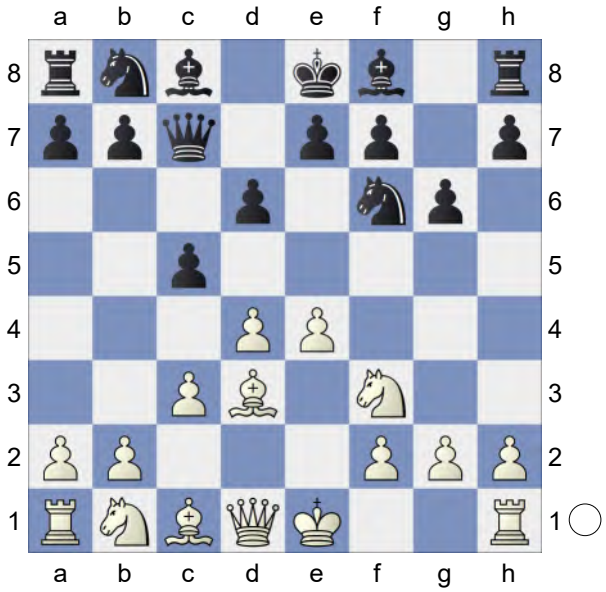
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)

1-0

6 **B22**
□ **Rubichess** **3508**
■ **Komododragon** **3587**
TCEC 25 Premier P/O 2023 (6.2) 4.10.23
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

Inf 60/(108) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Qc7 5.Nf3 g6**



6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Re1 Nc6N

[8...a6 9.e5 Nd5 10.Be4 Nb6 11.Bf4 d5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nbd2 Nc6 14.Qe2 Na4 15.Rab1 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Rac8 18.Nf1 Qb6 19.Be3 Bd7 20.h4 Bb5 21.h5 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 gxh5 23.Qa3 1-0 (32) Hickl,J (2535)-Gostisa,L (2410) Lippstadt 1994 (7)]

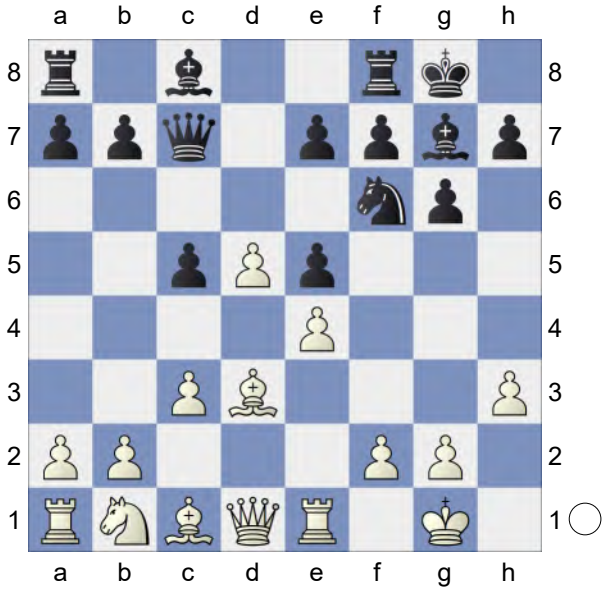
[8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.a4 b6 13.Bc4 Nf8 14.Ng5 Rd7 15.a5 Rb8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Bb5 Rd8 18.Nc4 Kamsky,G (2695)-Polgar,J (2630) Madrid 60/(108) 1994]

[8...Rd8 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bf4 b5 11.e5 Nd5 12.exd6 exd6 13.Bg5 Rf8 14.Be4 Bb7 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.Qd2 Nb6 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 Chapter-1. e4 c5 2. a3 Nc6: all lines 2010]

[8...h6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.Be4 Nb6 12.Bf4 Be6 13.Qc1 Kh7 14.h4 Qc8 15.h5 Bf5 16.e6 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 g5 18.Bxg5 f5 19.Re1 hxg5 20.Nxg5+ Kg8 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qg5 1-0 (31) Loheac Amoun,F (2600)-5.♗f4 00 6.e3 c5 (2340) 32 Plovdiv 2012]

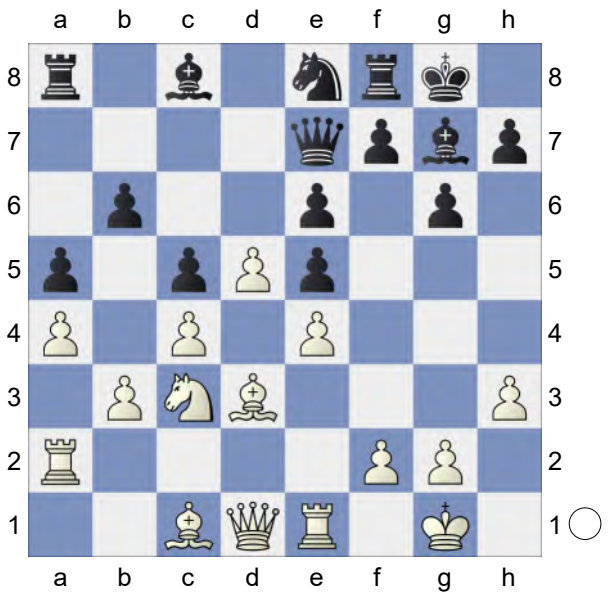
[8...Nfd7 9.Bg5 Nc6 10.Na3 a6 11.Nc2 b5 12.Bf1 Re8 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.a4 Na5 15.Qd1 Nb3 16.Ra3 c4 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 e5 19.f3 Nf8 20.Kh1 Ne6 21.Be3 h5 22.axb5 axb5 23.b4 ½-½ (47) Ochsner,T (2300)-Sahl,B (2415) DEN-ch Esbjerg 1997 (8)]

9.d5 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5

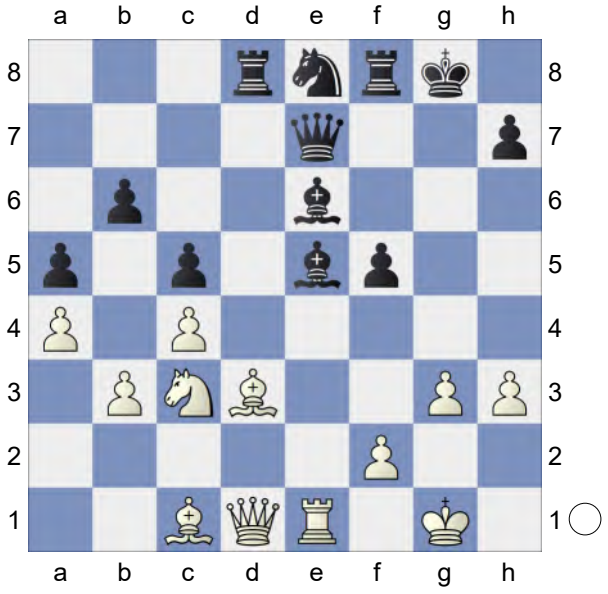


White is better. **11.a4 e6 12.c4 a5 13.Ra2 b6 14.b3 Ne8 15.Nc3 Qe7**

(Diagram)

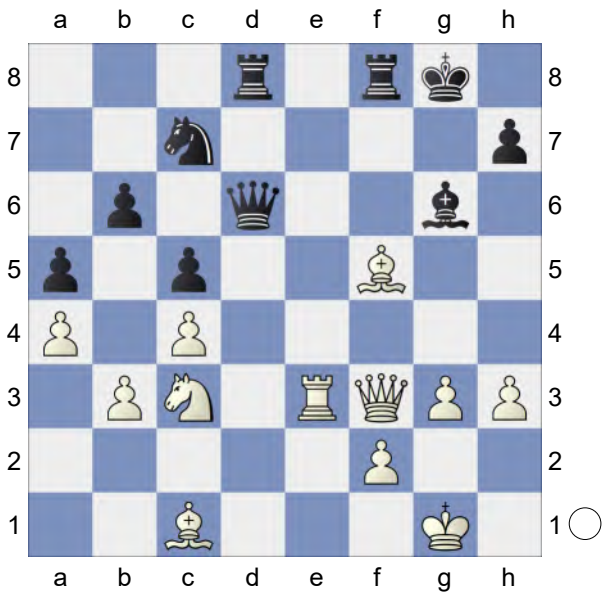


16.g3 White is more active. **16...f5 17.dxe6 Bxe6** 0.96/19
[17...Bb7± 0.54/19]
18.exf5± gxf5 19.Rae2 Rd8 20.Rxe5 Bxe5

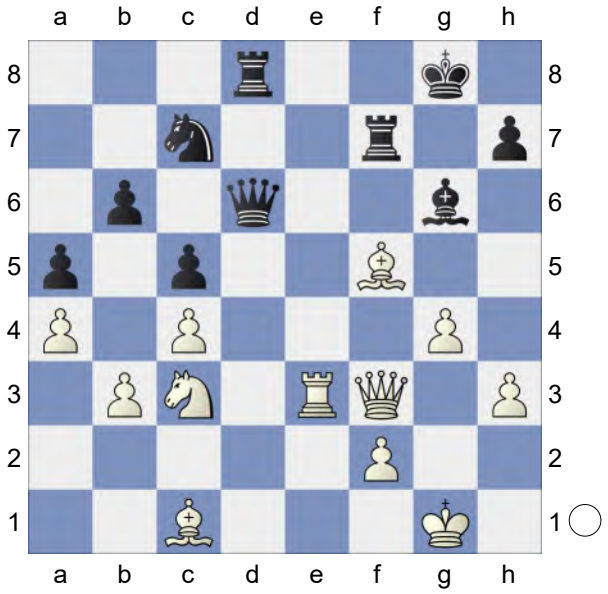


21.Rxe5 Qd6 Against Nd5 **22.Re3 Nc7 23.Qf3** 0.83/20
[⌓23.Bb2 1.28/20]
23...Bf7 24.Bxf5 Bg6

(Diagram)

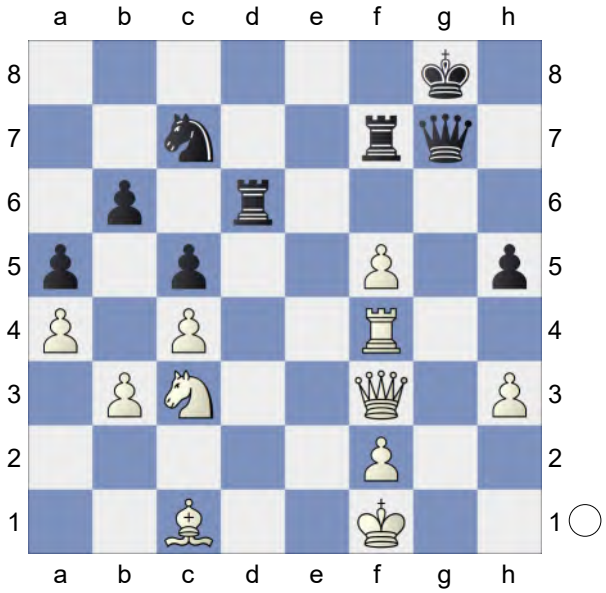


25.g4 Black is weak on the light squares **25...Rf7**



26.Kg2 0.69/23
[26.Kf1± 1.07/21]
26...Bxf5± 27.gxf5 Qf6! 28.Re4
[28.Qf4 Qxf5 29.Rg3+ Kf8 30.Qh6+ Ke7 31.Qg5+ Kd7 32.Qxf5+ Rxf5=]
28...h5 Inhibits Rg4+.
[28...Qxf5? 29.Rg4+ Kf8 30.Bh6+ Ke7 31.Bg5+ Ke8 32.Qxf5 *(32.Re4+ Kd7+-)* 32...Rxf5 33.Bxd8 Kxd8 34.Rg8+ Kd7 35.Rg7+ Kd8 36.Rxh7+-]

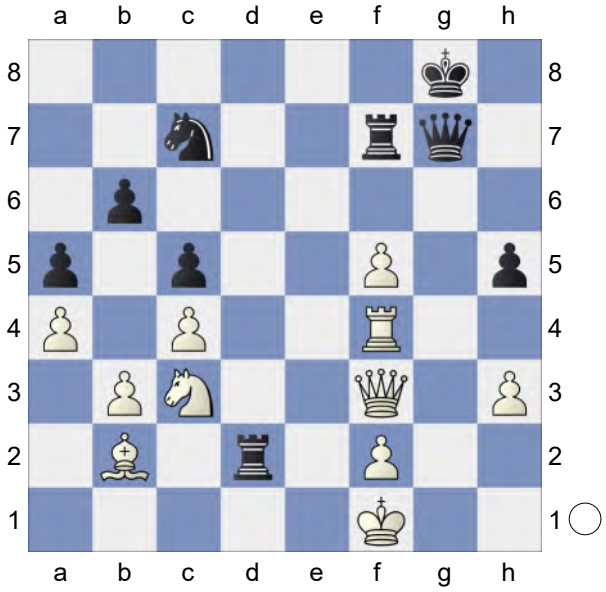
29.Rf4 Ne4! would now be deadly. **29...Qg7+** **30.Kf1** Qxh5! is the strong threat. **30...Rd6**



31.Bb2↑ White is pushing.

[31.Ne4 Qa1 32.Ke2 *(32.Nxd6 Qxc1+ 33.Ke2 Rg7∓)* 32...Qxc1∓]

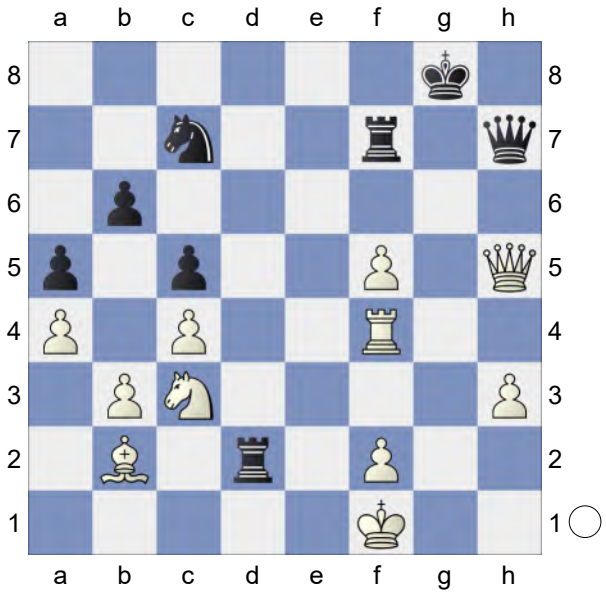
31...Rd2



32.Qxh5! Qh7

[32...Rxb2? 33.Rg4 Ne8 34.Ne4 *(34.Rxg7+ Nxg7 35.Qg6 Rxf5+-)* 34...Rb1+ 35.Ke2+- *(35.Kg2 Re1+-)*]

(Diagram)



33.Qxh7+ **Rxh7** **34.Ba1** aiming for Kg2. **34...Rc2** 0.75/23

[34...Rxh3± 0.36/21 35.Rg4+ Kf8]

35.Ne2 -0.01/22

[35.Rg4+ Kf7 36.Ne4 *(36.Kg2 Rc1=)* 36...Rc1+ *(36...Rxh3? 37.Be5+-)* 37.Kg2 Rxa1 38.Ng5+ Kg8 39.Nxh7+ Kxh7±]

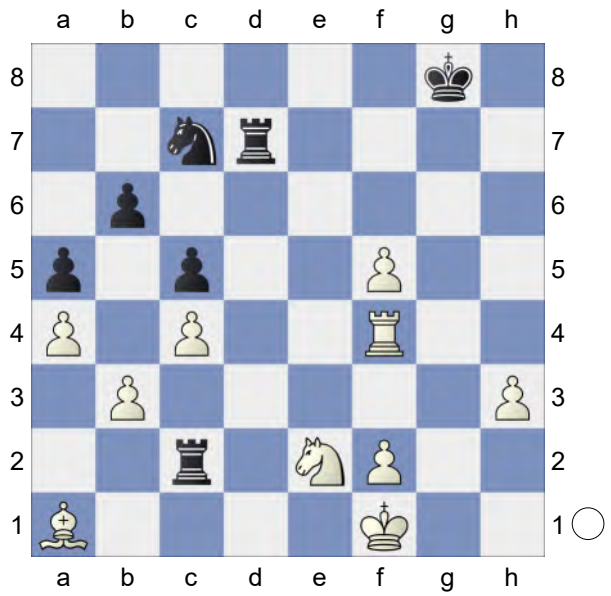
[35.Ne4± 0.75/23 Rc1+ *(35...Rxh3? 36.Be5+-)* 36.Ke2 Rxa1 37.Nf6+ Kg7 38.Nxh7 Kxh7 39.Re4]

35...Rd7? 1.76/23

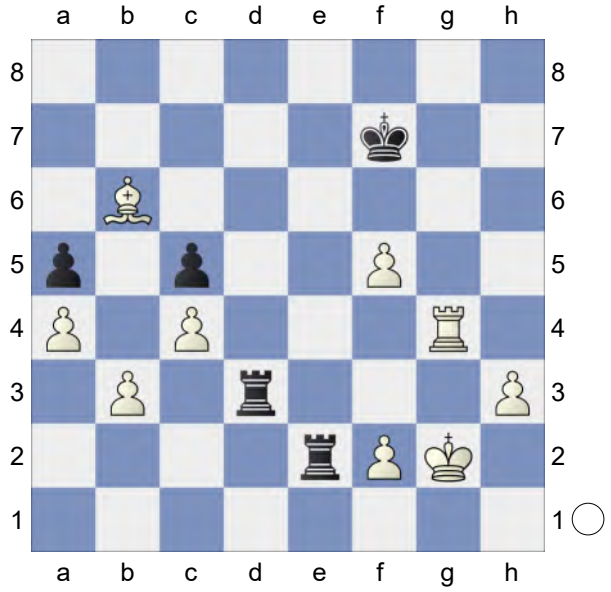
[35...Rxh3 36.Kg2 Rxb3 37.Rg4+ Kf7 38.Rg7+ Ke8 39.Ng3 Rxc4 40.Rxc7 Rxa4 41.Be5+-]

[35...Ne8!= -0.01/22]

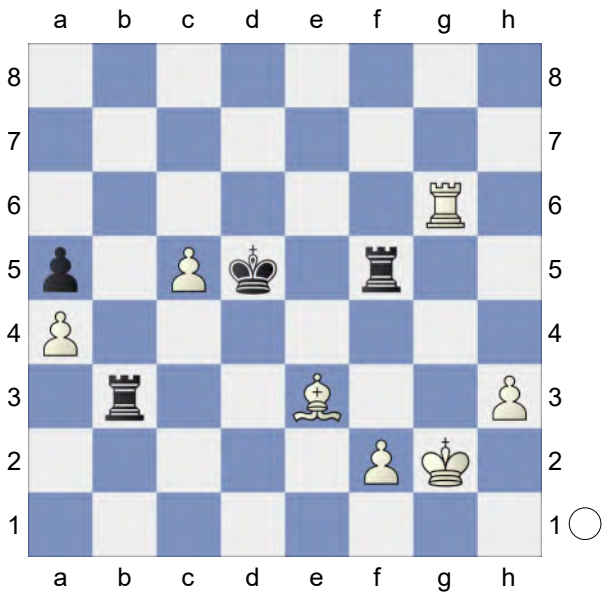
(Diagram)



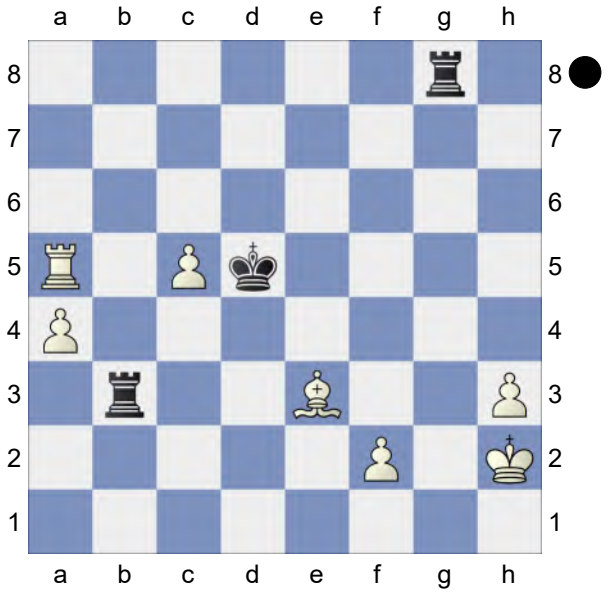
36.Rg4++- **Kf8** **37.Be5** Strongly threatening Nf4. **37...Rd1+** White is clearly better. **38.Kg2** **Rxe2** **39.Bxc7** Endgame. KRR-KRB **39...Rd3** **40.Bxb6** **Kf7**



41.Bxc5 Hoping for Bd4.
[41.Rg3 Rxg3+ 42.Kxg3 Rb2=]
41...Re5 **42.Bd4** **Rxf5** **43.c5** And now c6 would win. **43...Ke6** **44.Rg6+** **Kd5** **45.Be3**
[45.Rd6+ Ke4 46.Be3 Rxd6 47.cxd6 Rd5±]
45...Rxb3



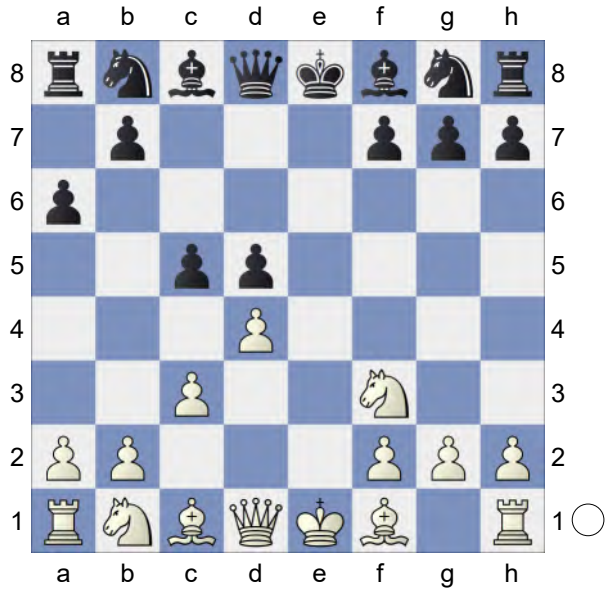
46.Ra6 **Rf8** **47.Rxa5** **Rg8+** **48.Kh2**



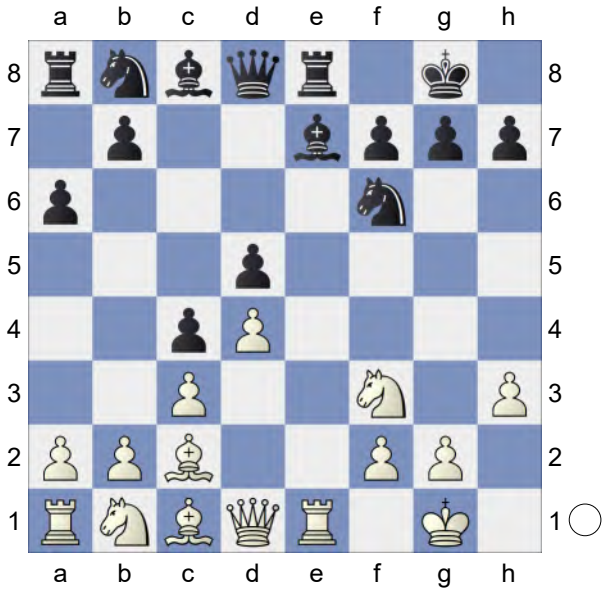
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

7 **B22**
□ **Scorpionn3** **3483**
■ **Igel3** **3512**
TCEC 21 Premier 2021 (53.2) 09.07.2021
[Kitty Kat]

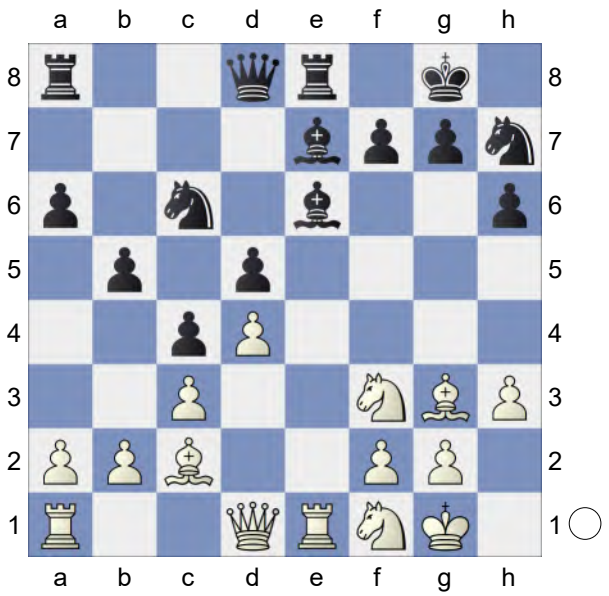
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 a6



6.Bd3N
[6.Be3 c4 7.b3 *(7.Ne5 Bd6 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 Ne7 10.Bd3 Bf5 11.Bxf5 Nxf5 12.Qf3 Bxe5 13.Qxf5 Bc7 14.Nd2* ½-½ Dauvergne,D (2643)- ♘d7 10.d4 (2742) FRA-ch45 Mulhouse 1970 (4)*)* 7...cxb3 8.axb3 Nf6 *(8...Nc6 9.h3 Bd6 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Qc2 Bd7 14.Rae1 h6 15.Qb1 Rc8 16.Re2 Be6 17.Rc1 Qd7 18.Ree1 Bb8 19.b4 Bd6 20.Nh4 Na7 21.Nf5 Bb8 22.Nf1 Ne4 23.Bxe4* 0-1 (39) Romanishin,O (2320)-Lyons,B (2440) 52/577 London 1991 (5)*)* 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.c4 Re8 12.Nc3 dxc4 13.bxc4 b6 14.c5 bxc5 15.dxc5 Bc7 16.Bb5 Bd7 17.Bc4 Bg4 18.Qb3 Re7 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 Be6 ½-½ (63) Jussupow,A (1573)-Schouten,N (800) 53/262 Reggio Emilia 1991]
[6.Be2 c4 7.Bf4 Bd6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Ne7 11.0-0 0-0 12.c4 B 22/09 2000]
6...c4 7.Bc2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7
White is slightly better. **9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 Re8**

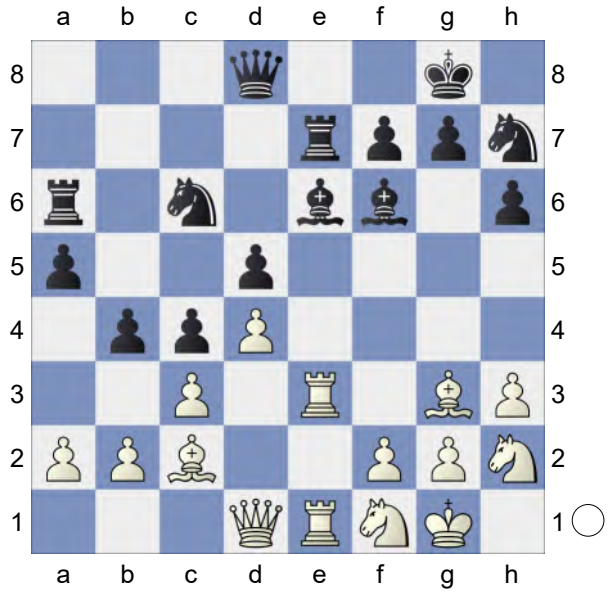


11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Nh7 13.Bg3 Nc6 14.Nbd2 b5 15.Nf1 Be6

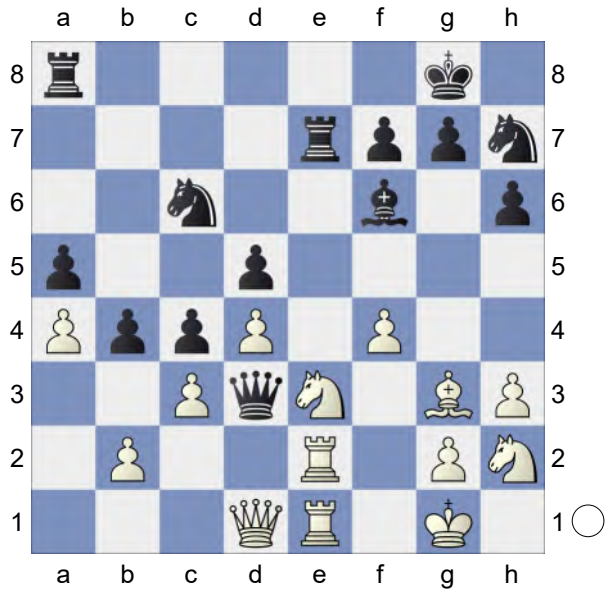


16.Re3 b4 17.Qe2 aiming for Rxe6.

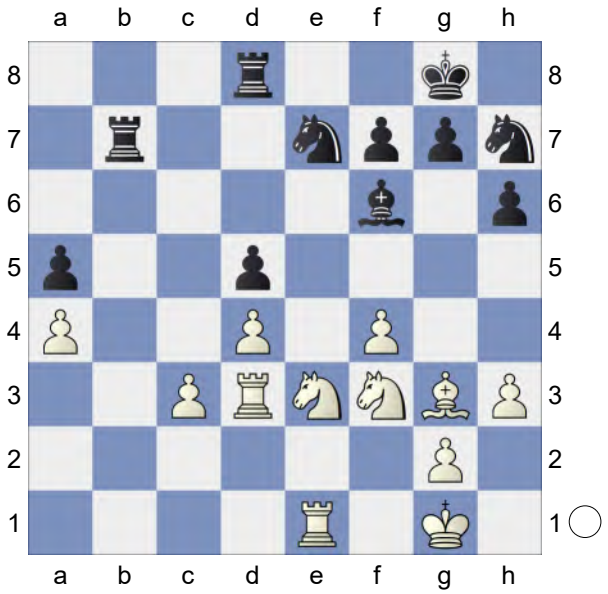
17...Bf6 18.Re1 a5 19.Qd1 Ra6 20.N3h2 Re7 0.33/17
[20...a4= -0.04/16]



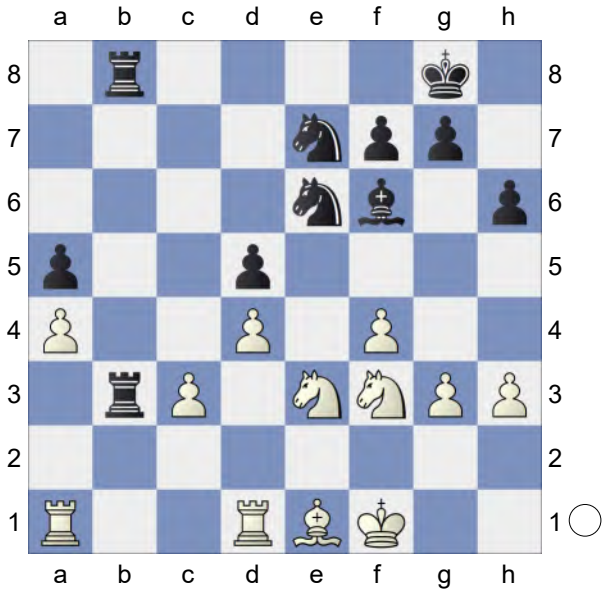
21.a4 Qd7 22.f4 Ra8 23.R3e2 Bf5 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Ne3 Qd3 0.94/20
[25...Qd7!± 0.58/19]



26.Qxd3± cxd3 27.Rd2 Rd8 28.Rxd3 0.64/24
[28.Nhg4!± 1.03/21]
28...Rb7± 29.Nf3 bxc3! 30.bxc3 Ne7
(Diagram)

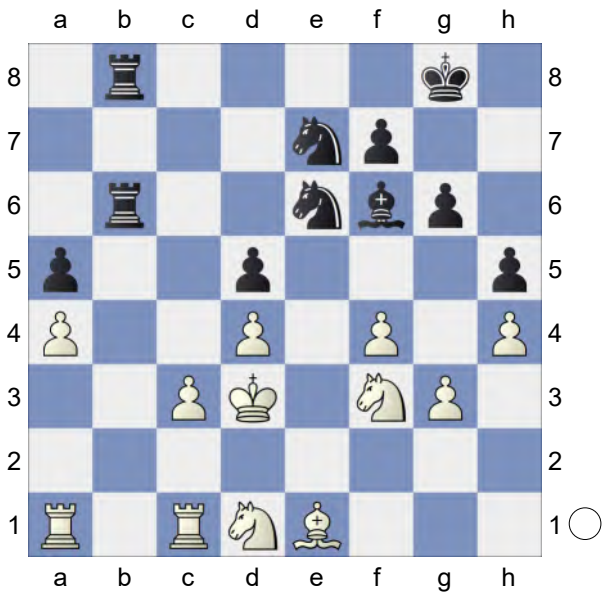


31.Ra1 Rb3 32.Kf1 Rc8 33.Be1 Nf8 34.Rdd1 Rcb8 35.g3 Ne6



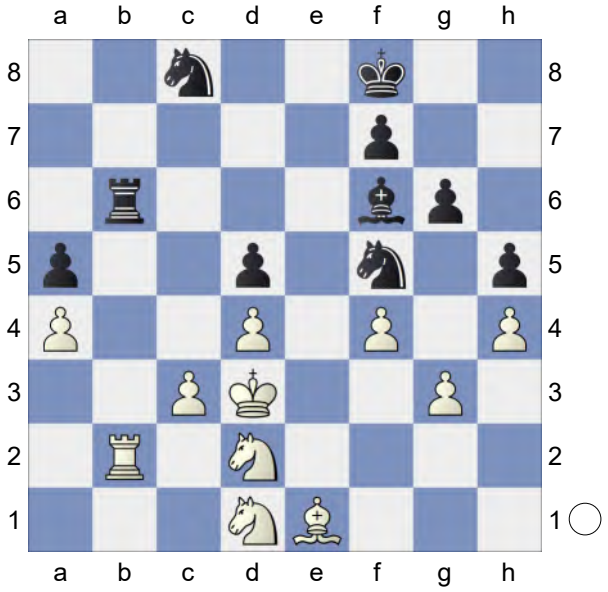
36.Ke2 h5 37.h4 g6 38.Kd3 R3b7 1.14/23
[38...R8b4± 0.68/21
is more appropriate.]
39.Rdc1± Rb2 40.Nd1 R2b6

(Diagram)



41.Nd2! Ng7 42.Rcb1 Ngf5 43.Rxb6 Rxb6 44.Ra2 Kf8 45.Rb2 Nc8

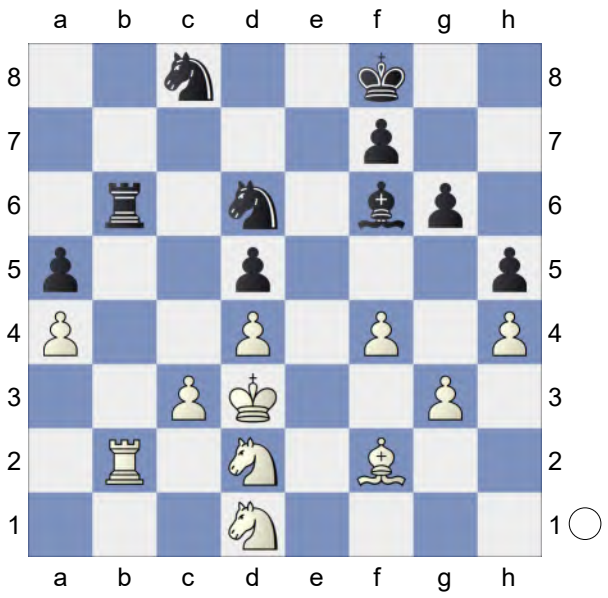
[Avoid the trap 45...Bxd4? 46.cxd4 Rxb2 47.Nxb2+-]



46.Bf2 Nfd6 2.09/25

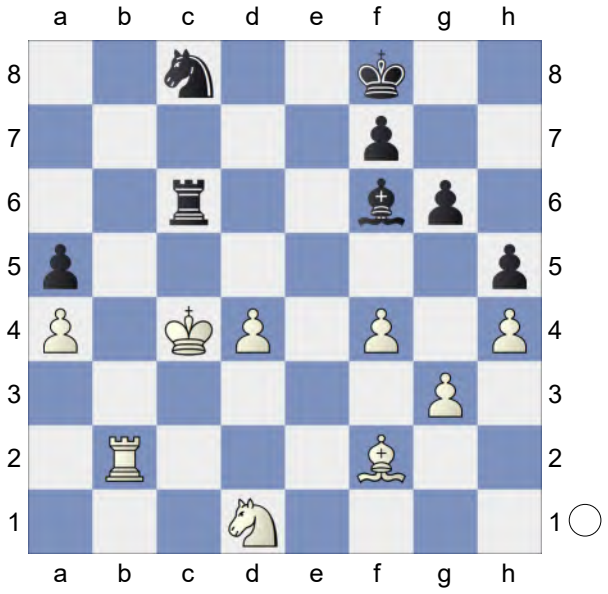
[46...Be7± 1.41/22]

(Diagram)



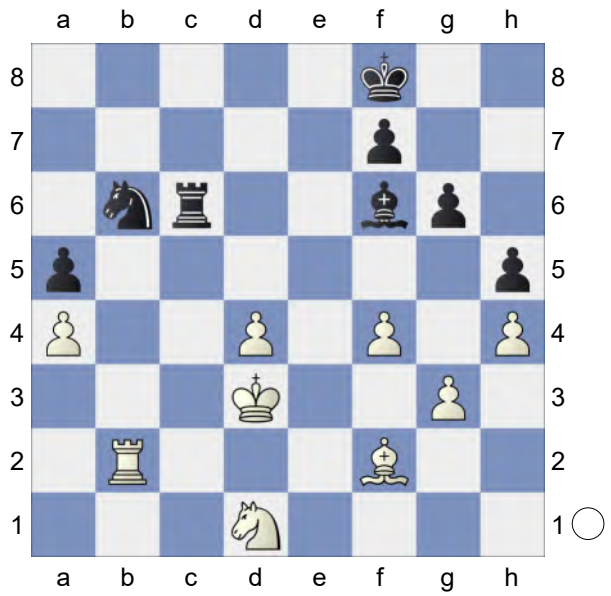
47.c4!+- Nxc4 48.Nxc4 dxc4+ 49.Kxc4 And now Rxb6 would win.

49...Rc6+

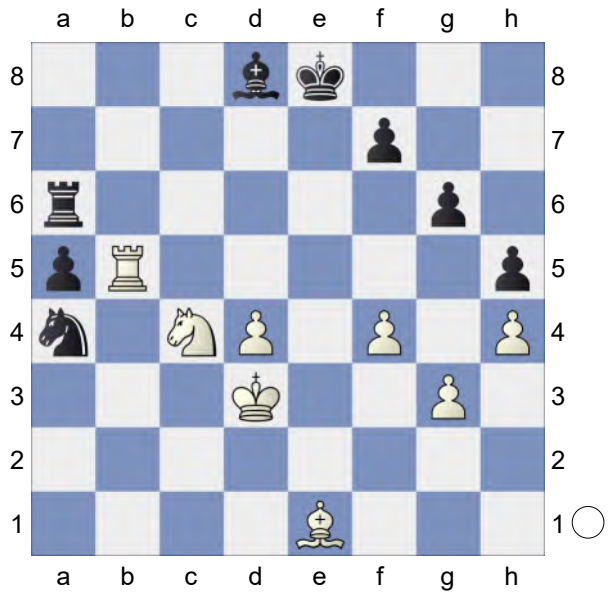


50.Kd3! Nb6

(Diagram)

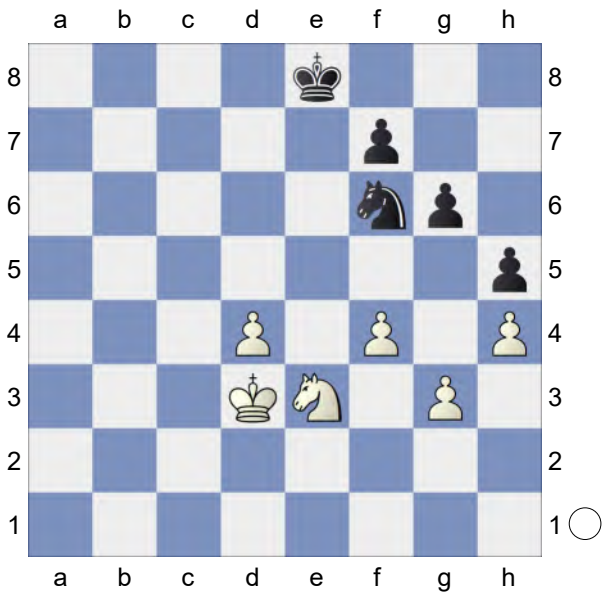


51.Ne3 Bd8 52.Be1 Nxa4 53.Rb8 Ke7 54.Rb5 Ra6 55.Nc4 Ke8

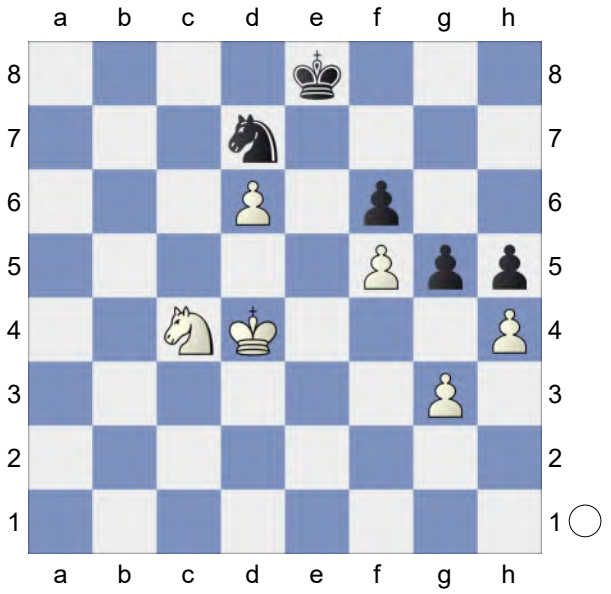


56.Bxa5 Bxa5 57.Rxa5
[Don't do 57.Nxa5?! Nb6±]
57...Rxa5 58.Nxa5 Endgame. KN-KN
58...Nb6 59.Nc4 Nd5 60.Ne3 Nf6 3.88/28
[60...Nb6 2.50/26 was necessary. 61.f5 Ke7]

(Diagram)

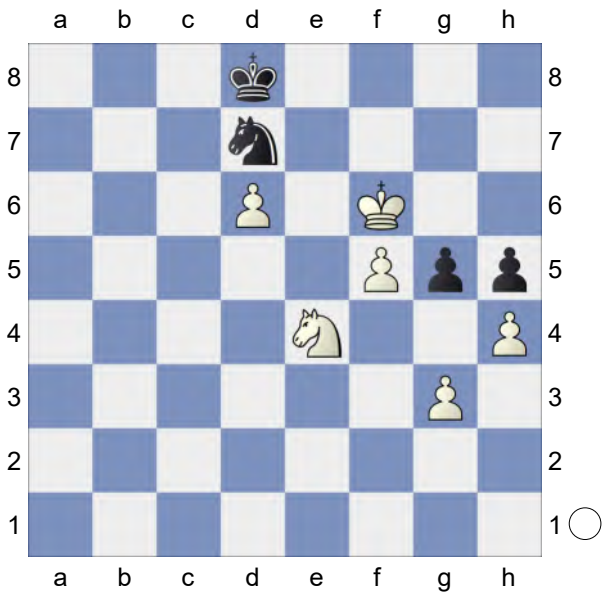


61.d5 Ke7 62.Kd4 Nd7 63.Nc4
[63.f5 gxf5 64.Nxf5+ Kf6+-]
63...f6 64.f5 g5 10.97/26
[⌓64...gxf5 4.08/26 65.Ne3 f4 66.Nf5+ *(66.gxf4 Nf8+-)* 66...Kd8 67.gxf4 Nf8]
65.d6+ Ke8

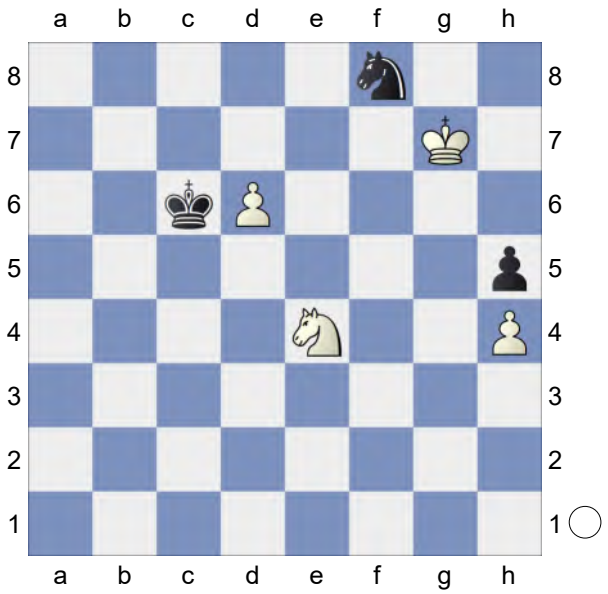


66.Kd5 Kd8 67.Nd2 Nb6+ 68.Ke6 Nd7 69.Ne4 Nf8+ 70.Kxf6 Nd7+

(Diagram)

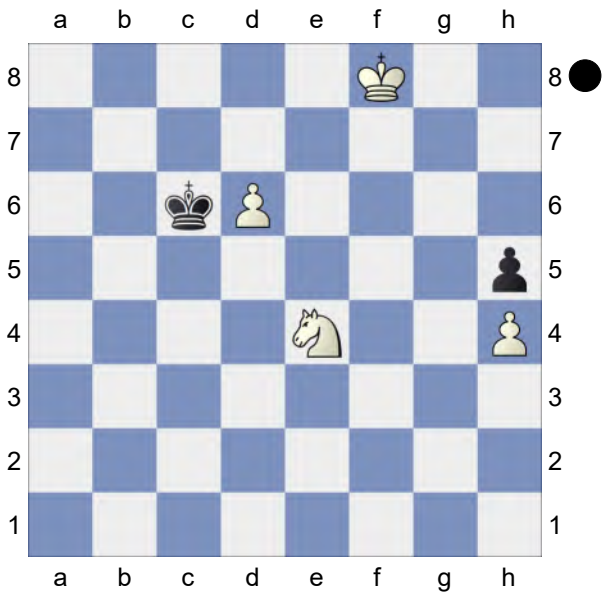


71.Kg7 gxh4 72.gxh4 White mates.
72...Kc8 73.f6 Kb7 74.f7 Kc6 75.f8Q Nxf8



76.Kxf8

(Diagram)

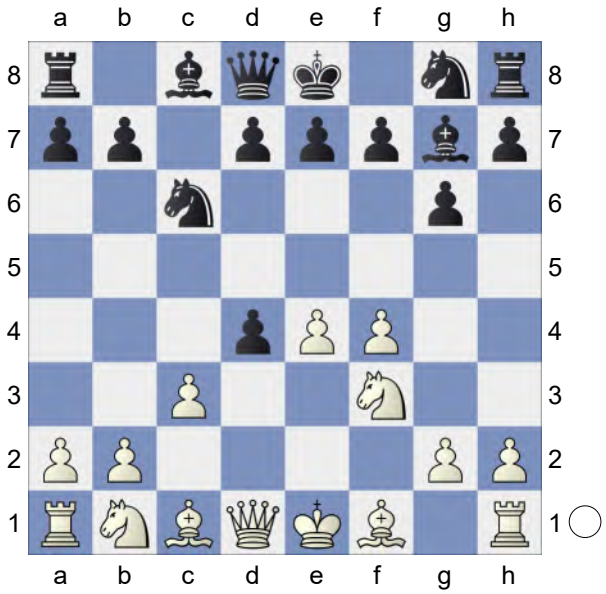


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
1-0

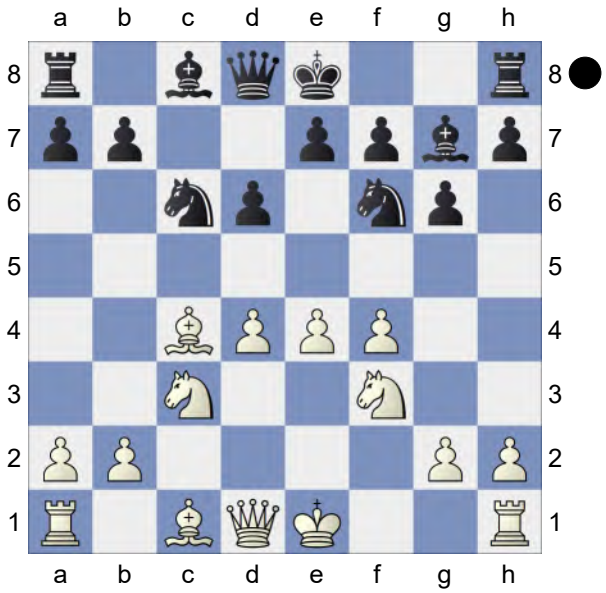
8 **B22**
□ **Escubiatack** **3120**
■ **Deichmann** **2669**
Blitz 26.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B21: Sicilian: 2 f4 and Morra Gambit
Chess Studies [1844], p.168, Partie 996. Ohne Ort und Datum. Geschaetzt 1834-42. Im Handbuch des Schachspiels [1843], S. 232 Namen gekürzt, ohne Datum und Ort. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6 3.f4**
[3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 g6 5.Bc4 Na5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Bc4 Na5 8.Be2 Bg7 9.Nc3 Qb6 10.Nd5 Qc6 11.Bf4 e5 12.Rc1 Qd6 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Nc7+ Ke7 15.Qxd6+ Bxd6 16.Bxd6+ Kxd6 17.Nxa8 Nf6 1-0 (20) Costa,L (2314)-Mueer,S (2210) Pardubice Czech op-A 34th 2023 (7)]
3...g6N
[3...e5 4.Nf3 exf4 5.d4 g5 6.Bc4 d6 7.dxc5 g4 8.Bxf4 gxf3 9.Qxf3 Nf6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Qe3 dxc5 12.Bg5 Bg7 13.e5 Nd5 14.Qd2 f6 15.Bxd5 Nxe5 16.Bf4 Bh5 17.Na3 Qe7 18.Bxe5 1-0 (24) Von Heydebrand und der Lasa,T-Hanstein,W Match Von Heydebrand-Hanstein 1842]
4.Nf3 Bg7 5.d4 cxd4

(Diagram)

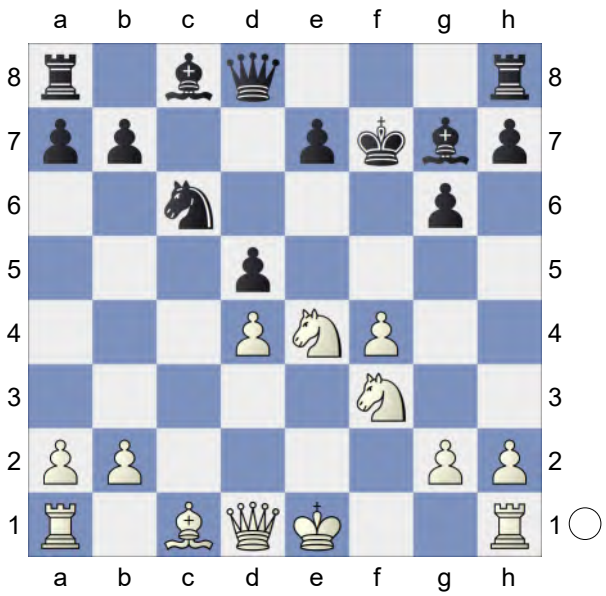


6.cxd4 d6 0.48/18
[6...d5= 0.01/17 should be considered. 7.exd5 Qxd5]
7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bc4 -0.19/18
[8.d5± 0.50/17]

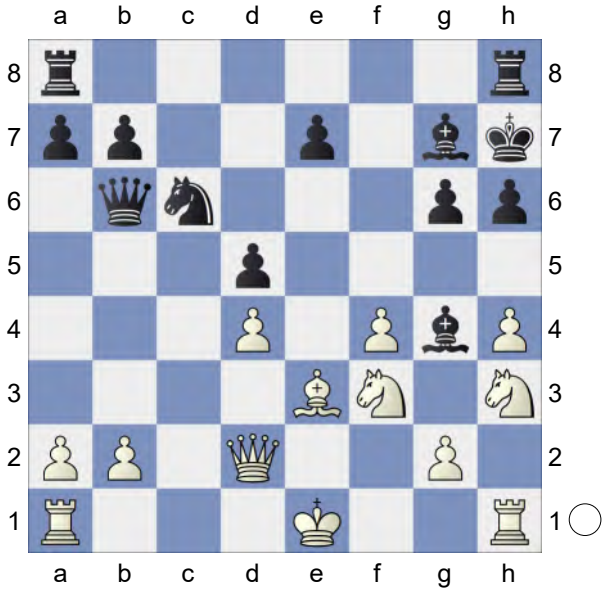


8...Nxe4!= Decoy **9.Bxf7+!**
[9.Nxe4 d5 10.Nc3 dxc4∓]
9...Kxf7 10.Nxe4 d5

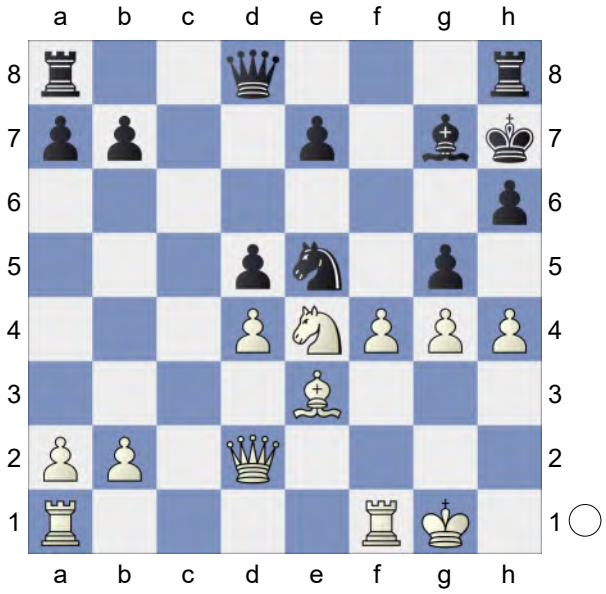
(Diagram)



11.Neg5+ A dynamic duo of knights.
11...Kg8 12.h4 -0.51/20
[White should try 12.Ne5= 0.00/18]
12...h6∓ 13.Nh3 Kh7 14.Be3 Qb6 15.Qd2 -0.48/18
[15.h5= 0.01/17 was preferrable.]
15...Bg4 -0.12/17
[15...Bf5∓ -0.48/18 is more appropriate. 16.Rc1 Nb4]

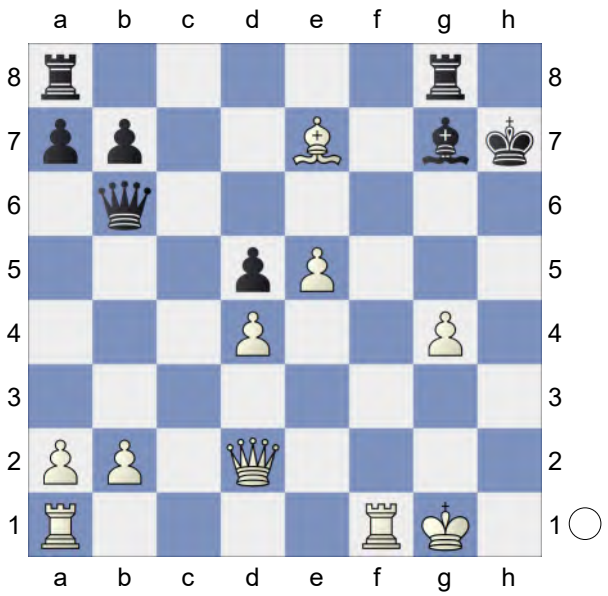


16.Ne5= Bf5 17.g4 Be4 18.0-0 Qd8 0.23/18
[⌓18...Qb4 -0.15/20 19.Nxc6 Qxd2 20.Bxd2 bxc6]
19.Nf2 g5 1.69/19 **20.Nxe4+-**
[20.fxg5 Bxe5 21.dxe5 Qc8±]
20...Nxe5

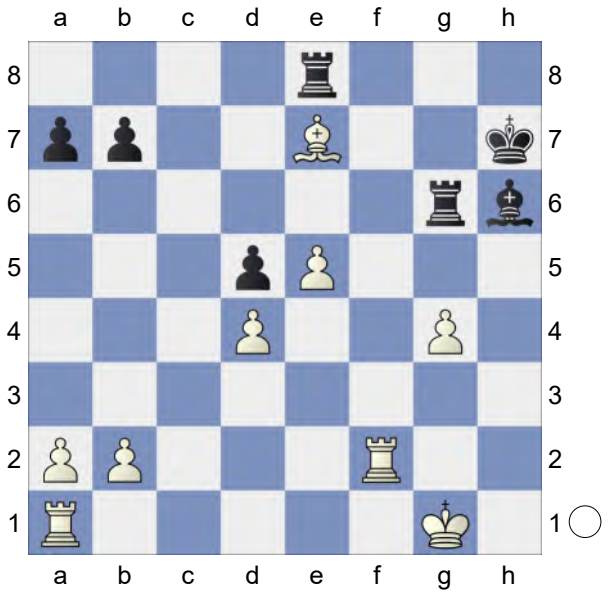


21.Nxg5+
[21.hxg5 Nxg4 22.Nc5 hxg5 23.fxg5 Kg8±]
21...hxg5 22.fxe5 gxh4 23.Bg5 1.26/18
[23.Qc2++- 2.54/20 Kg8 24.Qf5]
23...Rf8 1.65/19
[23...Qe8± 1.26/18 24.Qd3+ *(24.Bxh4 Qg6±)* 24...Qg6 25.Qxg6+ Kxg6 26.Bxe7 Rac8]
24.Bxh4 Qb6? 3.24/20
[24...Kg8 1.67/19 25.Rf5 *(25.Rxf8+ Bxf8 26.Rf1 Bg7+-)* 25...Qe8 26.Rxf8+ Qxf8]
25.Bxe7 Rg8 6.11/21
[25...Rxf1+ 3.11/18 26.Rxf1 Qc7]

(Diagram)

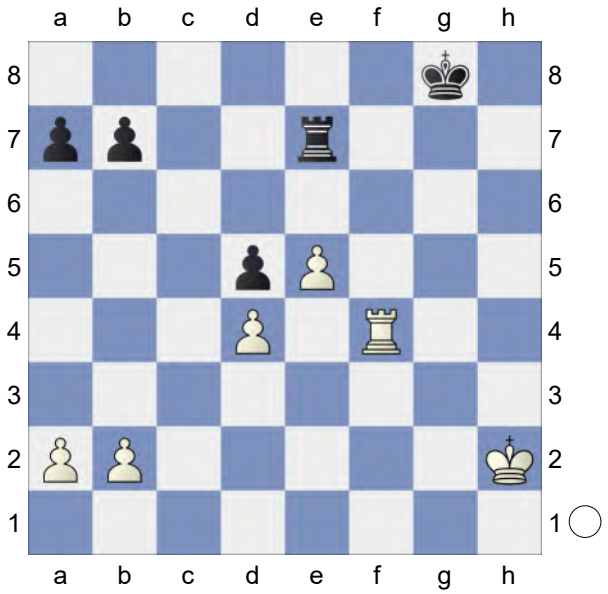


26.Rf2 Rae8 27.Qg5 2.64/22
[27.Rh2+ 16.94/20 Bh6 28.Bf6]
27...Bh6 28.Qf5+ 0.71/21
[28.Rf7++- 3.52/22 Rg7 29.Rxg7+ Bxg7 30.Qf5+ Kg8 31.Bc5]
28...Qg6± Threatens to win with ...Qxf5!
29.Qf7+ 0.28/23
[29.Bd6± 0.70/20 Qxf5 30.Rxf5]
29...Rg7= 30.Qxg6+ Remove Defender
30...Rxg6

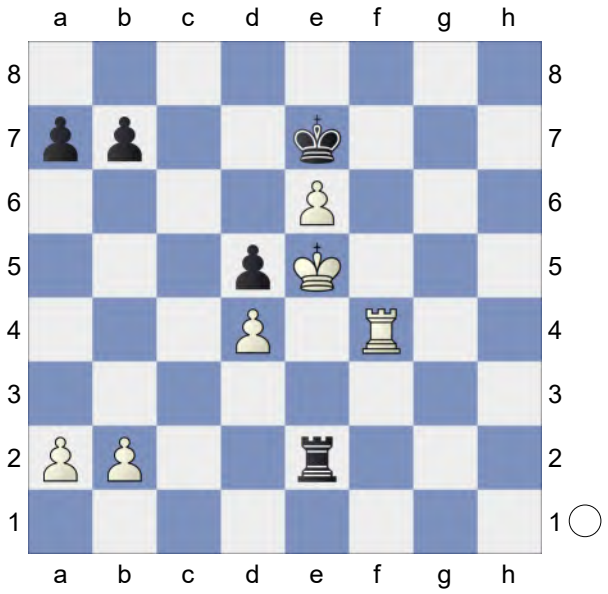


31.Rf7+ Kg8 32.Raf1 And now g5! would win. **32...Rxg4+ 33.Kh2 Bf4+?** 3.16/26 Black is on the road to losing.

34.R1xf4 Rxf4 35.Rxf4 Rxe7+-

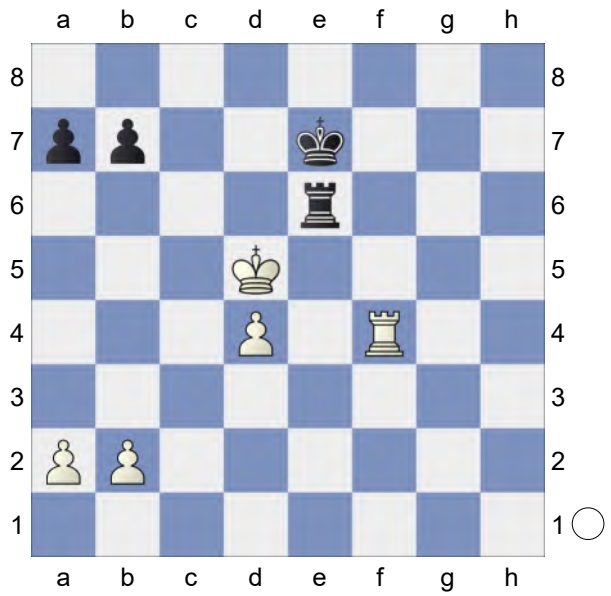


Endgame. KR-KR **36.Kg3** Rf6 would now be deadly. **36...Rc7 37.Kg4 Rc2?** 7.70/27
[37...Rg7+ 2.93/21 38.Kf3 *(38.Kf5 Rf7+ 39.Kg4 Rg7+ 40.Kh3 Rc7+-)* 38...Rh7]
38.Kf5 Kf7 39.e6+ Ke7 40.Ke5 Re2+



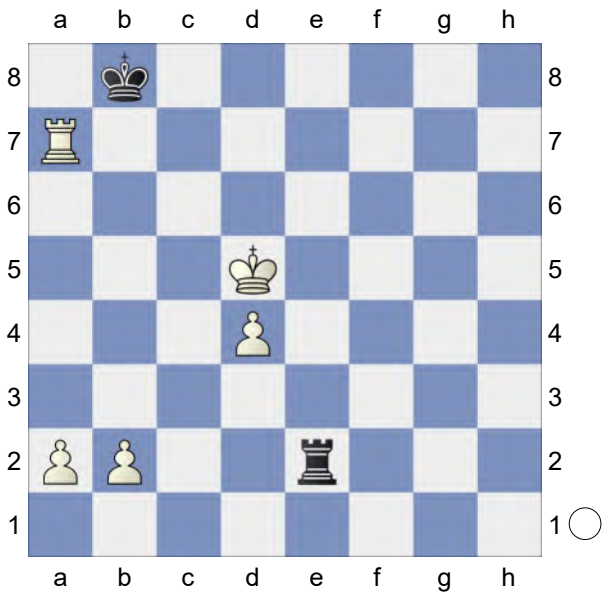
41.Kxd5 Rxe6

(Diagram)

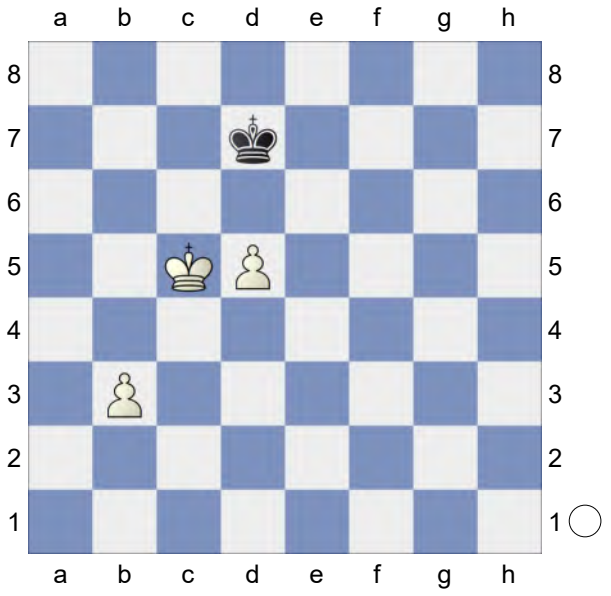


42.Rh4? 1.23/21
[42.Re4!+- 10.16/23 and the rest is easy. Rxe4 43.Kxe4]
42...Re2 10.16/22
[42...Rd6+± 1.23/21 43.Kc4 Rc6+ 44.Kd3 Kd7]
43.Rh7+? 3.55/21
[43.Re4+ 10.16/22 Rxe4 44.Kxe4]
43...Kd8? 6.02/26
[43...Ke8 3.55/21 44.Rxb7 Kd8]
44.Rxb7 Kc8 45.Rxa7 Kb8? 5.68/24
[45...Rxb2 3.08/26 46.Kc6 Rc2+ 47.Kd6 Rg2]

(Diagram)



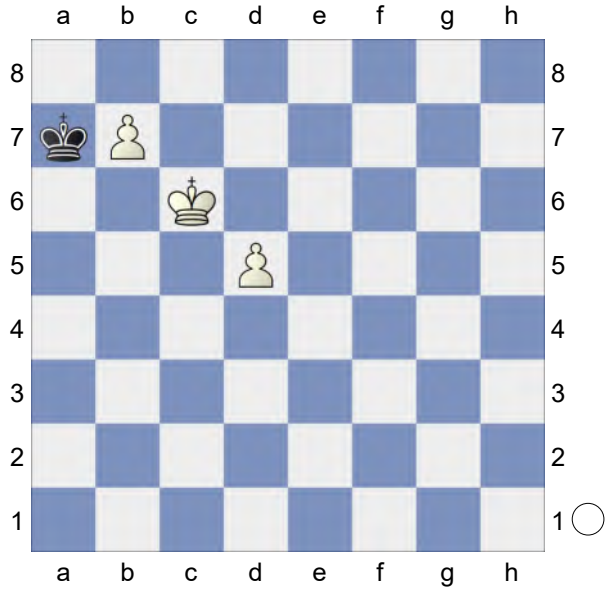
46.Ra3 Rxb2 #14/23
[46...Re7+- 5.18/23 47.Ra5 Rd7+ 48.Kc5 Rc7+ 49.Kd6 Rg7 50.Rb5+ Kc8]
47.Rb3+ Rxb3 48.axb3 KP-KP
48...Kb7 49.Kc5 Kc7 50.d5 Kd7



51.b4 Kc7 52.b5 Kb7 53.b6 Kc8 54.Kc6 18.94/5
[⌓54.d6 #8/18 Kd7 55.b7 Ke6 56.b8Q *(56.b8B Kd7 57.Kd5 Kc8 58.Kc6 Kd8 59.Bc7+ Ke8 60.d7+ Kf7)* 56...Kf6 57.d7 Kg5 58.Qg8+ *(58.d8R Kg6 59.Qg3+ Kf5 60.Rf8+*

Ke4 61.Rf4+ Ke5 62.Qe3#) 58...Kf4 59.d8Q *(59.d8R Kf3 60.Rf8+ Ke2 61.Qg2+ Ke3 62.Rf3+ Ke4 63.Qe2#)* 59...Ke5 60.Qdg5+ Ke4 61.Q8d5#]

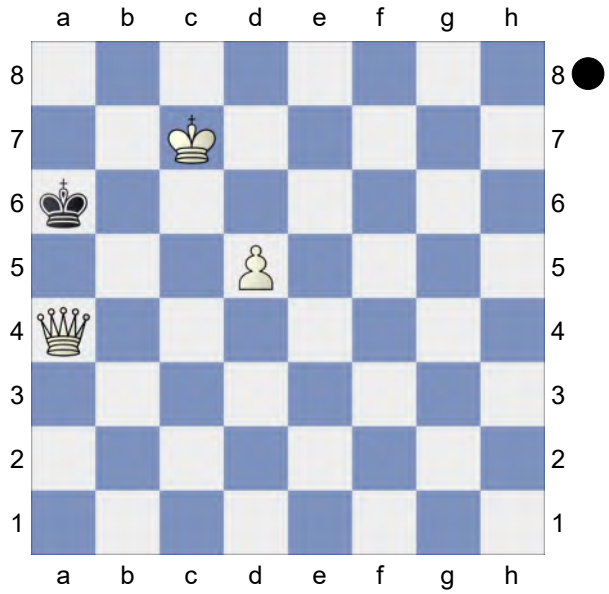
54...Kb8 55.b7 Ka7



56.Kc7 18.94/5

[⌓56.d6 #4/10 Kb8 57.d7 Ka7 58.d8Q Ka6 59.Qb6#]

56...Ka6 57.b8Q White mates. **57...Ka5 58.Qb3 Ka6 59.Qa4#**



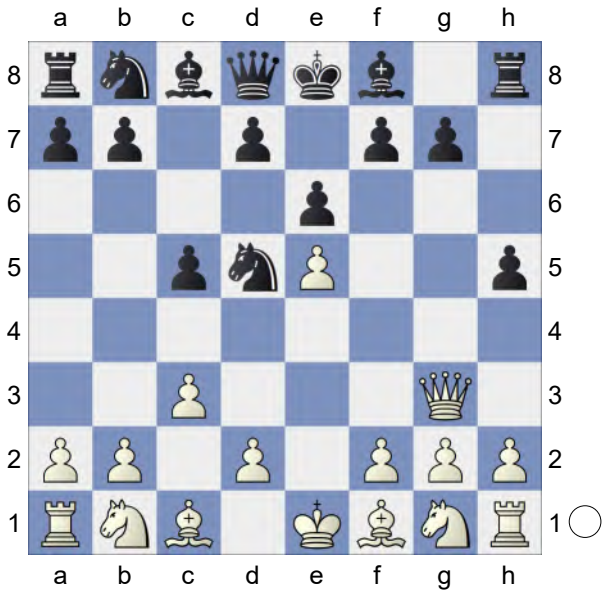
Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/Black=0.73

1-0

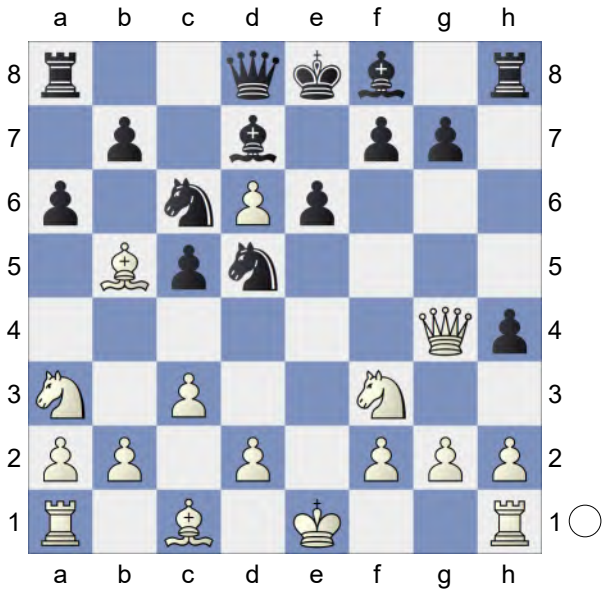
9 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3094**
■ **Scheveningensea** **2758**
Blitz 02.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

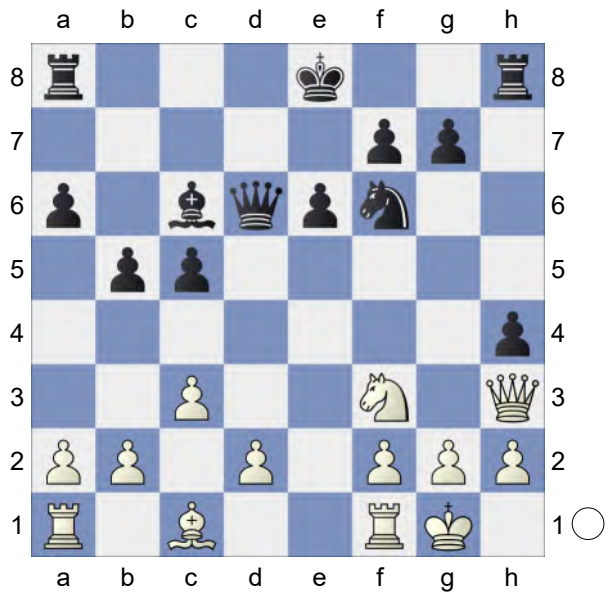
4...e6 5.Qg3 h5



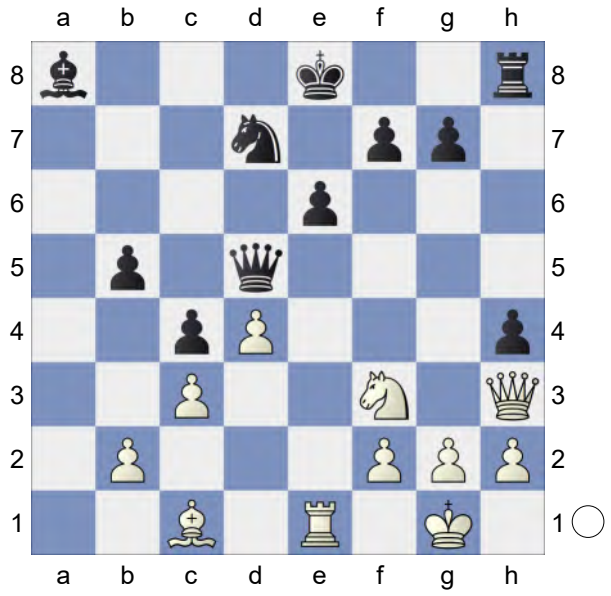
6.Nf3 h4 7.Qg4 Nc6 8.Na3
The position is equal. **8...d6 9.Bb5** -0.51/21
[9.Nc4= -0.11/19]
9...Bd7∓ 10.exd6 a6



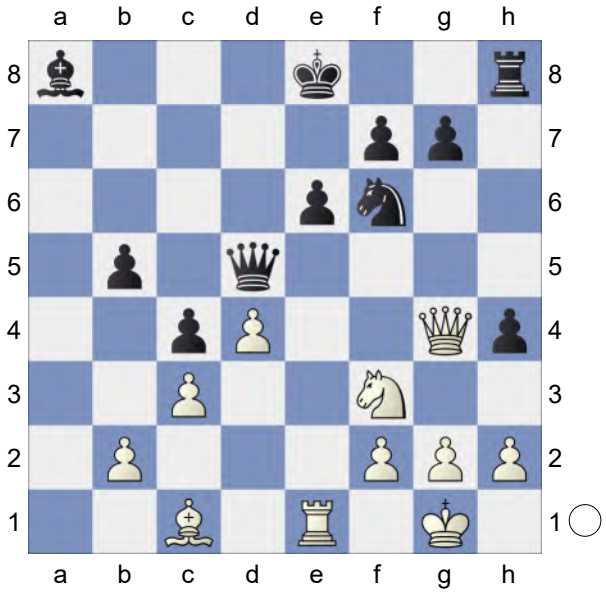
11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nc4 Nf6
[12...Bxd6?! 13.Qxg7 Rf8 14.d4± *(14.Nxd6+ Qxd6 15.d4 h3∓)*]
13.Qh3 Bxd6 14.0-0 b5 -0.17/23
[14...Bc7∓ -0.64/21 15.Re1 Qd3]
15.Nxd6+= Qxd6
(Diagram)



16.d4 White is weak on the light squares
16...c4 0.26/21
[⌓16...cxd4 -0.13/20 17.Nxd4 Rh5]
17.a4
[17.Nxh4? Qd5 18.f3 Qh5-+ *(18...g5? 19.Re1-+)*]
17...Qd5 18.Re1 Nd7 Against Re5
19.axb5
[19.Nxh4? Rxh4 *(19...bxa4? 20.f3-+)* 20.Qg3 bxa4-+]
19...axb5 20.Rxa8+ Bxa8

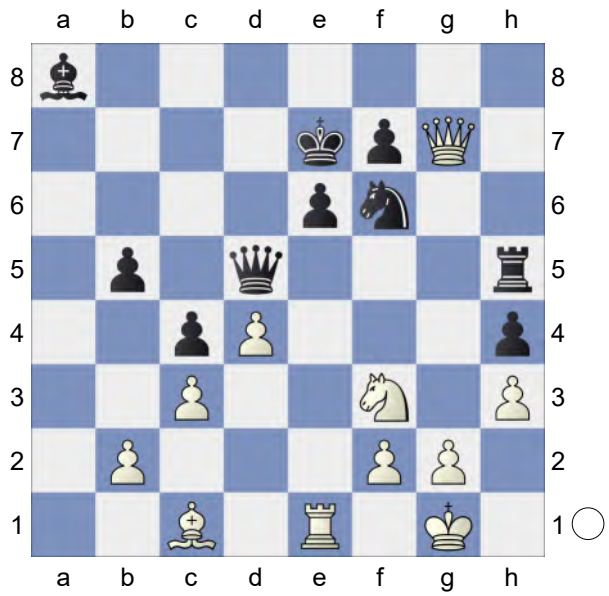


21.Qg4
[21.Nxh4? Rxh4 22.Qg3 Kf8-+]
21...Nf6? 7.99/25
[21...g6= 0.27/22]

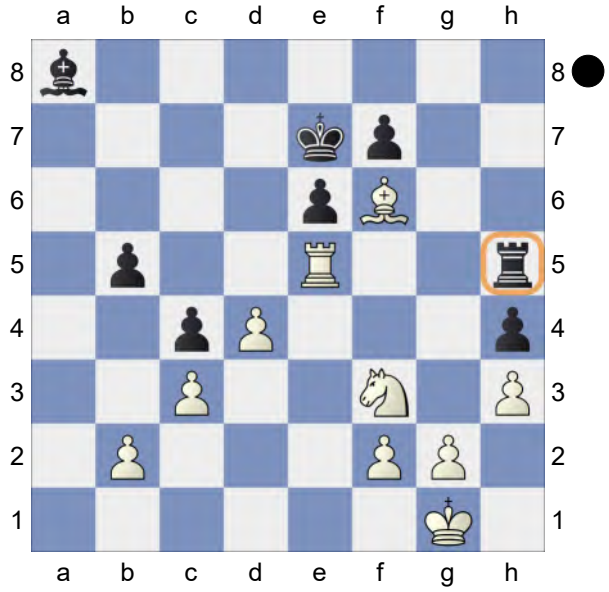


22.Qf4? 0.27/25
[22.Qxg7+- 7.99/25 Rg8 23.Qxf6]
22...Rh5 23.h3
[23.Nxh4 Rxh4 24.Qb8+ Ke7 25.Qc7+ Qd7 26.Qc5+ Ke8∓]
23...Nd7 24.Qg4 White is more active.
[24.Nxh4? perishes. Rxh4 25.Qg3 Kf8-+]
[24.Be3 simplifies Qf5 25.Qxf5 Rxf5 26.Nxh4 Rh5 27.Ra1]
24...Nf6? 4.47/29
[24...g6± 0.52/24]
25.Qxg7+- Ke7 5.41/22
[⌓25...Nd7 3.81/21 26.Qg8+ Ke7 27.Bg5+ Rxg5 28.Qxg5+ Qxg5 29.Nxg5 Bd5]

(Diagram)



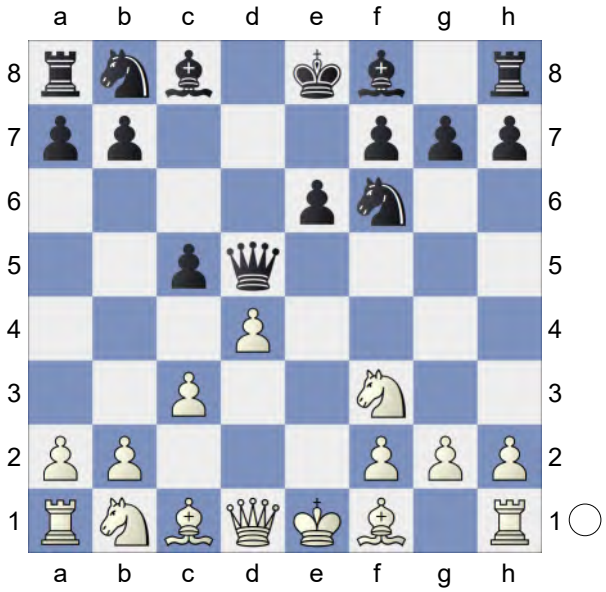
26.Bg5 White is clearly winning. **26...Qf5**
27.Re5
[Not 27.Bxh4 Bxf3 28.Bxf6+ Qxf6 29.Qxf6+ Kxf6±]
27...Qg6 28.Qxf6+ Qxf6 29.Bxf6+



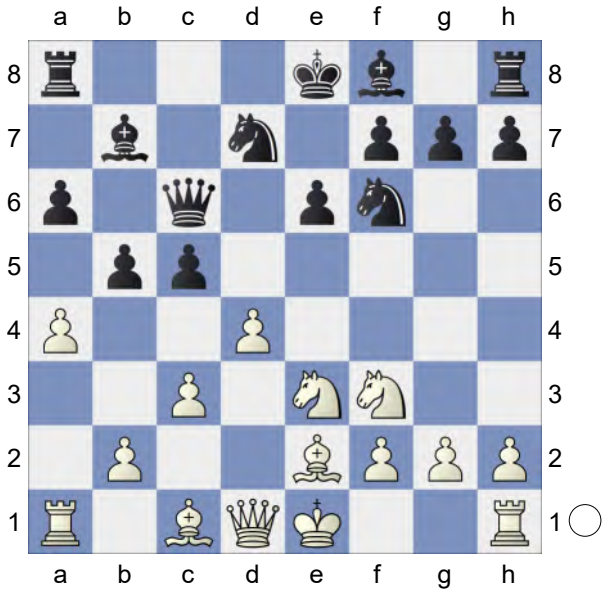
Discovered Attack.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.58
1-0

10 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3082**
■ **BIZOO** **2801**
Blitz 01.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

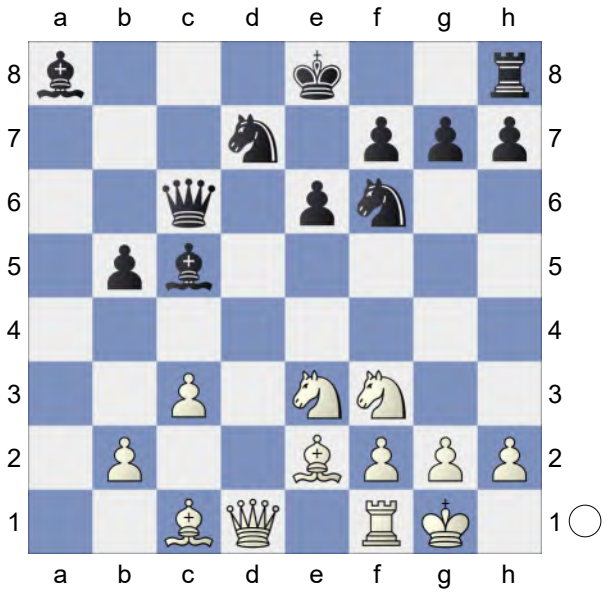
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



6.Na3 a6 7.Nc4 Nbd7 8.Be2 b5 9.Ne3 Qc6 10.a4 And now axb5 would win. White is slightly better. **10...Bb7**

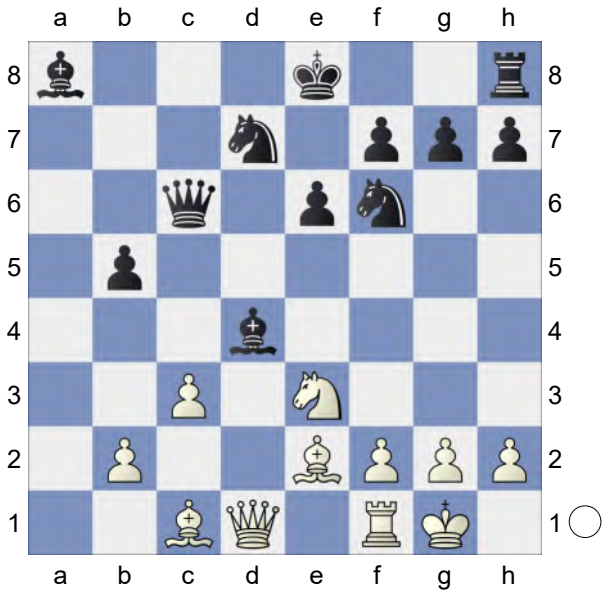


11.0-0 Be7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8+ Bxa8 14.dxc5 Bxc5N 0.72/19
[14...Qxc5= 0.15/21 keeps the balance. 15.Nc2 *(15.Qd4 b4 16.Qxc5 Bxc5 17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.Bd2 Bxf3 19.Bxb4 Bxe2 20.Ra1 Nb6 21.Ra7 Nfd7 22.f4 Nc8 23.Rc7 Ne7 24.Kf2 Bb5 25.f5 h5 26.Nc2 e5 27.Na3 Bd3 28.Ke3 Nd5+* 0-1 Accattato Martin,M (1788)-Muchnik,L (2485) 86/(298) Pardubice 2002 (2) *)* 15...0-0 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Nfd4 Qb7 18.Bf3 Nd5 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Bg3 Rd8 21.Qd3 b4 22.cxb4 Bxb4 23.Nxb4 Nxb4 24.Qc3 Nc5 25.Bxa8 Rxa8 26.Bc7 Qxc7 27.Qxb4 Nd3 28.Qb5 Nf4 29.Qc6 Qxc6 30.Nxc6 Ra6 ½-½ (51) Mapelle,S (2363)-Roscher,J (2669) USSR 46/502 1988 (5)]

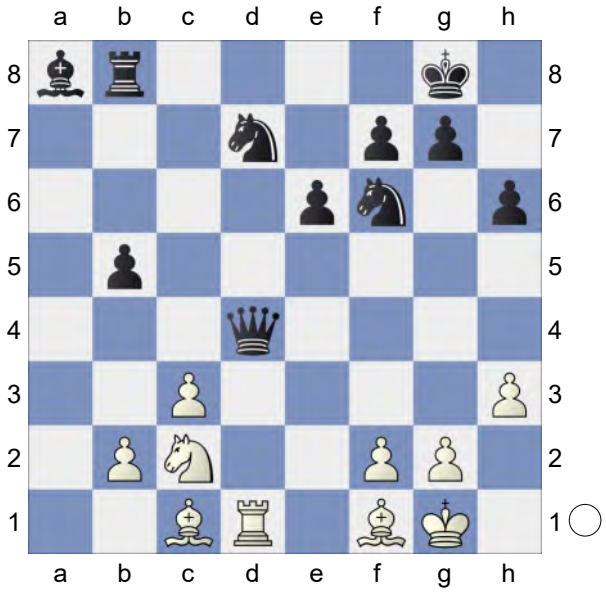


15.Nd4!± Bxd4

(Diagram)

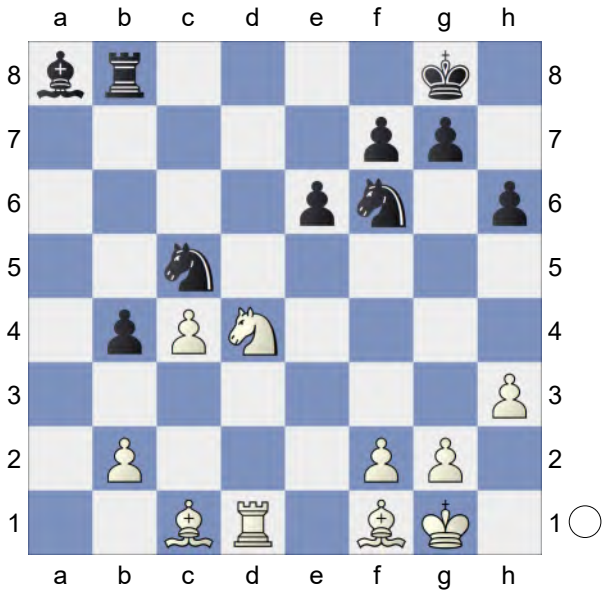


16.Qxd4 0-0 17.Rd1 h6 18.h3
White is more active. **18...Rb8 19.Bf1 Qc5 20.Nc2 Qxd4**

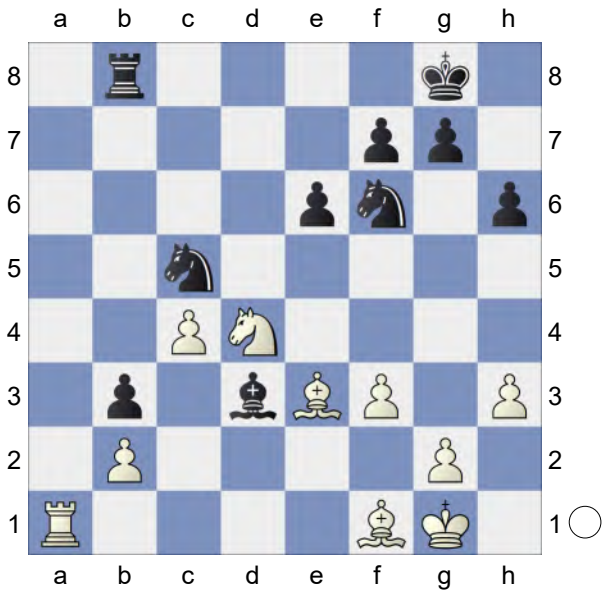


21.Nxd4 b4 22.c4 Nc5

(Diagram)

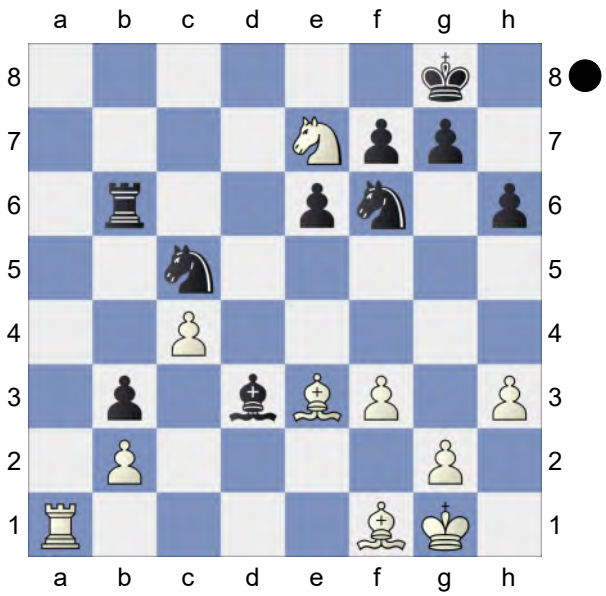


23.Be3! b3 24.Ra1 Be4 25.f3 Bd3
6.15/25
[25...Ra8± 0.98/23 26.Rxa8+ Bxa8]



26.Nc6+- Rb6 27.Ne7+

(Diagram)



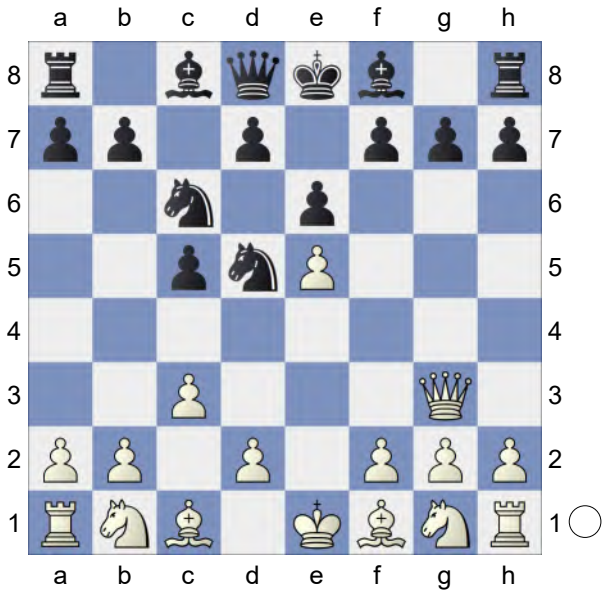
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.47

1-0

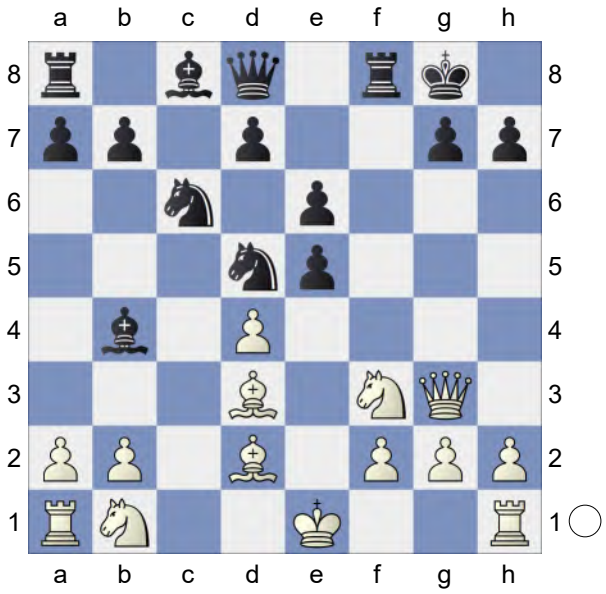
11 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3068**
■ **Enmq** **2773**
Blitz 22.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

4...e6 5.Qg3 Nc6



6.Nf3 f6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4
The position is equal. **8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Bd3** -0.97/20
[10.Bc4= 0.09/17]
10...fxe5

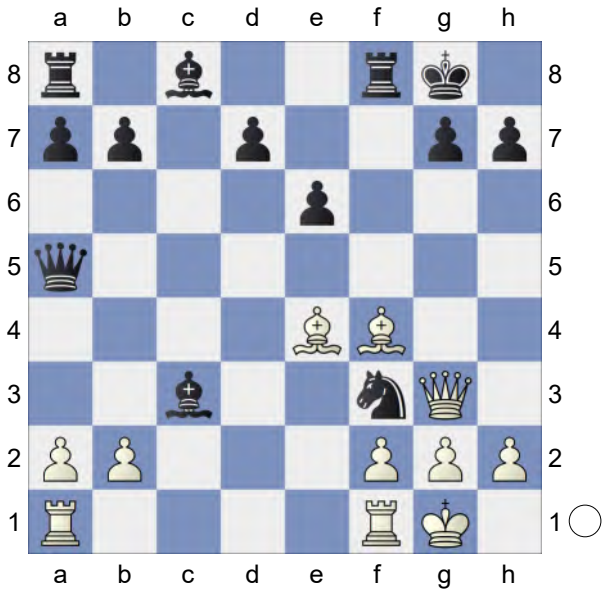


11.dxe5 Nf4 12.Be4 Qa5 -0.01/18
[12...Bxd2+!∓ -1.28/19 13.Nbxd2 h6]
13.Nc3= Nxe5 Hoping for ...Nfd3+.
[13...Bxc3 is more complex. 14.bxc3 Nxe5 15.Bxf4 Qxc3+ 16.Ke2 Qc4+]
14.0-0 -0.40/17
[14.Bxf4= 0.01/19 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3

Rxf4 *(15...Qxc3+? 16.Nd2+-)*
16.Qxf4 Qxc3+ 17.Ke2 Qc4+ 18.Kd2 Qb4+ 19.Ke2 Qc4+ 20.Kd1 Qa4+ 21.Ke2 Qc4+]

14...Bxc3 -0.01/22
[14...Ne2+∓ -0.40/17 is more appropriate. 15.Nxe2 Nxf3+ Remove Defender 16.Bxf3 Bxd2]

15.Bxf4 Nxf3+

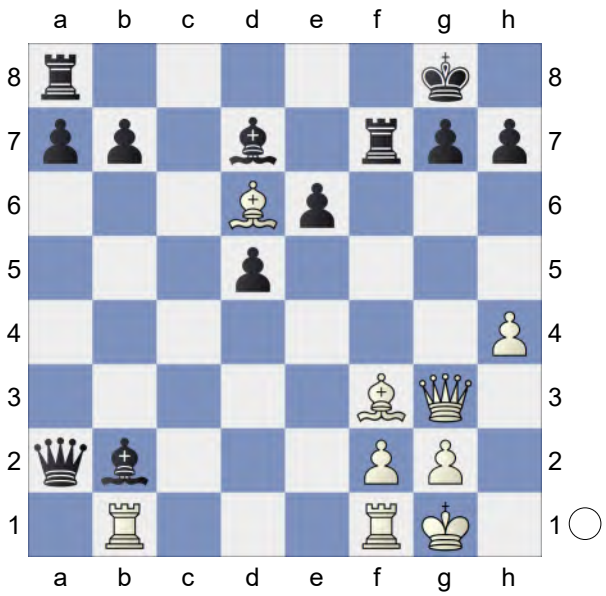


16.Bxf3 Bxb2 17.Rad1 -0.32/18
[17.Rab1= 0.10/20 Bd4 18.Rbd1]

17...d5!∓ 18.Bd6 Rf7 19.h4 Bd7
[19...Qxa2 20.Rd2=]

20.Rb1 Qxa2

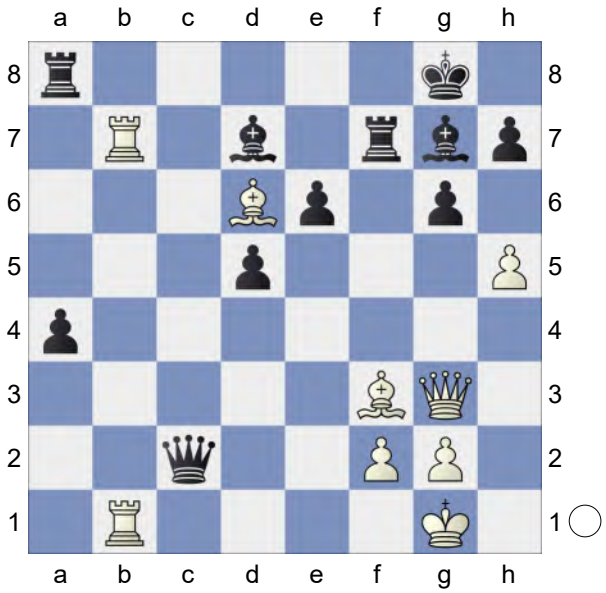
(Diagram)



21.Bh5 g6 22.Bf3 -1.16/19
[22.Bg4!∓ -0.52/19]

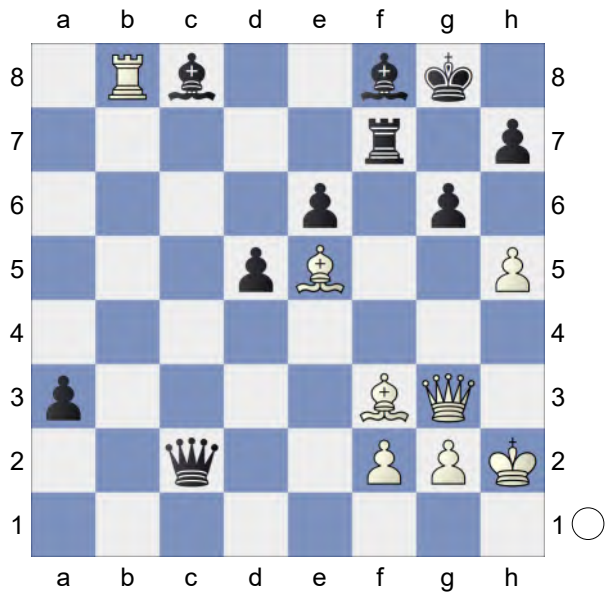
22...Bg7 -0.28/19
[Better is 22...Bb5!∓ -1.16/19 23.Rfe1 Bc3]

23.Rxb7= a5 24.Rfb1 Qc2 25.h5 a4

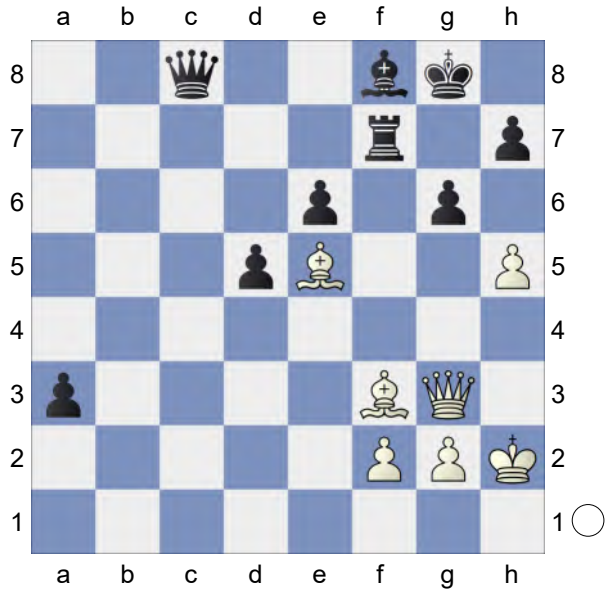


26.Rb8+ Rxb8 27.Rxb8+ Bc8 28.Kh2 Bg4 would now be deadly. **28...Bf8 29.Be5** Inhibits Bxd6. Threatens to win with Bg4. **29...a3**

(Diagram)

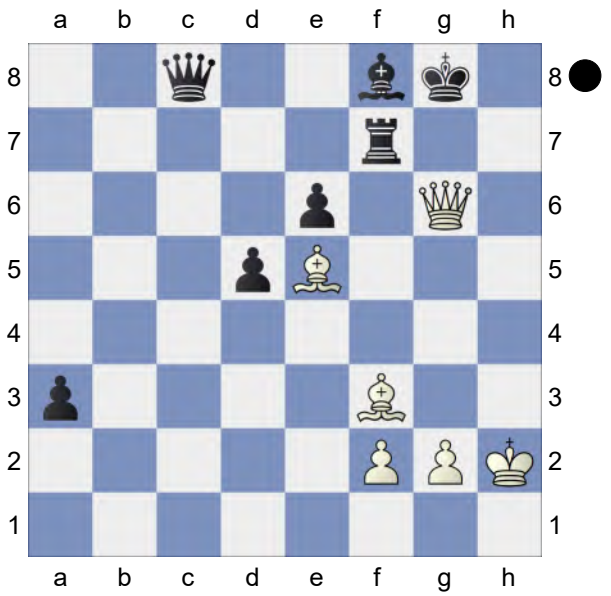


30.Rxc8? -2.69/21 **Qxc8-+**



31.hxg6 hxg6 32.Qxg6+

(Diagram)



Bg7? -0.01/19

[Black should try 32...Rg7!-+ -2.61/25 33.Bxg7 Bxg7]

33.Bg4= Really sharp! A strong pair of Bishops. **33...Qc1 34.Bxg7** -3.05/24

[34.f4!= 0.01/26 Qe1 35.Bxe6 Pin Qh4+ 36.Kg1 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Qh4+ 38.Kg1 Qe1+ 39.Kh2]

34...Rxg7?? 2.74/24

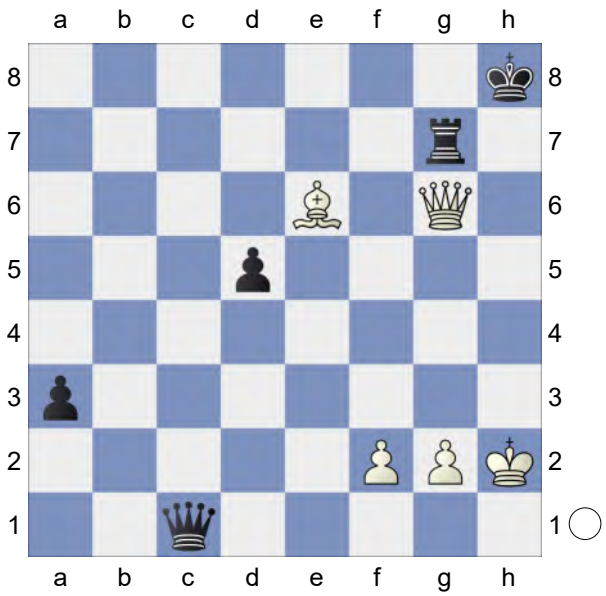
[34...Qf4+-+ -3.05/24 avoids the disaster. 35.Kh3 Rxg7 36.Qxe6+ Rf7 37.Qxd5 Qh6+ *(37...Qxf2 38.Qa8+ Kh7 39.Qxa3=)* 38.Kg3 Kg7]

35.Bxe6+ Endgame. KQR-KQB

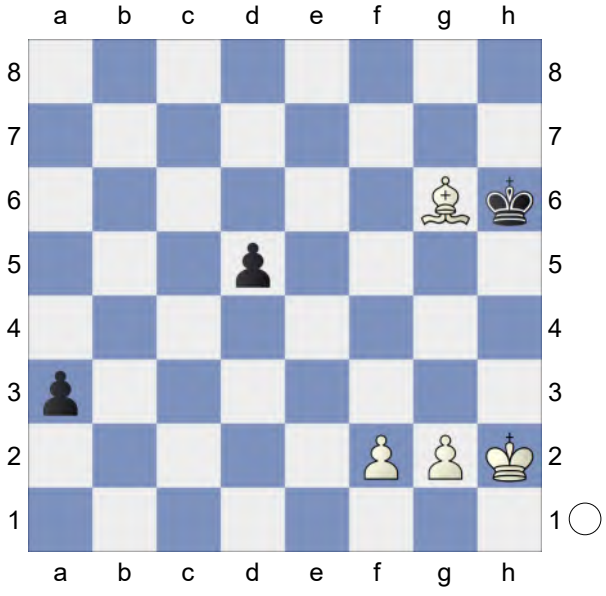
35...Kh8? 16.48/25

[35...Kf8 2.74/25 36.Qf6+ Deflection Ke8 37.Qxg7 Qf4+ 38.Kh3 a2 39.Bd7+ *(39.Bxd5 Qf5+ 40.g4 Qxd5=)* 39...Kd8]

(Diagram)

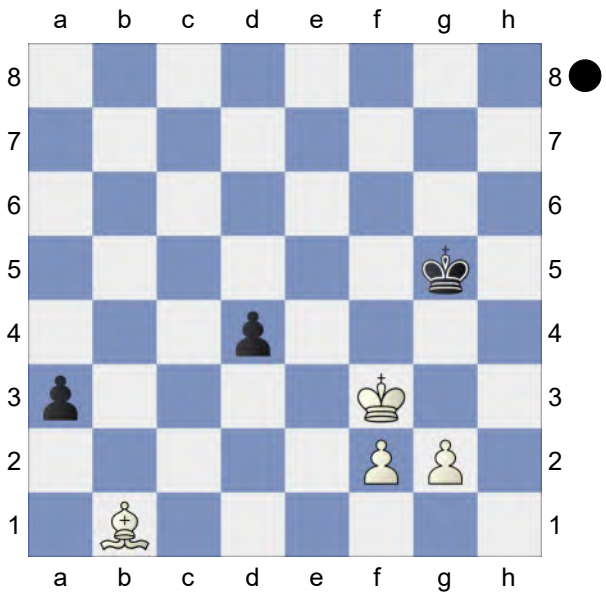


36.Qe8++- Kh7 37.Qh5+
[Stronger than 37.Bxd5 Qh6+ 38.Kg1 Qc1+ 39.Kh2 Qf4+ 40.Kg1 Qc1+ 41.Kh2=]
37...Qh6 38.Bf5+ Rg6 39.Bxg6+ Discovered Attack **39...Kg7 40.Qxh6+ Kxh6**



41.Bb1 Kg5 42.Kg3 d4 43.Kf3

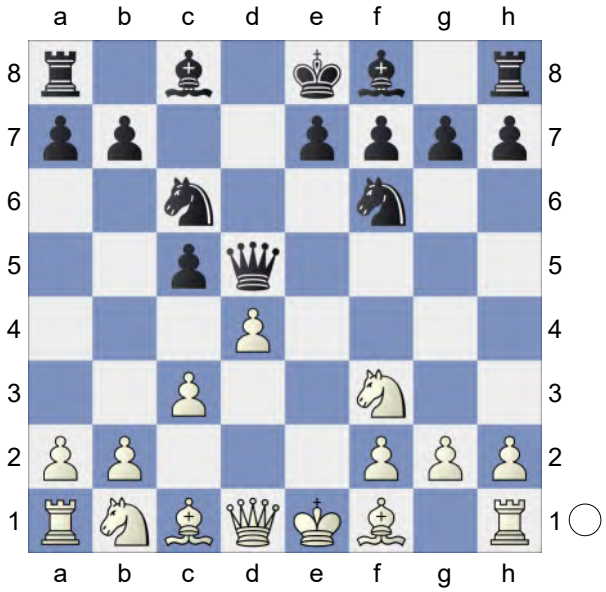
(Diagram)



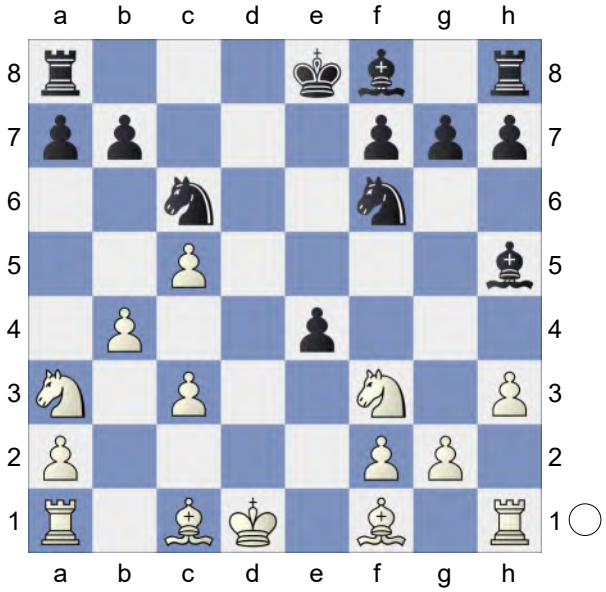
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.45
1-0

12 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3065**
■ **Durarbayli** **2734**
Blitz 21.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Gurevich,Vl: 'Inf 53/142' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6**

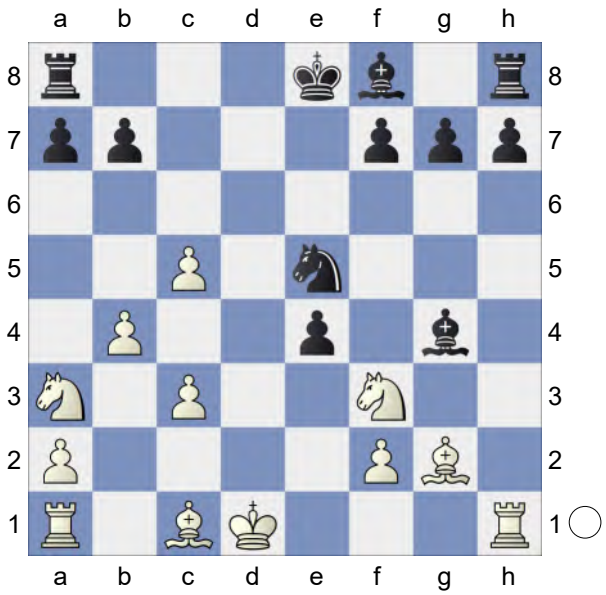


6.Na3 Bg4 7.dxc5N
[7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nb5 Rc8 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Qxd4 12.Bxd4 a6 13.f4 e6 14.Bg2 Rc7 15.Be5 Rd7 16.Rd1 Rxd1+ 17.Kxd1 b6 18.Ke2 Kd7 19.Rd1+ Kc8 20.Bc6 Be7 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 1-0 (39) Vorotnikov,V (2415)-Gurevich,V (2440) USSR 53/142 1991]
[7.Be2 cxd4 *(7...0-0-0 8.Nc2 cxd4 9.cxd4 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.0-0 e6 12.b4 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Rxd4 15.Rc1+ Kb8 16.Qc2 Qd8 17.Be3 Rd7 18.Qa4 a6 19.b5 Nd5 20.bxa6 b6 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Bxb6* 1-0 (23) Gieralt,K-Ziemichod,R POL corr Poland 1989*; 7...e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Be3 cxd4 10.Nb5 Rc8 11.Nbxd4 Bc5 12.Nxe6 Qxe6 13.Bxc5 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Ne5 15.Ba3 Nfd7 16.f4 Nc4 17.0-0 Kd8 18.f5 Qf6 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Qd3 Qg5+ 21.Qg3 Qxf5 22.Rad1* 1-0 (36) Wiiala,K-Milicevic,M (2540) Genting zt 1995*)* 8.Nb5 0-0-0 *(8...Rc8 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Nxd4 Bxe2 12.Kxe2 e6 13.Rd1 Bc5 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nb3 Bb6 17.Rd7 Rc7 18.Rad1 Rfc8 19.R1d3 Rxd7 20.Rxd7 Rc7 21.Rxc7 Bxc7 22.Nc5 b5 23.a4* ½-½ (30) Hernandez Molina,D (1949)-Dianovsky (1566) 83/467 Leon 2001 (6)*)* 9.Nbxd4 e5 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.Qb3 Be6 12.c4 Bc5 13.h3 Qe4 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Qg6 16.g4 Ne4 17.Bd3 f5 18.Qa3 fxg4 19.hxg4 Qxg4 20.0-0-0 Qxf3 21.Qxa7 Nf2 0-1 (32) Schmittdiel,E (2430)-Andersson,U (2600) 43/179 Dortmund 1987]
7...Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 e5 9.b4
The position is equal. **9...e4** Pin **10.h3! Bh5**



Pin **11.g4! Nxg4! 12.hxg4 Bxg4** Pin **13.Bg2** -0.85/19 **Ne5** 0.09/21
[13...Bxf3+ 14.Bxf3 exf3 15.Nc4=]

[Better is 13...a5∓ -0.85/19 ...axb4! is the strong threat. 14.Rh4 exf3 *(14...Bxf3+ 15.Bxf3 0-0-0+ 16.Kc2=)* 15.Rxg4 fxg2]



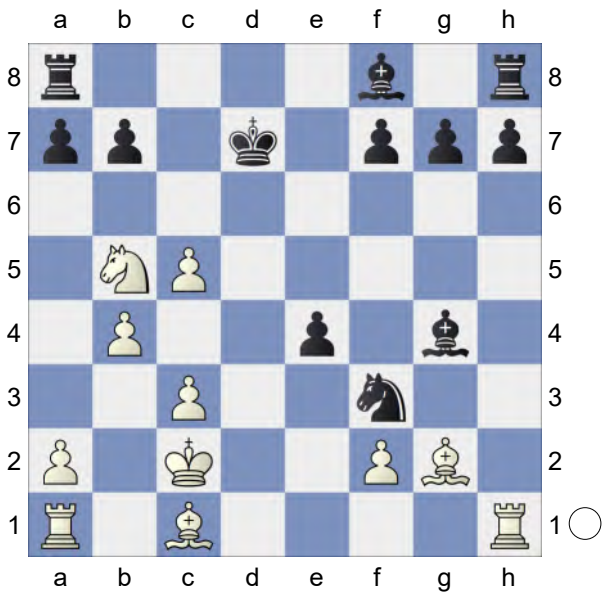
14.Kc2! Nxf3

[14...exf3 15.Bh3±]

15.Nb5G White is not holding back

15...Kd7

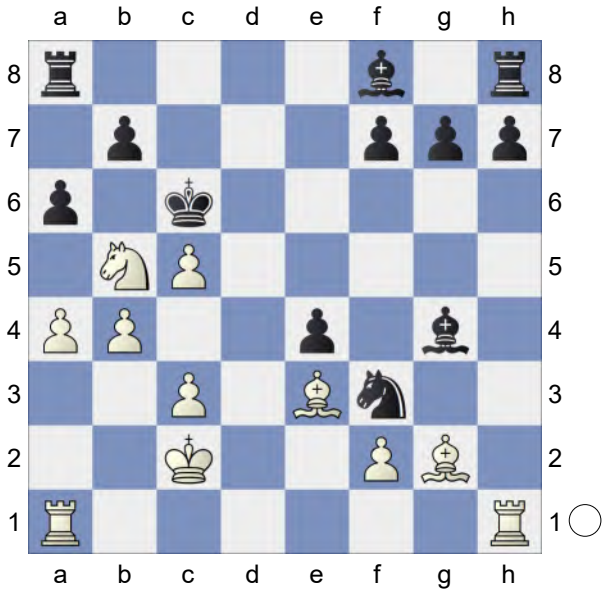
[15...Ke7 simplifies 16.Nd4 Nxd4+ 17.cxd4 f5]



Repels Nc7 **16.Be3 Kc6** 0.85/19

[16...h5= 0.17/19 remains equal.]

17.a4± White has strong compensation. White is more active. **17...a6**



18.Rhd1! Be7

[18...g5 19.Bxf3]

19.Nd6 Some like it hot. White stays focused until the end. **19...f5** 2.01/20

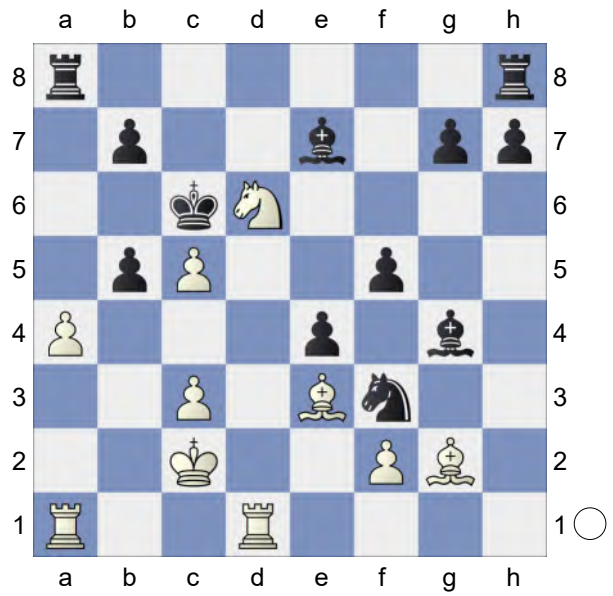
[19...Kc7± 0.82/19 was worth a try.]

20.b5++- axb5? 4.06/22

[20...Kc7? 21.b6+ Kd7 *(21...Kc6? 22.Nc4+-)* 22.Nxb7+ Ke6 23.c6+-]

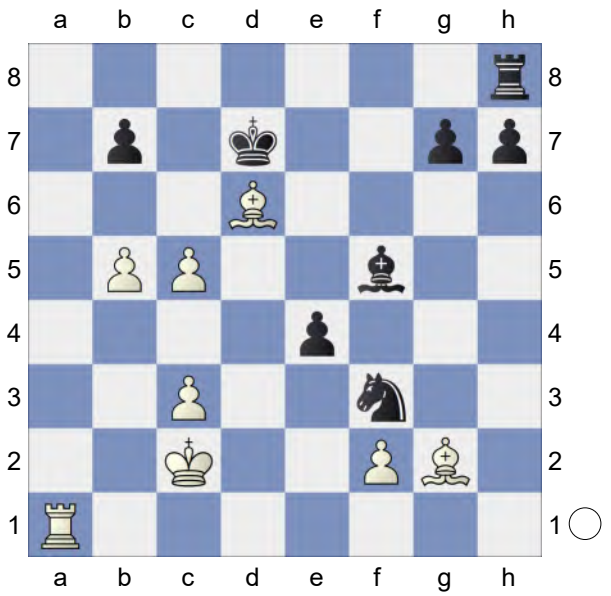
[20...Kd7 2.24/20 21.Nxf5+ Discovered Attack (Check) *(21.Nxb7+ Ke6+-)* 21...Ke6]

(Diagram)

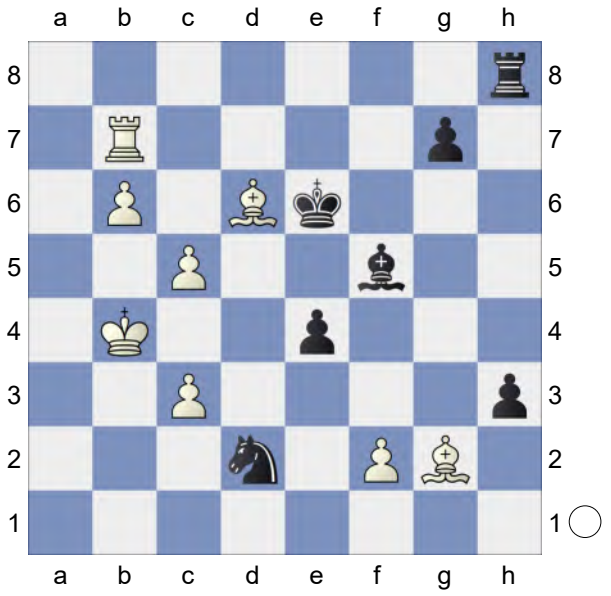


21.axb5+
[21.Bxf3 Bxf3 22.axb5+ Kd7+- *(22...Kc7? 23.Nc4+-)*]
21...Kc7 22.Bf4 White wants to mate with Ne8+. **22...Rxa1** 8.12/22
[⌓22...Ne5 4.88/21 23.Bxe5 *(23.Ne8+ Rhxe8 24.Bxe5+ Bd6+-)* 23...Bxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Bxd6 25.Bxd6+ Kd7]
23.Nxf5+ 3.39/23
[⌓23.Nc4+ 8.12/22 Bd6 24.Bxd6+ Kd7 25.Rxa1]
23...Bd6 24.Bxd6+
[24.cxd6+ Kd7 25.Rxa1 Bxf5±]
24...Kd7 25.Rxa1 Bxf5

(Diagram)



26.Kb3 Threatens to win with Ra7.
26...Ke6 4.94/18
[26...Nh4 3.31/20 might work better. 27.Ra7 Nxg2 28.Rxb7+ Ke6 29.Rxg7 *(29.Re7+ Kf6=)* 29...Bg6 30.Re7+ Kf6]
27.Ra7 Nd2+ 28.Kb4 h5 29.Rxb7 h4 30.b6
[30.Rxg7 h3±]
30...h3



31.Bh1 e3 32.fxe3 Re7+ would now be deadly.
[32.Rxg7? loses. exf2 33.Re7+

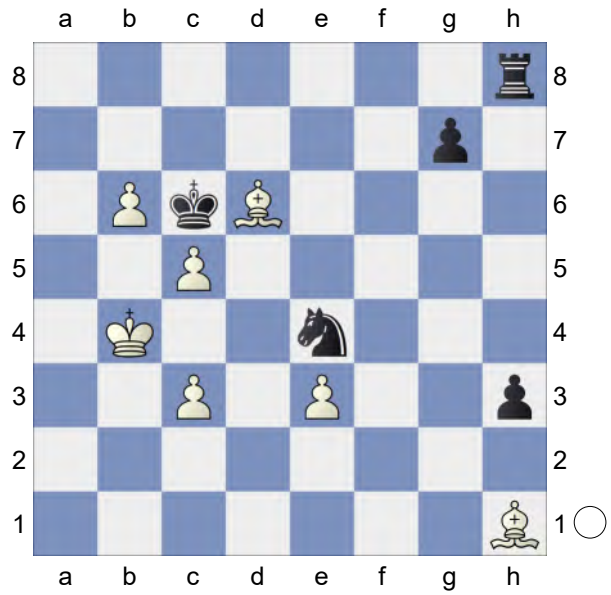
Kf6-+]

32...Be4 33.Re7+ Kd5 34.Re5+

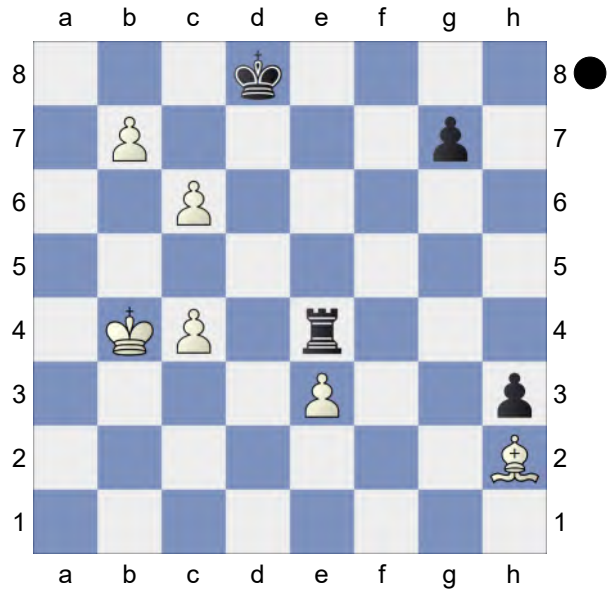
11.71/5

[⌓34.c4+ #2/6 Nxc4 35.Bxe4#]

34...Kc6 35.Rxe4 Nxe4



36.Bxe4+ Kd7 37.Bh2 Rh4 38.c6+ Kd8 39.b7 Rxe4+ 40.c4

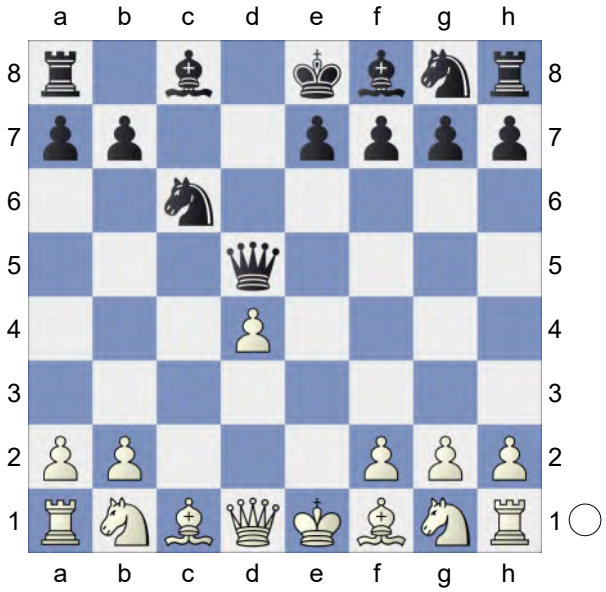


Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=1.04

1-0

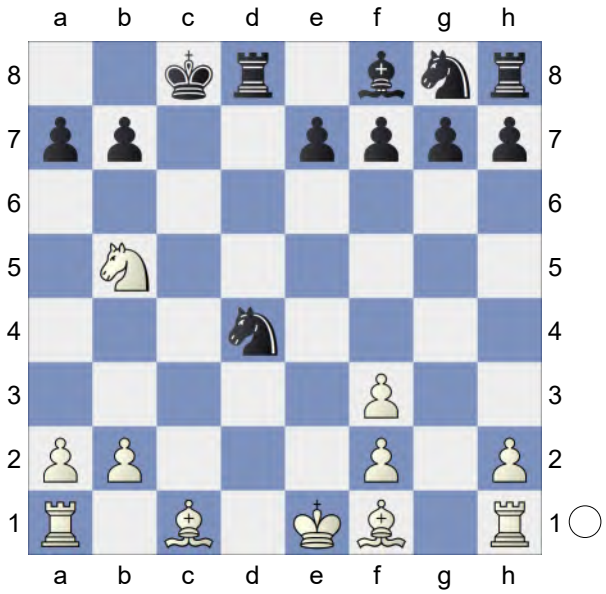
13 **B22**
□ **Raspfish** **3064**
■ **Openingsbot** **2496**
Rapid 25.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 8min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5



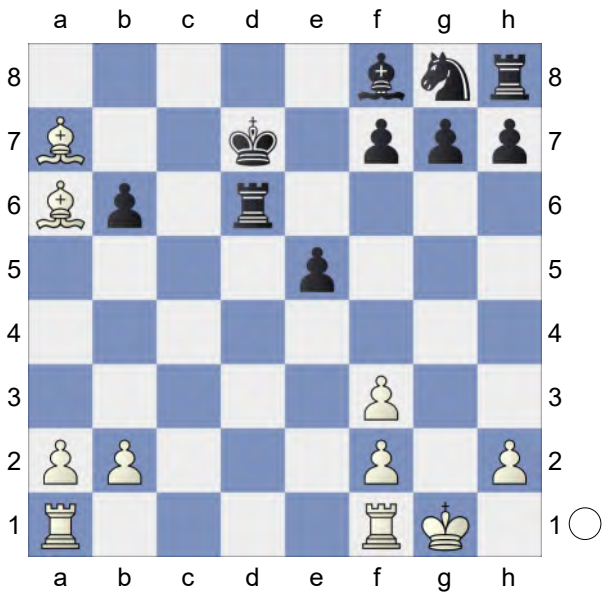
6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Nc3 Bxf3 8.gxf3 Qxd4 9.Qxd4 Nxd4 10.Nb5! 0-0-0
[10...Nc2+ 11.Kd1 Nxa1 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Nxa8 e5 14.Be3 b6 15.Ba6 Bc5 16.Kd2 Ne7 17.Bb5+ Nc6 18.Rc1 Rc8 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Rxc5 Kd6 21.b4 Ne7 22.Rxc8 Nxc8 23.Kc3 Ne7 24.Kb2 Nc6 25.Bxc6 1-0 (45) Kaskinen,T-5. ♗e2 c5 6.00 ♘c6 7.c3 (2042) Tel Aviv 1993 (7)]

(Diagram)

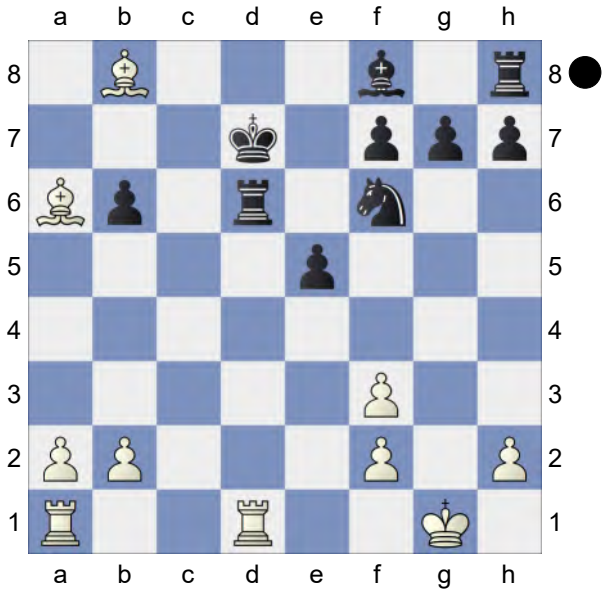


11.Nxd4 Rxd4 12.Be3 Rd6N
White is slightly better.
[12...Rd7 13.Bb5 Rc7 14.Bxa7 e6 15.Bb6 Bb4+ 16.Kd1 Nf6 17.Bxc7 Kxc7 18.Ke2 Kb6 19.Bc4 Bd6 20.Rad1 Bf4 21.h3 Rc8 22.b3 Kc5 23.a4 Rc6 24.Rd8 Rd6 25.Rd1 Nd5 26.Rxd6 Nc3+ 27.Kd3 1-0 (33) Hennings,A-Bindrich,O (ch) 7/306 German Democratic Republic 1969 Nxd1 28.Rd7 Nxf2+ 29.Ke2 Nxh3 30.Rxb7 Kc6 31.Rxf7 Bc7 32.Rxg7 h5 33.Ke3 1-0 Wentzlaff,N-Chapter 40: German League 2013]
13.Bxa7 b6? 2.29/20
[Black should play 13...e6± 0.70/18]
14.Ba6++- Kd7 15.0-0 e5

(Diagram)

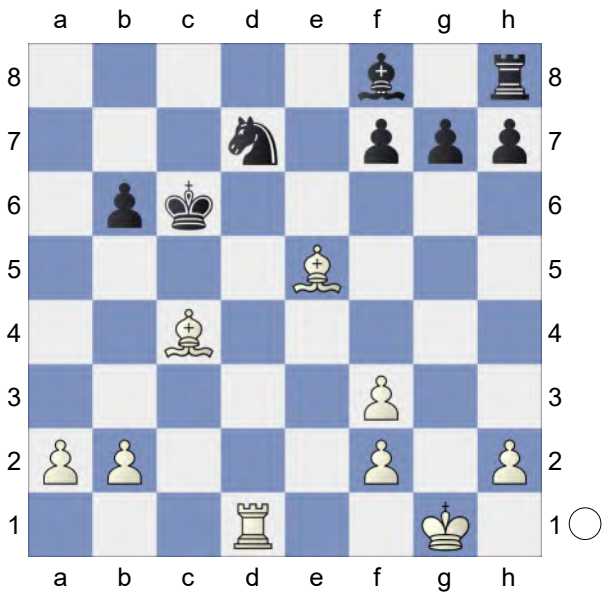


16.Rfd1 Nf6 17.Bb8

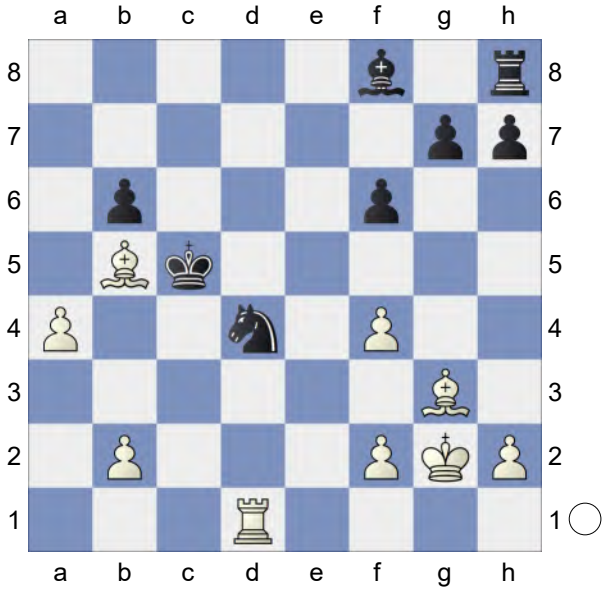


Pin **17...Rd5 18.Bc4** Pin, Skewer
[18.Bxe5 Bd6+-]
18...Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1+ Kc6 20.Bxe5
[Much less strong is 20.Bxf7?! Bc5 21.Bxe5 Rf8+-]
20...Nd7

(Diagram)

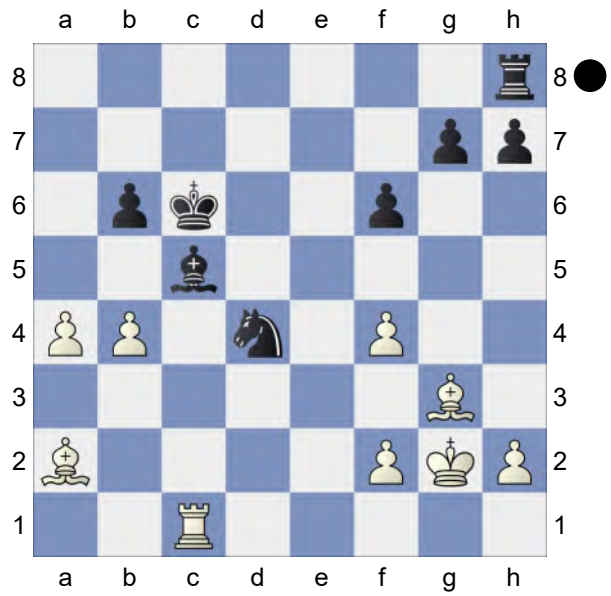


21.Bg3 A strong pair of Bishops. **21...f6**
22.a4 Strongly threatening Bb5+.
[Don't take 22.Bd5+?! Kb5 23.Rc1 Bc5 24.Bc4+ Ka4+-]
22...Ne5 23.Bb5+ Kc5 24.f4 Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Nd4

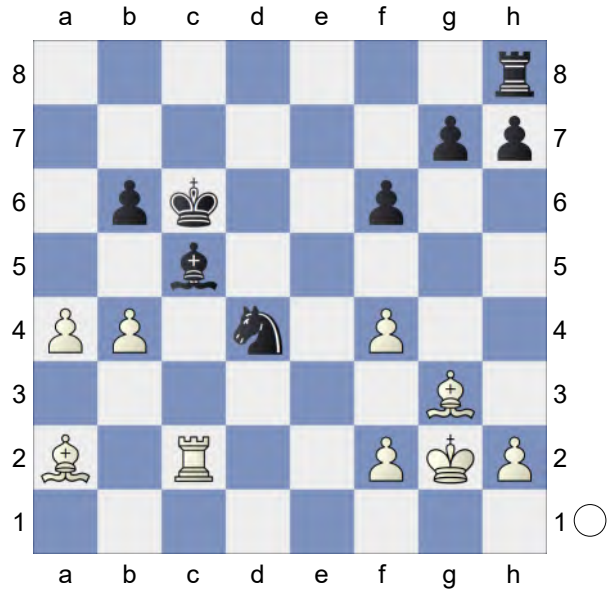


26.Rc1+
[Not 26.b4+ Kd5±]
26...Kd5 27.Bc4+ Kc6 28.Ba2+ Bc5 29.b4

(Diagram)

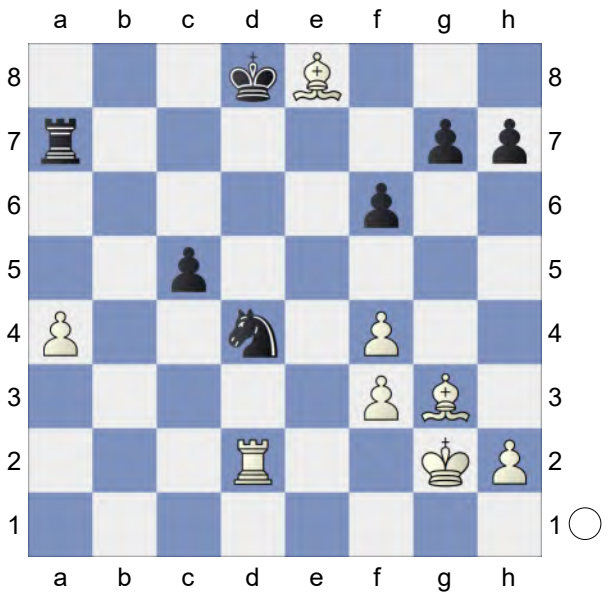


Pin **29...Ne2 30.Rc2** Pin **30...Nd4**

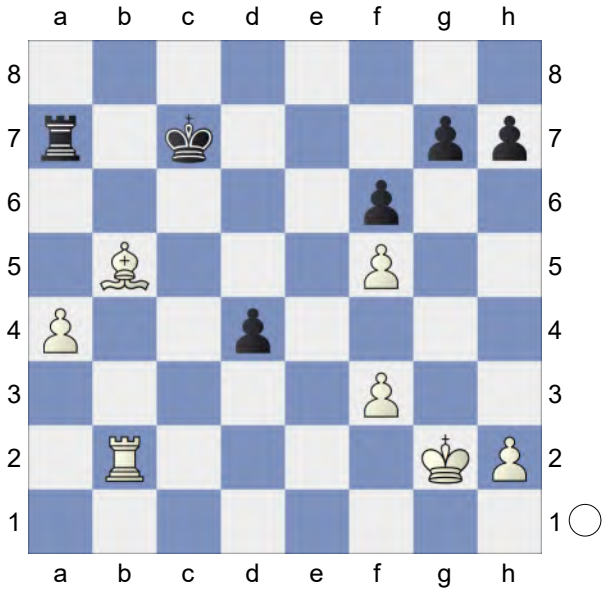


31.Rd2 Ra8 32.bxc5 bxc5 33.Bf7 Ra7 34.Be8+ Kc7 35.f3 Kd8

(Diagram)

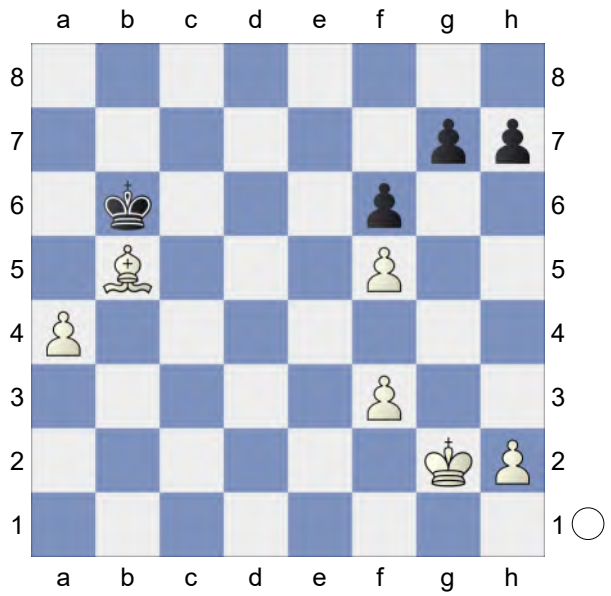


36.Bb5 Kc7 37.f5+ Kb7 38.Rb2 Kc8 Prevents Bd7+ **39.Bf2 Kc7 40.Bxd4 cxd4**

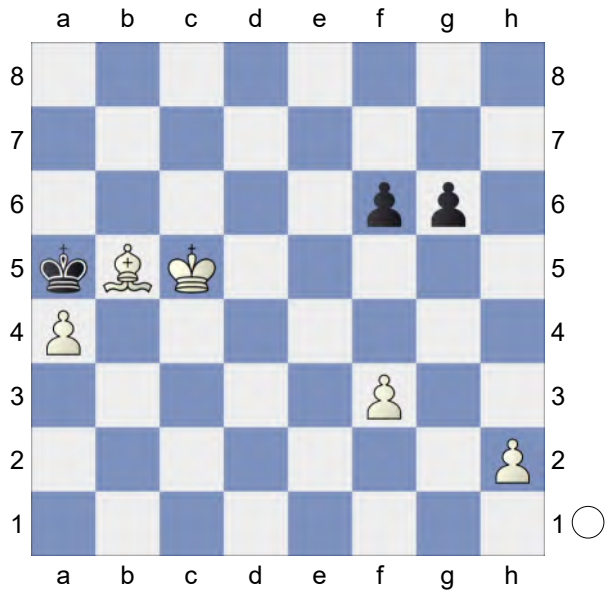


Endgame. KRB-KR **41.Rd2 Kb6 42.Rxd4 Re7 43.Rd7 Rxd7 44.Bxd7** KB-K3P **44...Kc7 45.Bb5 Kb6**

(Diagram)

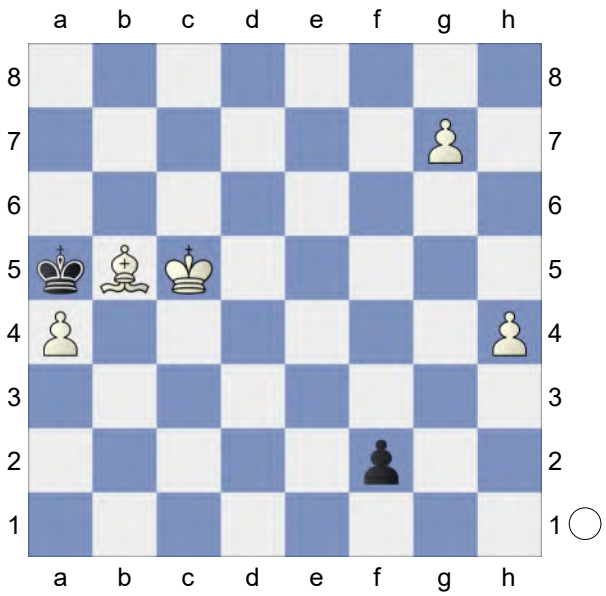


46.Kf2 Ka5 47.Ke3 Kb4 48.Kd4 Ka5 49.Kc5 White mates. **49...g6 50.fxg6 hxg6**

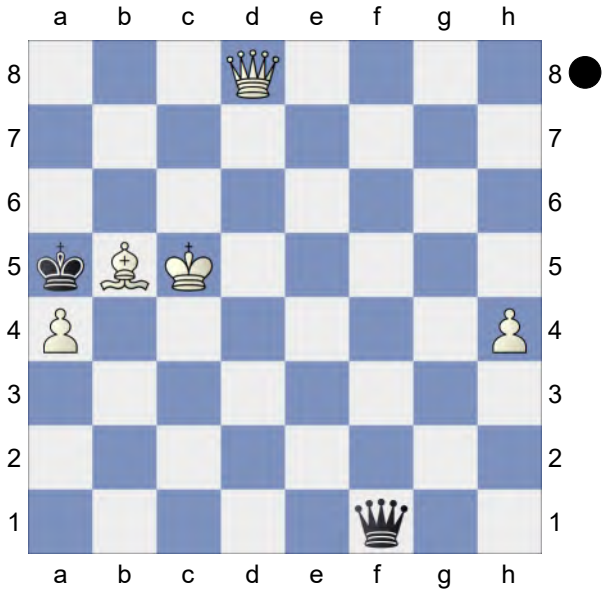


KB-KPP **51.h4 f5 52.f4 g5 53.fxg5 f4 54.g6 f3 55.g7 f2**

(Diagram)



56.g8Q f1Q 57.Qd8#

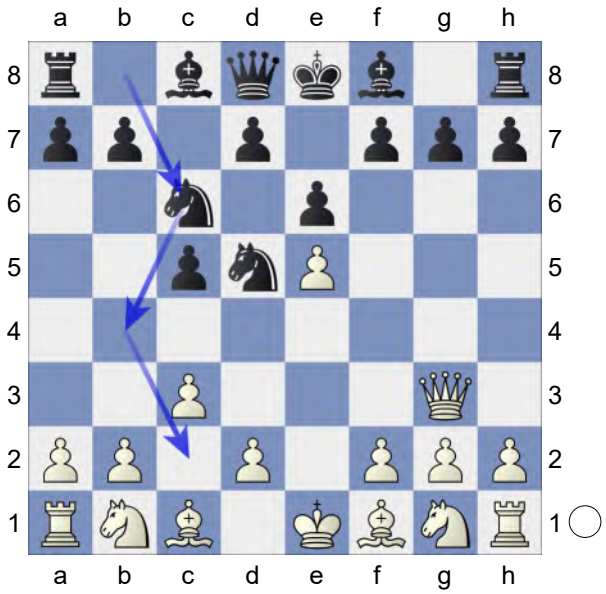


White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

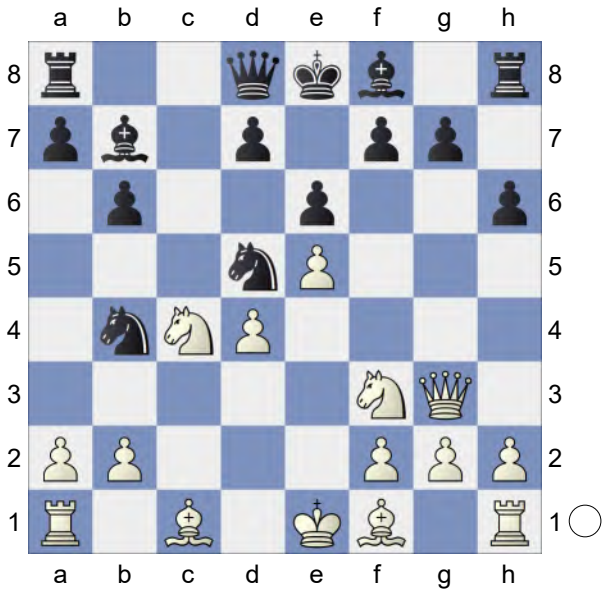
14 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3059**
■ **Gabuzyan Chessmood** **2816**
Blitz 21.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

4...e6 5.Qg3 Nc6

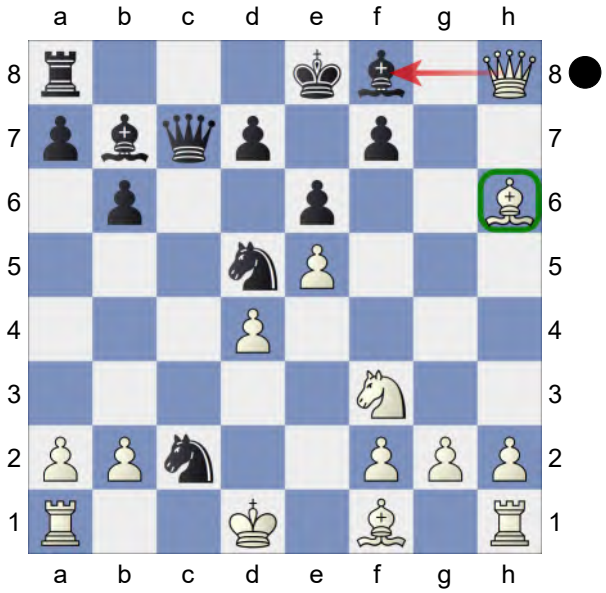


6.Nf3 b6 7.Na3 Bb7 8.Nc4 White is slightly better. **8...h6 9.d4** -0.16/20
[⌓9.Be2 0.29/17]
9...cxd4= 10.cxd4 Ncb4

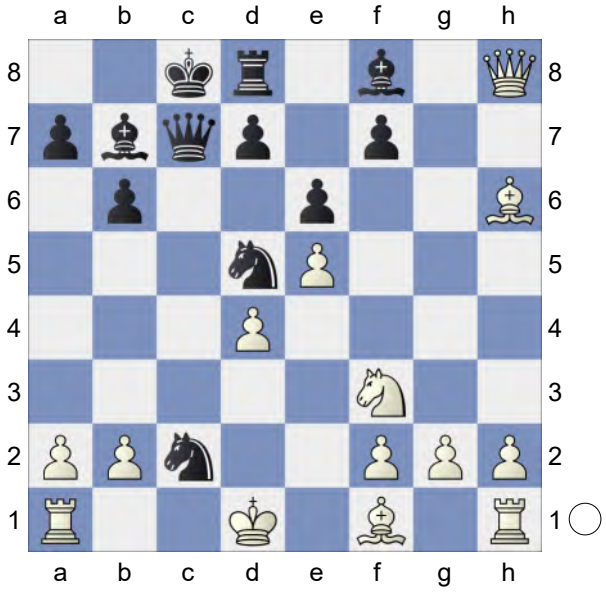


White must now prevent ...Nc2+.
11.Nd6+ Bxd6 12.Qxg7! Bf8 0.27/20
[12...Rf8! -0.18/20 feels stronger. 13.exd6 Qf6 *(13...Nc2+? 14.Kd1+-)* 14.Qxf6 *(14.Qxh6?* perishes. *Nc2+ 15.Kd1 Nxa1-+)* 14...Nxf6]
13.Qxh8→ White attacks. **13...Nc2+**

A dynamic duo of knights. **14.Kd1 Qc7?** 5.44/21 Loses the game.
[14...Nxa1= 0.22/19 15.Bxh6 Qe7]
15.Bxh6!+-

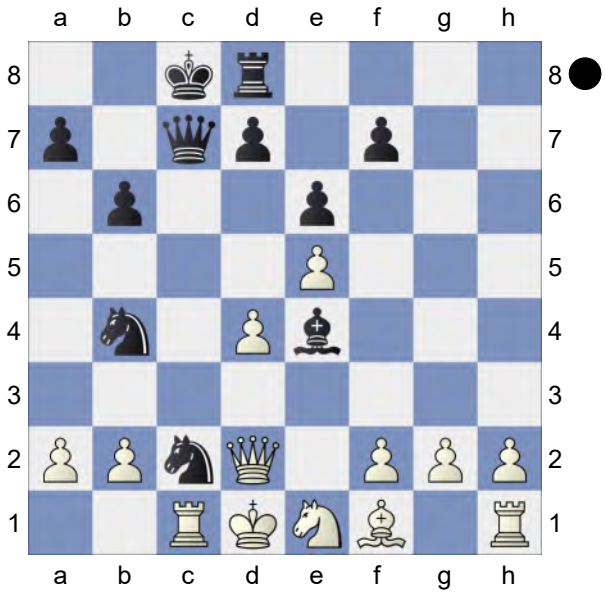


White is clearly winning. **15...0-0-0**



16.Rc1 Bxh6 17.Qxh6 Ndb4 18.Qd2 Be4 19.Ne1

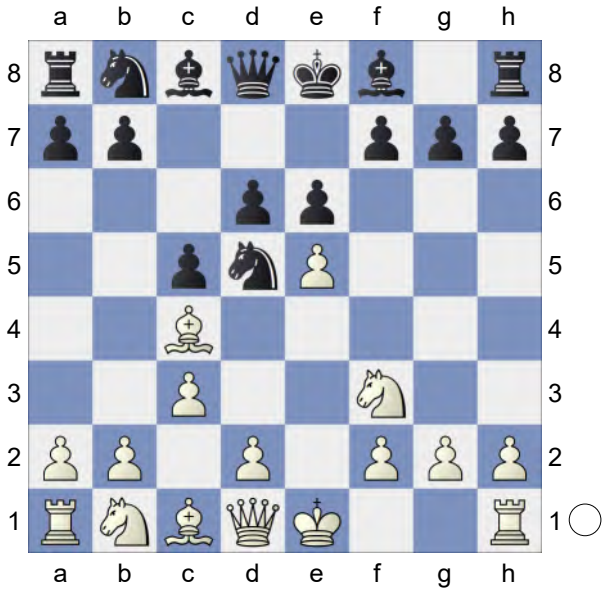
(Diagram)



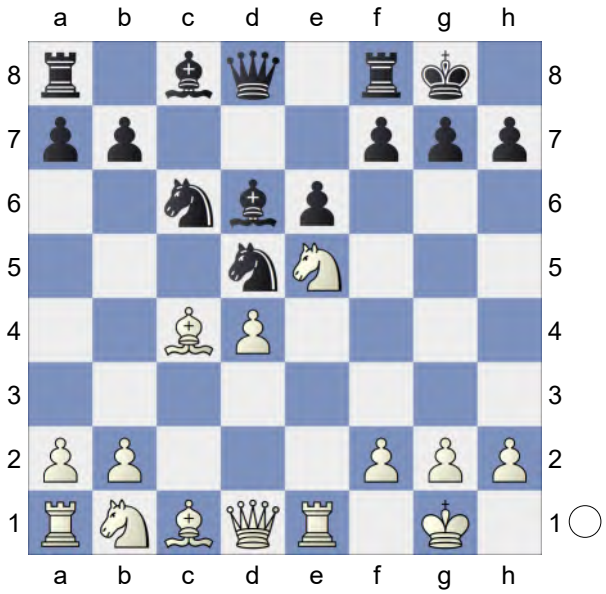
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.65
1-0

15 **B22**
□ **Arasanx** **3055**
■ **Pawn Git** **2830**
Rapid 09.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

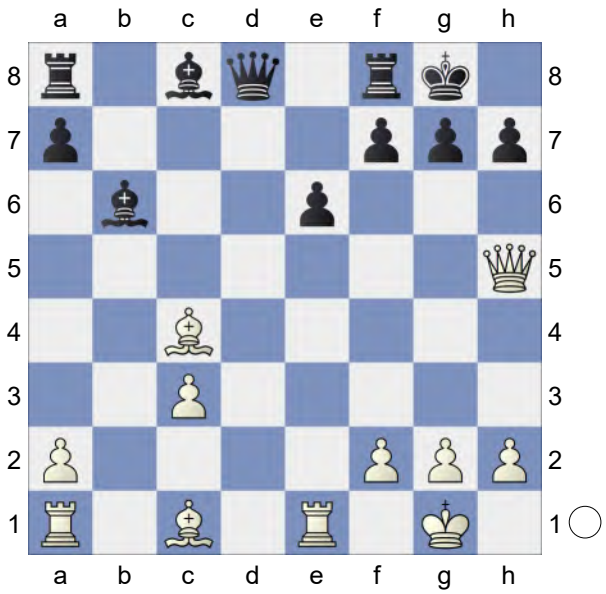
Blitz 5min+5sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 d6



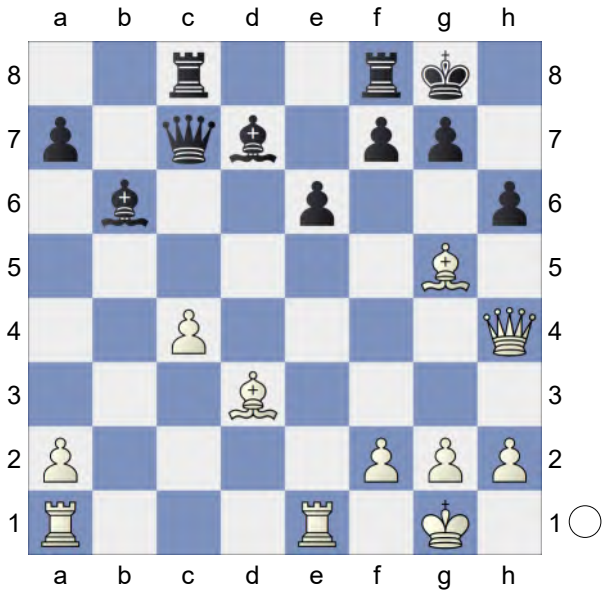
6.0-0 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Bd6 8.d4 0-0 9.Re1 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 c5 14.dxc5 Bxc5 The position is equal.
15.Qh5 Bb6N
[15...Qe7 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Bb7 18.Bd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Rac8 20.Qe4 Rfd8 21.Rd3 Rxd3 22.Qxd3 Qa3 23.g3 Qxc3 24.Qxc3 Rxc3 25.Rb1 g6 26.Rb5 Ra3 27.Rb2 Kg7 28.Kg2 g5 29.h3 h5 30.Rc2 0-1 (46) 7.a4 ♕b6_58744 (2054)-Cortese,A (2298) 27/(477) Vrnjacka Banja 1979 (3) Kg6 31.Rb2 Kf6 32.Re2 Kf5 33.Kh2 Rc3 34.Kg2 Rd3 35.Kh2 Kf6 36.Kg2 Ra3 37.Kh2 Ke7 38.Rd2 f5 39.Kg2 Kf6 40.Rb2 f4 41.Rc2 Rd3 42.Rb2 f3+ 43.Kh2 g4 44.h4 e5 45.Rc2 0-1 (46) Aveline,P (2054)-Buksa,N (2298) Cappelle op 32nd 2016 (3)]



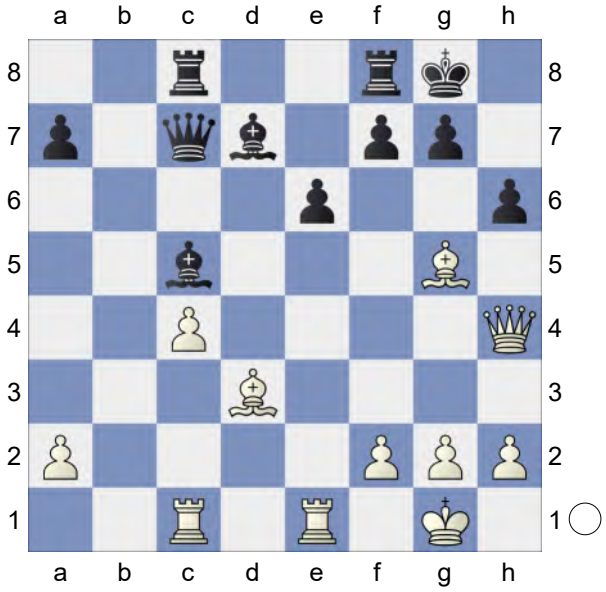
16.Bg5 Wards off Qf6 **16...Qc7 17.Bd3 h6 18.Qh4 Bd7**
[18...hxg5 19.Qh7#]
[18...Bb7 is interesting. 19.Bf6 gxf6 20.Qxh6 f5]
19.c4 Rac8 0.43/19
[19...hxg5 20.Qh7#]
[19...Rfe8!= -0.01/17 was preferrable. 20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Qxh6 f5]



20.Rac1!→ White attacks. **20...Bc5** 0.75/18

[20...Rfe8!= 0.03/18 21.Bxh6 f5 *(21...gxh6? 22.Qxh6 f5 23.c5+-)*]

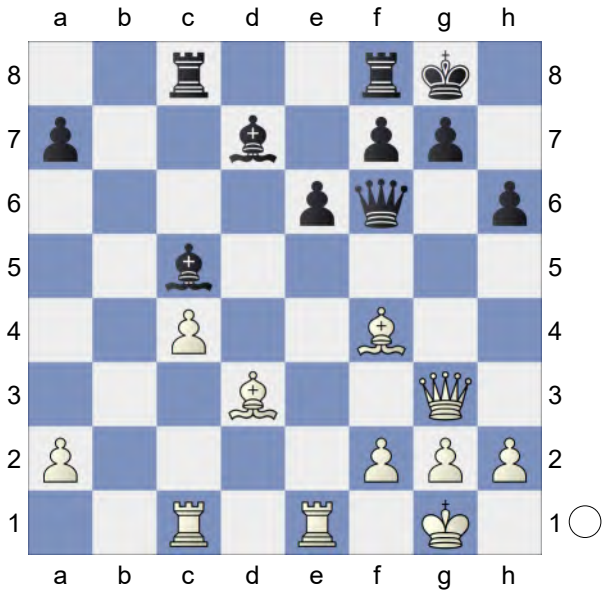
[20...Qd6 21.Rcd1]



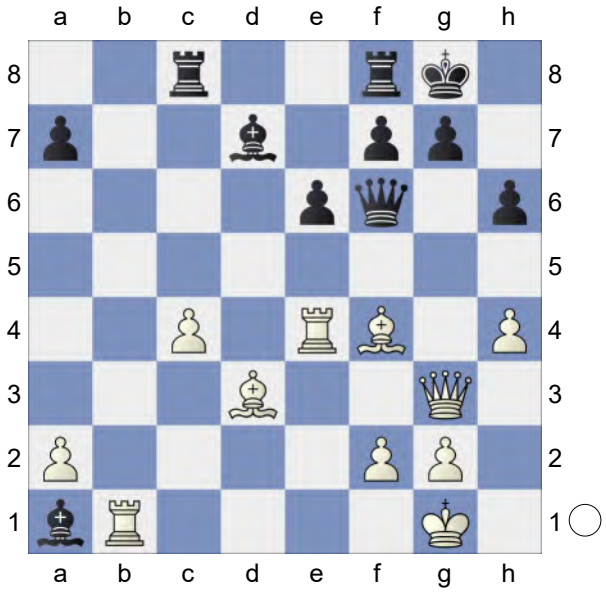
21.Bf4!± Qd8 22.Qg3 Qf6 0.83/20

[22...Kh8± 0.42/20 should be considered.]

(Diagram)



23.h4! And now Be5 would win. **23...Bd4**
24.Re4 Rxd4! would now be deadly.
24...Bb2 25.Rb1 Ba1



26.Bd6

[26.Bxh6 simplifies Qxh6 27.Rxa1 Bc6 28.Rg4]

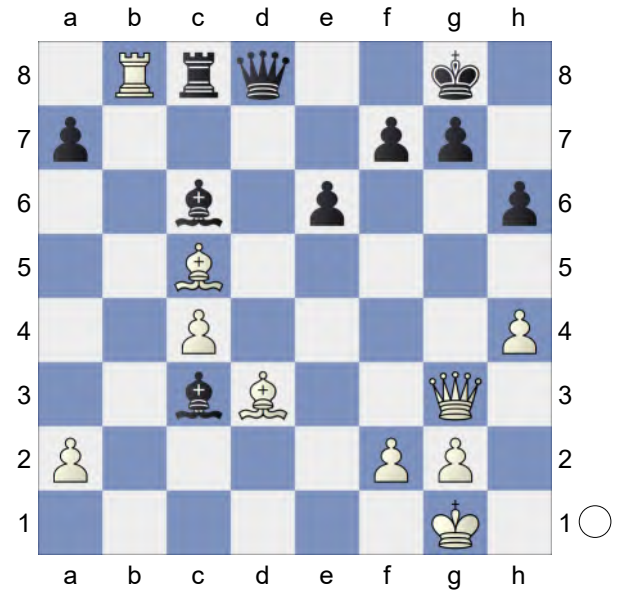
26...Bc6 27.Ree1 White is much more active. **27...Bc3** 1.14/22

[⌓27...Bd4 0.71/21]

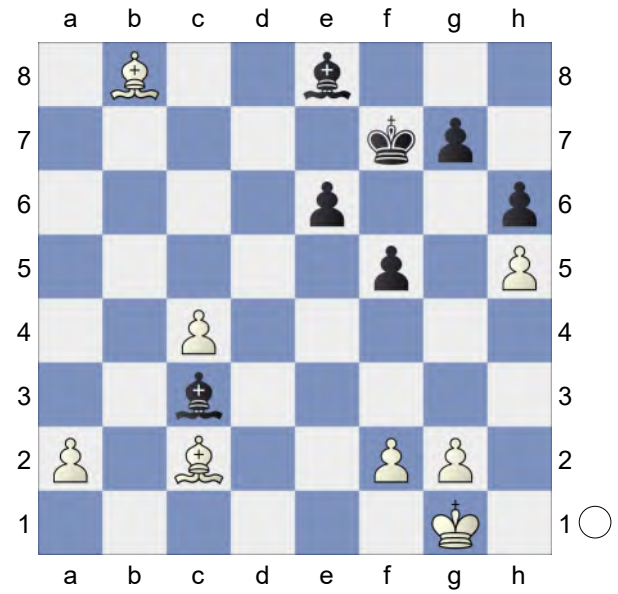
28.Bxf8 Bxe1 29.Bc5 Really sharp!
29...Bc3 30.Rb8!

[Reject 30.Bxa7?! Be5 31.Qg4 Ra8=]

30...Qd8

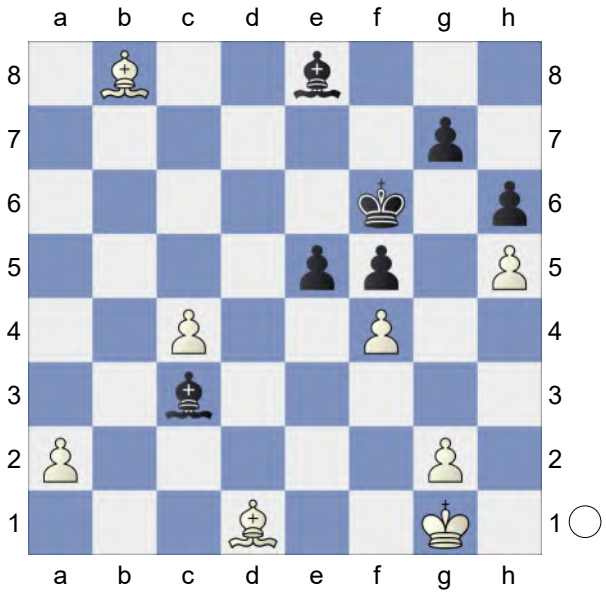


31.Bxa7 Rxb8 32.Qxb8 Qxb8 33.Bxb8 Endgame. KBB-KBB **33...f5 34.h5 Kf7 35.Bc2 Be8**



36.f4 Kf6 37.Bd1 e5

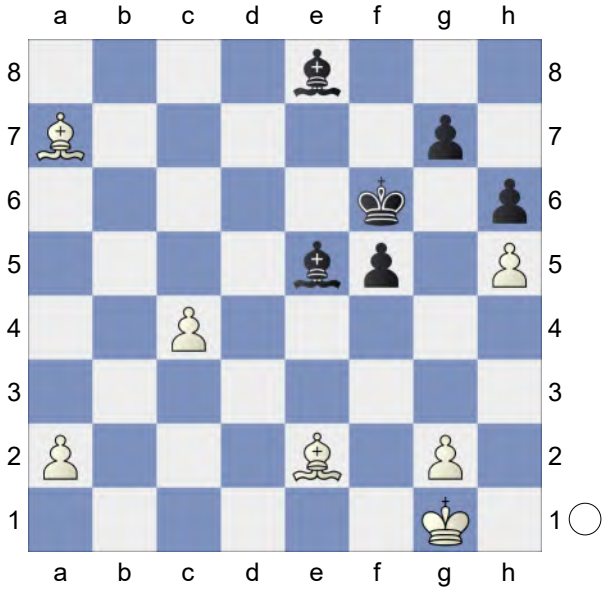
(Diagram)



38.fxe5+! Bxe5 39.Ba7 Strongly threatening a4. **39...Bf7** 1.97/21

[39...Bc3± 1.54/21 was called for. 40.Kf2 Bf7]

40.Be2+- Be8

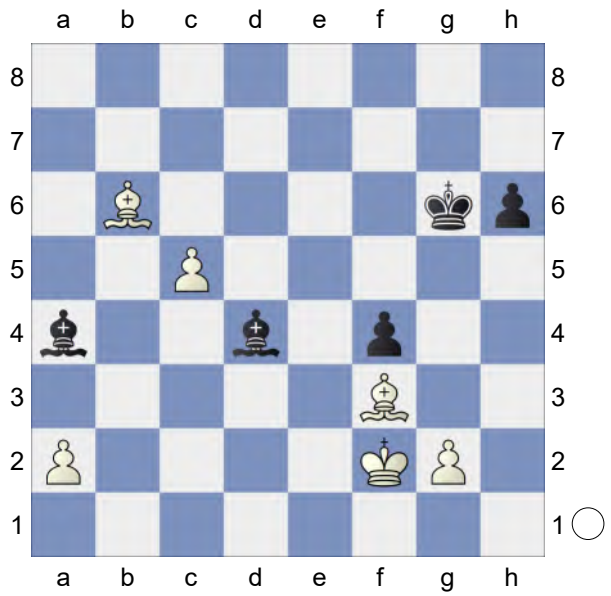


41.Kf2 f4 42.Bb6 Threatens to win with Bf3. **42...Ba4?** 2.43/25 This costs Black the game.

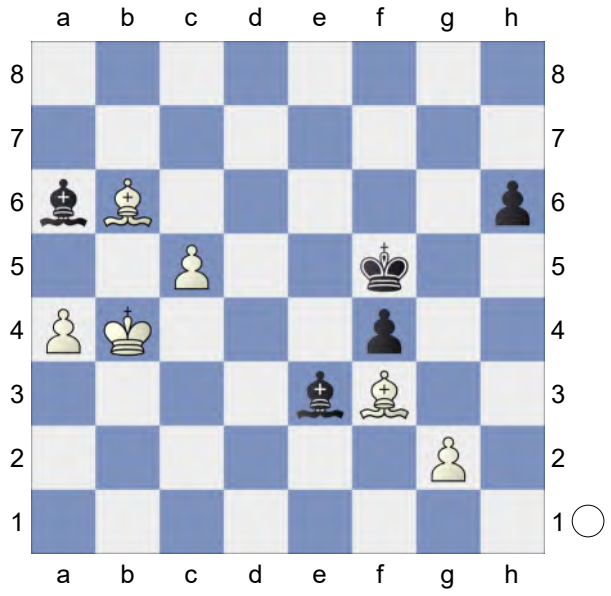
[42...Bc3± 0.82/19 was worth a try. 43.g3 fxg3+ 44.Kxg3 Ke5]

43.Bf3 g5 44.hxg6 Kxg6 45.c5 Black must now prevent c6. **45...Bd4+**

(Diagram)

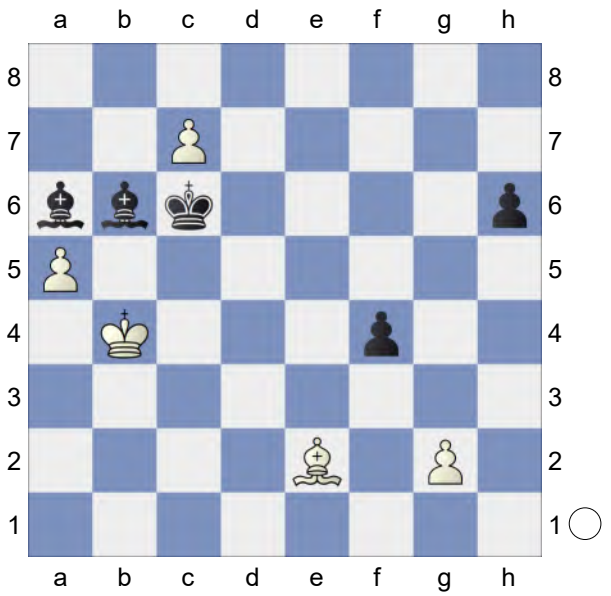


46.Ke2 Kd3 is the strong threat.
46...Be3? 3.49/20
[46...Bb5+ 1.85/21 keeps fighting. 47.Kd2 h5]
47.Kd3 Bb5+ 48.Kc3 Kf6 49.Kb4 Ba6 50.a4 Kf5

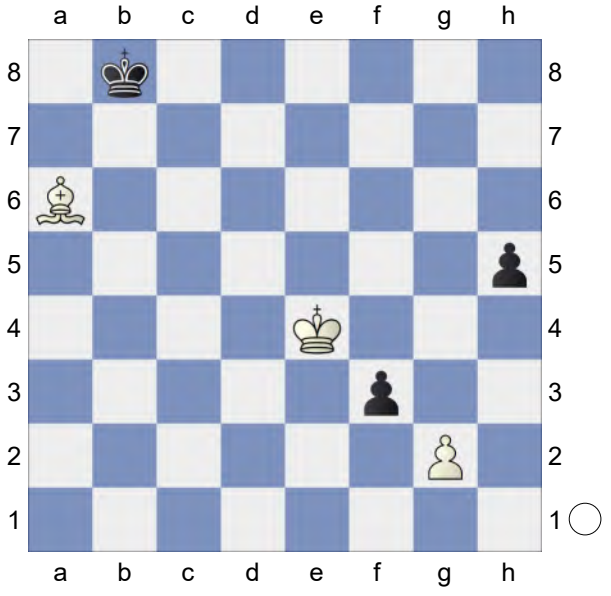


51.a5 Ke6 52.c6 Kd6 53.c7 Kd7 54.Bg4+ Kc6 55.Be2 Deflection, Promotion **55...Bxb6**

(Diagram)

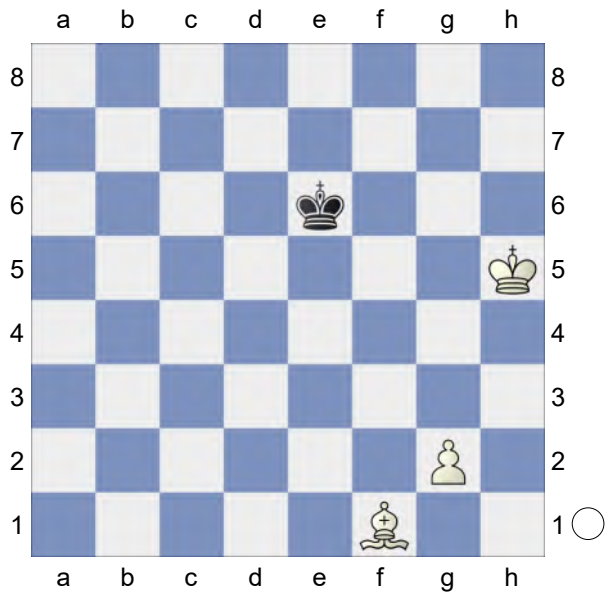


56.axb6
[Less strong is 56.Bxa6 Bxc7 57.Bb5+ Kb7=]
56...Kxb6 57.Bxa6 Kxc7 KB-KPP
58.Kc5 Kb8 59.Kd4 h5 60.Ke4 f3

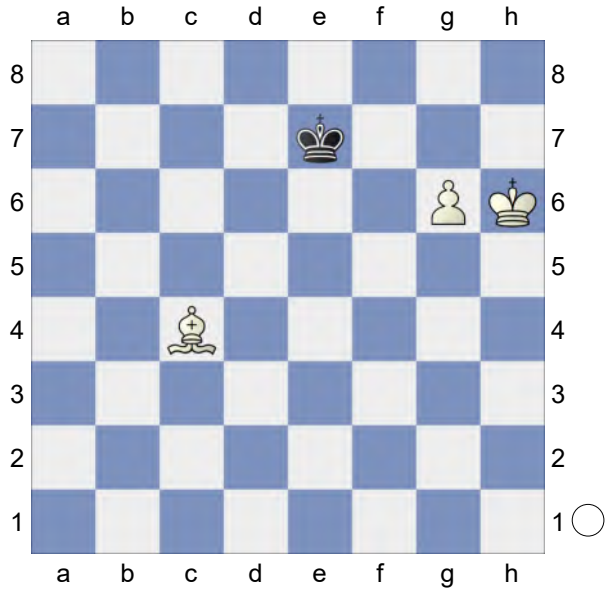


61.Kxf3 KB-KP **61...Kc7 62.Kg3 Kb6 63.Bf1 Kc5 64.Kh4 Kd6 65.Kxh5 Ke6**

(Diagram)

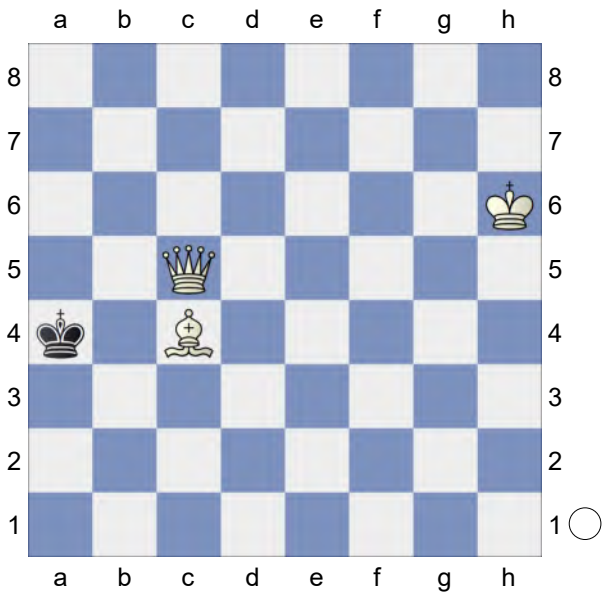


66.g4 Ke7 67.g5 Kf7 68.Kh6 Kg8 69.g6 Kf8 70.Bc4 White mates.
70...Ke7

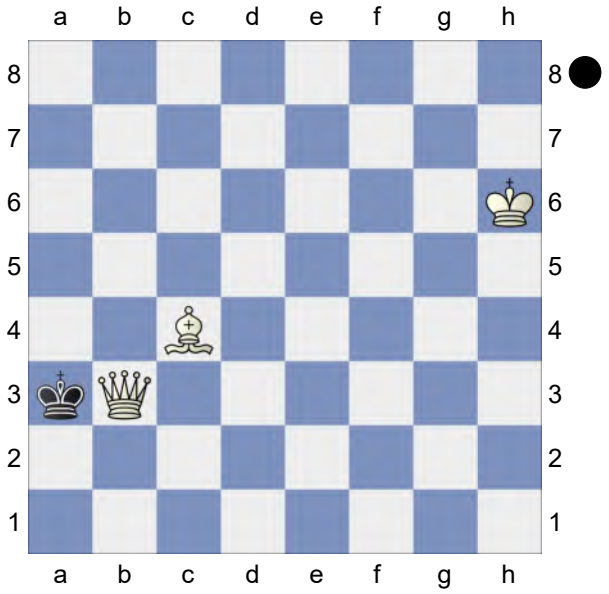


71.g7 Kd6 72.g8Q Kc5 73.Qd5+ Kb4 74.Qd4 Ka5 75.Qc5+ Ka4

(Diagram)



76.Qb5+ Ka3 77.Qb3#

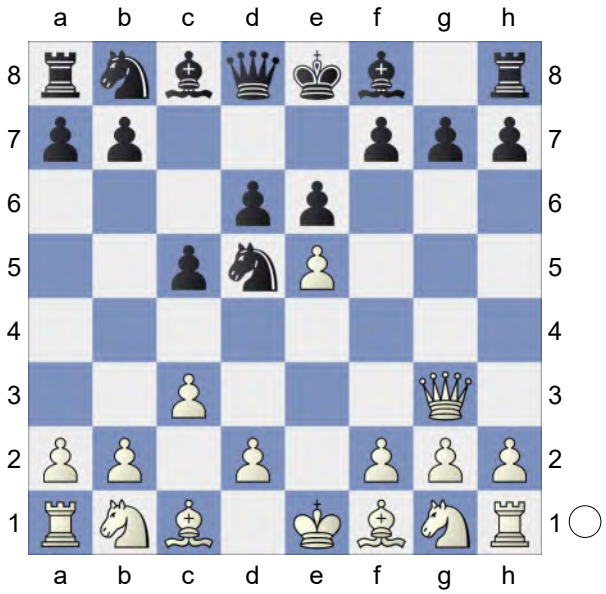


Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.39
1-0

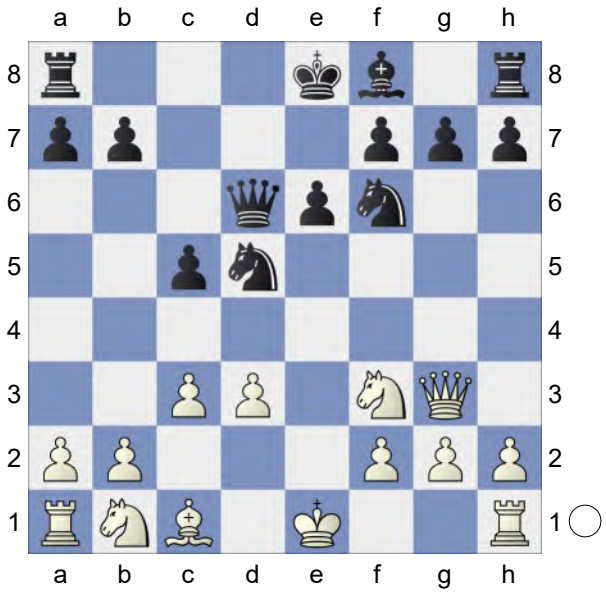
16 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3051**
■ **Fairchess03** **2775**
Blitz 20.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

4...e6 5.Qg3 d6

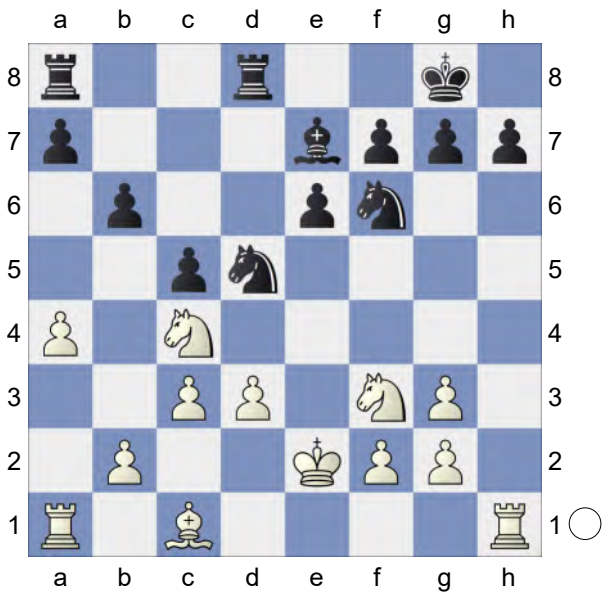


6.Nf3 Nd7 7.exd6 N7f6 8.Bb5+ The position is equal. **8...Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.d3 Qxd6** 0.01/19
[10...Bxd6∓ -0.43/19 11.Qh4 0-0]

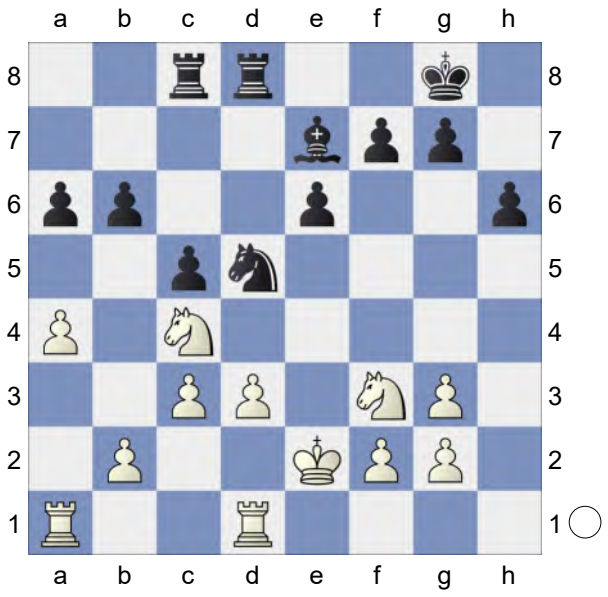


11.Na3= Qxg3 12.hxg3 Be7 13.Nc4 0-0 14.a4 Rfd8 15.Ke2 b6

(Diagram)

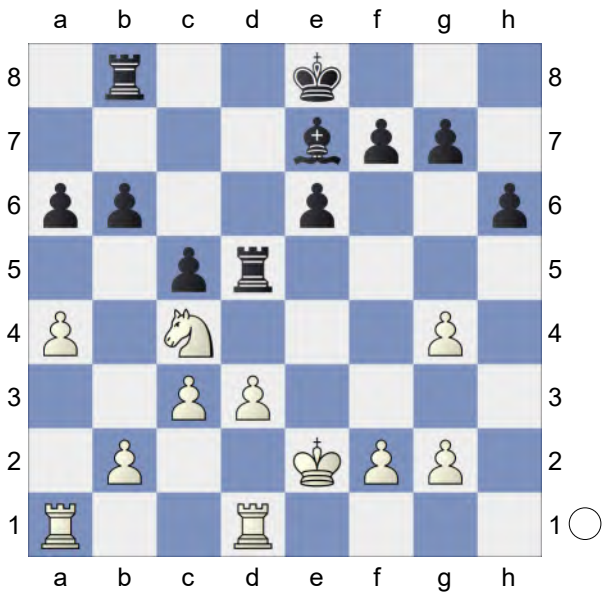


16.Rd1 a6 17.Nce5 Rac8 18.Bg5 h6 19.Bxf6 -0.13/19
[⌓19.Bd2 0.26/21]
19...Nxf6 20.Nc4 Nd5

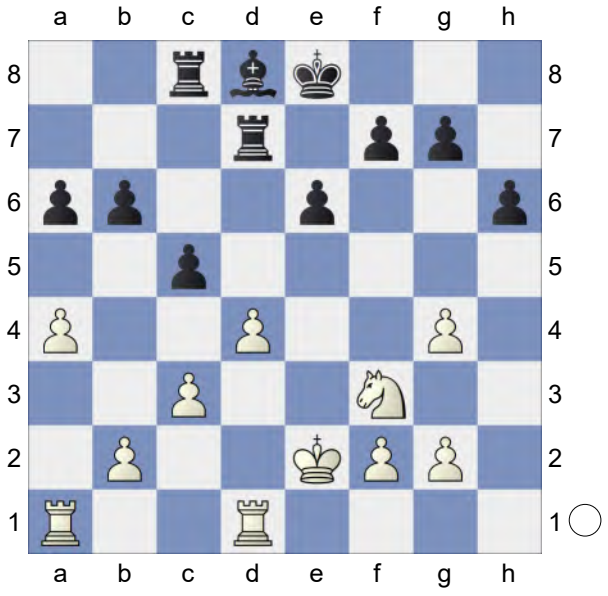


21.Ne3 Kf8 22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.g4 Ke8 24.Nd2 Rcd8 25.Nc4 Rb8

(Diagram)

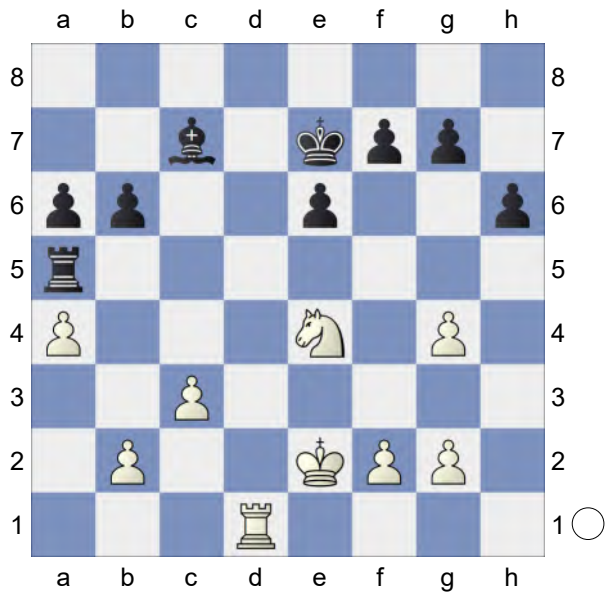


26.Ne3 Rd7 27.Nc4 Bd8 Black is weak on the light squares **28.Ne5 Rc7 29.Nf3 Rd7 30.d4 Rc8**

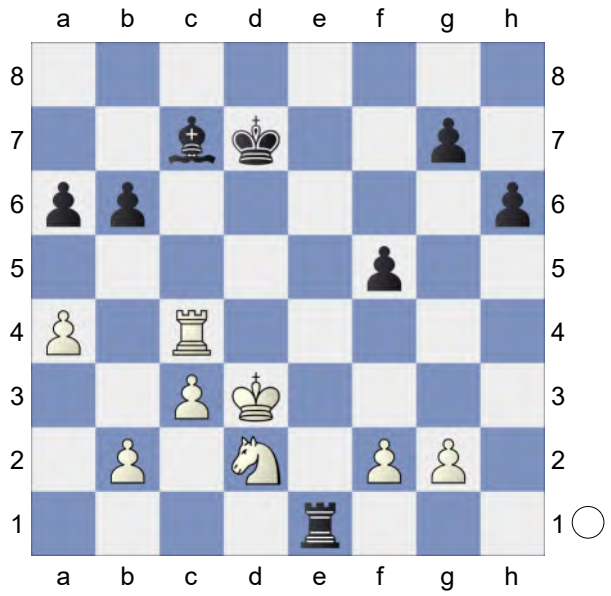


31.dxc5 Rxc5 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 Endgame. KRB-KRN **33.Rd1+ Ke7 34.Nd2 Bc7 35.Ne4 Ra5**

(Diagram)



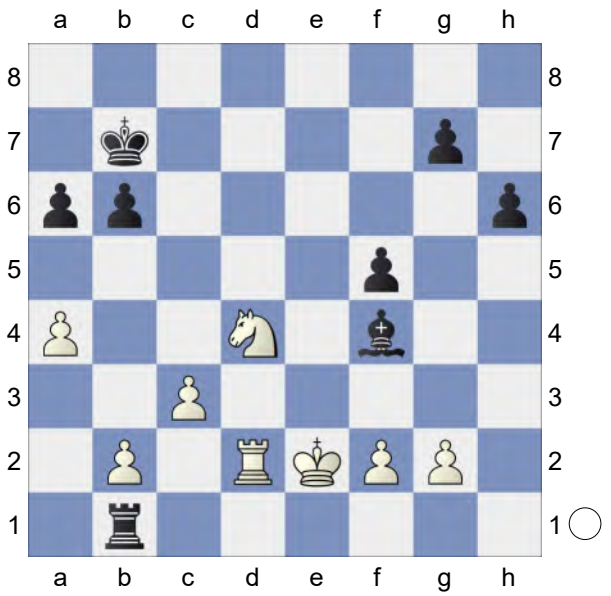
36.Rd4 f5 37.Nd2 Re5+ 38.Kd3 Re1 39.gxf5 exf5 40.Rc4 Kd7



41.Nf3 Rf1 42.Ke2 Rb1 43.Rd4+ Kc6 44.Rd2 Bf4 45.Nd4+ Kb7 0.45/23

[45...Kd5= -0.21/21 46.Rc2 g6]

(Diagram)

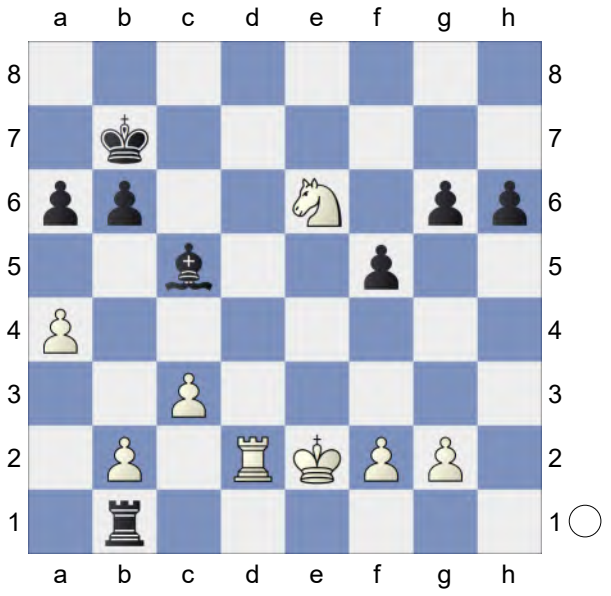


46.Rc2± g6! 47.Ne6 -0.01/19

[47.Kd3± 0.47/22]

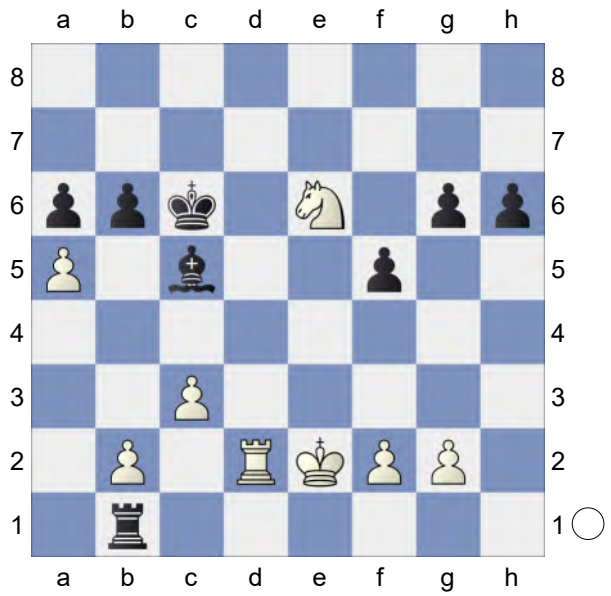
47...Bd6 48.Rd2 Bc5 1.87/23

[48...Kc6= -0.01/19]

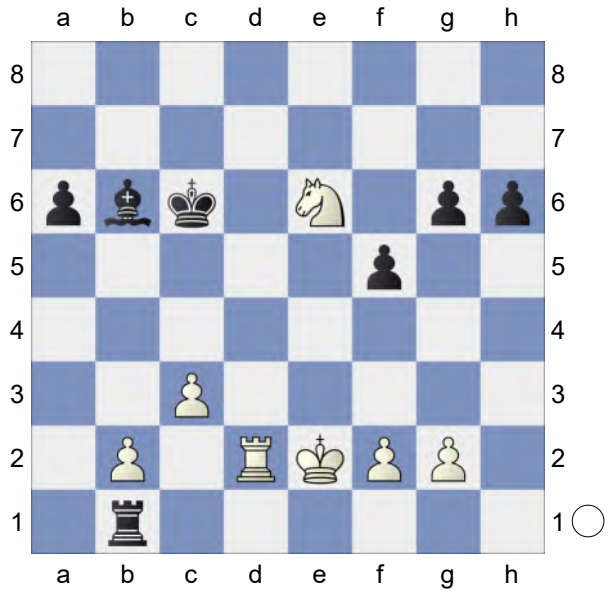


49.a5! 0.90/20 **Kc6±**

(Diagram)

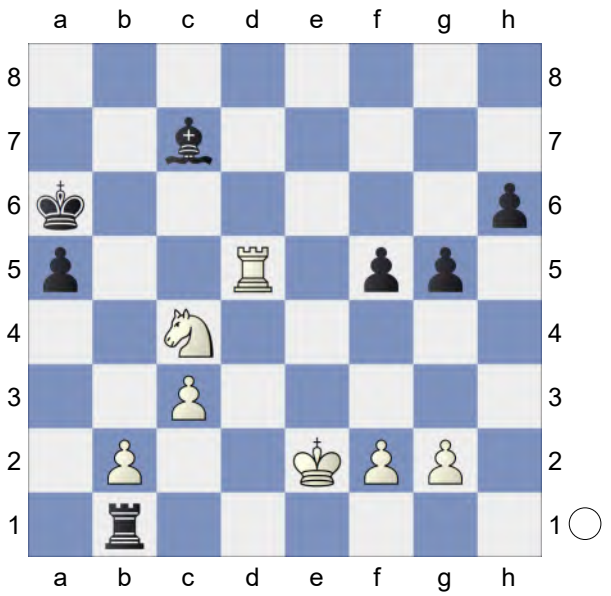


50.axb6 0.42/23
[White should play 50.b4!± 1.11/22 Be7 51.axb6 Kxb6 52.Rd7 Bxb4 53.cxb4 Rxb4 54.Rd6+ Ka5 55.Nc5 Discovered Attack]
50...Bxb6±

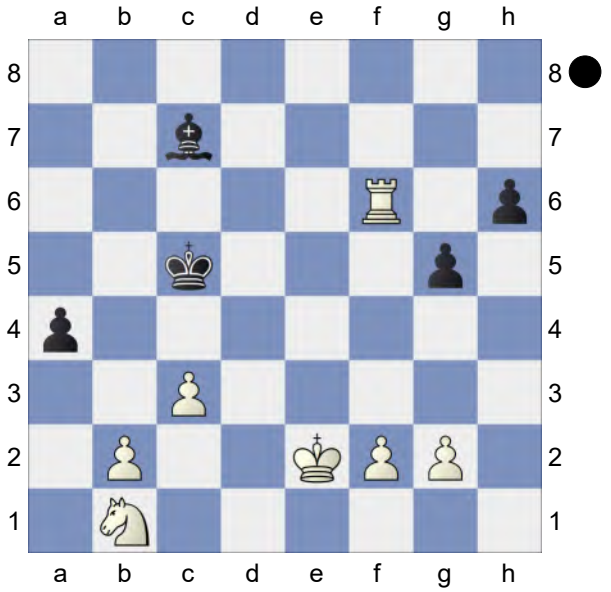


51.Nf4 g5 52.Nd3 a5 53.Ne5+ Kb5 1.36/22
[53...Kc5= -0.01/22 keeps the balance.]
54.Rd5+± Ka6 55.Nc4 Bc7

(Diagram)



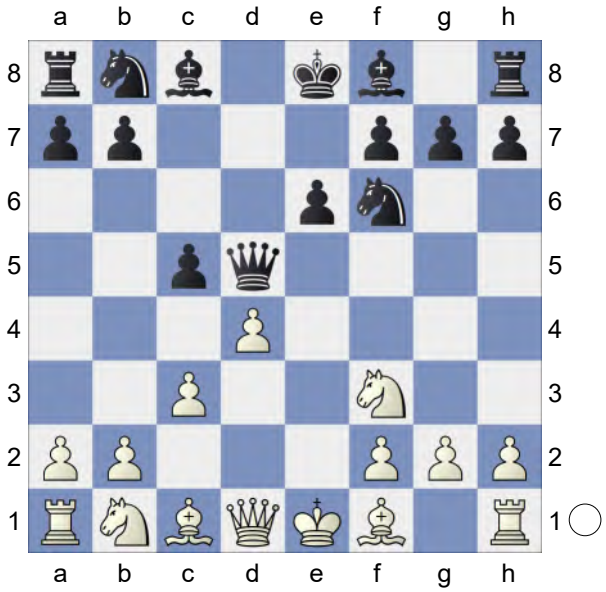
Inhibits Rd6+. **56.Rxf5** And now Rf7 would win. White is more active. **56...a4** 2.83/23
[56...Kb7± 1.46/21 was worth a try. 57.g3 *(57.Nxa5+ Bxa5 58.Rxa5 Rxb2+ 59.Ke3 Rc2±)* 57...a4]
57.Rf6++- Kb5? 11.11/23
[57...Kb7 2.66/20 58.Rxh6 Rc1]
58.Na3+ Kc5 59.Nxb1



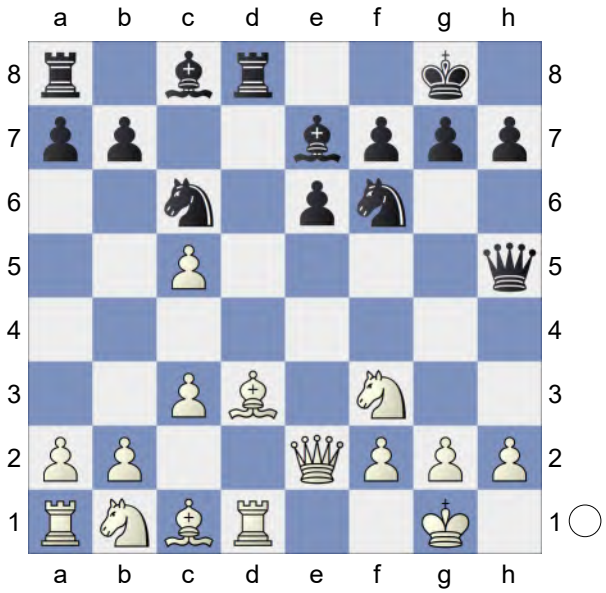
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

17 **B22**
□ **Konevlad** **3050**
■ **Elektromagnit** **2763**
Blitz 21.05.2021
[Kitty Kat]

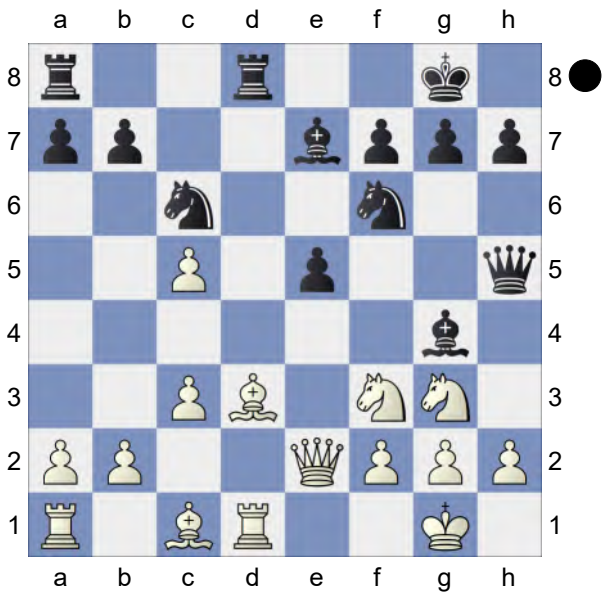
Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Portisch,L: 'Inf 33/208' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6**



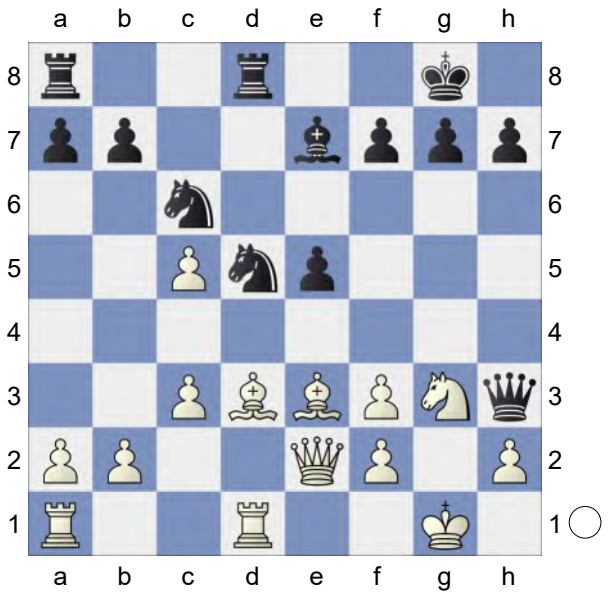
6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qe2 Rd8N
[8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Be3 *(10.Rd1 Nb4 11.Nc3 Qd8 12.Bc4 b6 13.Ne5 Bb7 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Rc8 17.Bd3 f5 18.Qe1 Kh8 19.Bd2 Nf6 20.Bb4 Nd5 21.Bd2 Bg5 22.Bxg5 Qxg5 23.Nf3 Qh6 24.Rac1 Rxc1* 0-1 (35) Braga,F-Portisch,L 33/208 Mar del Plata 1982*)* 10...b6 *(10...Nb4 11.Nc3 Qh5 12.Bc4 b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Be5 Qf5 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Rac1 Nf4 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.Rc3 Rfd8 21.Qe3 Qf5 22.Qe5 Qxe5 23.Nxe5 a6 24.a4 Bc5 25.Rcd3* 0-1 (38) Tsamriuk,A (2531)-4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2813) Jugoslavija 22/423 1976 (10. 1)*)* 11.Nc3 Qd6 12.a3 Bb7 13.Rad1 Rfd8 14.Bg5 g6 15.Bb1 Rac8 16.Rfe1 Nd5 17.Ne4 Qc7 18.Ba2 Bxg5 19.Nexg5 Qe7 20.Qd2 Qf6 21.Re4 Rc7 22.Rh4 h5 23.Ne4 1-0 (39) Kalashikov 5.Nxc6 - 6.Bc4 #7 (2200)-Shvets,V (2615) Turkiye 127/ (111) 2015]
[8...Nc6 9.dxc5 Rd8 10.Rd1 Qxc5 11.Nbd2 Qd5 12.Nc4 Qh5 13.Bg5 b6 14.Ne3 Bb7 15.Ba6 Bxa6 16.Qxa6 h6 17.Bh4 Qc5 18.Nd2 Ne5 19.Nb3 Qc8 20.Qb5 Ng6 21.Bg3 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qe8 23.a4 1-0 (35) Mendez Fortes,E (2650)-11. Qd2 ♗e7 12.000 0-0_15323 (2492) Politiken Cup 2004 (5)]
9.Rd1 Qh5 0.43/21
[9...cxd4= -0.04/18 is superior. 10.cxd4 Nc6]
10.dxc5± Nc6 0.75/20
[10...Qxc5± 0.38/16 11.Bf4 Bd7]



11.Nbd2 e5 12.Ne4 Bg4 1.05/20
[12...Nxe4± 0.63/21 13.Bxe4 Rxd1+ 14.Qxd1 Bxc5]
13.Ng3
(Diagram)

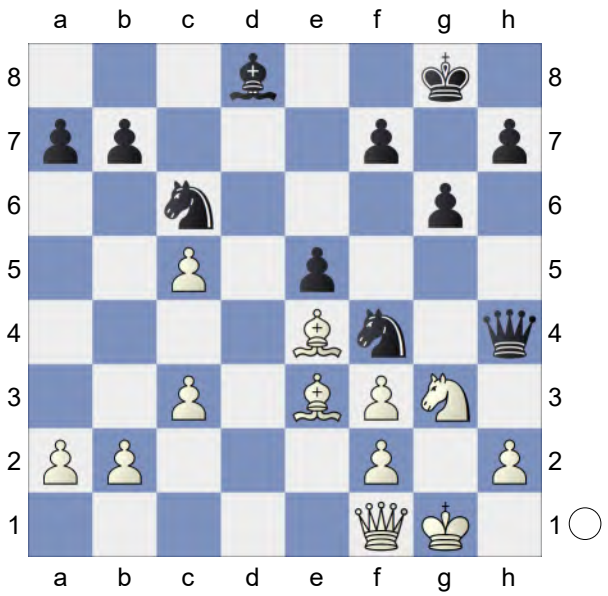


Trapped Piece **13...Bxf3** Deflection
14.gxf3 Qh3 15.Be3 Nd5



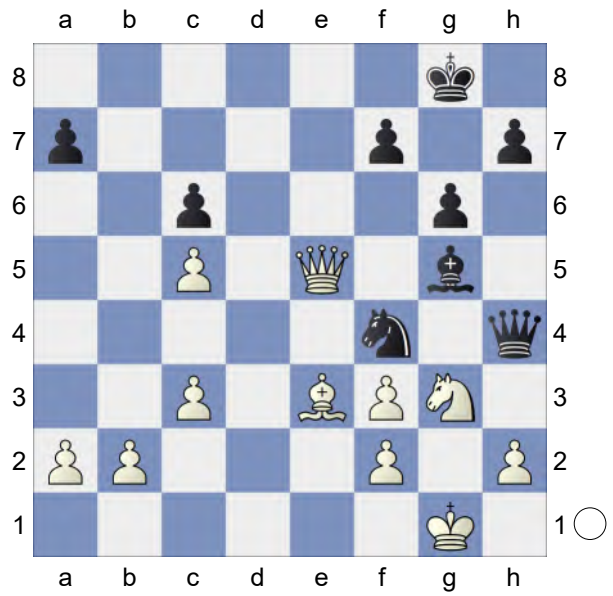
16.Be4 Nf4 17.Qf1 Prevents Qg2+
17...Qh4 1.86/21
[17...g6± 0.99/20]
18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Rd1 g6 20.Rxd8+ Bxd8 2.27/22
[⌓20...Nxd8 1.66/22 21.Qb5 Bf8 22.Bxb7 Nde6]

(Diagram)

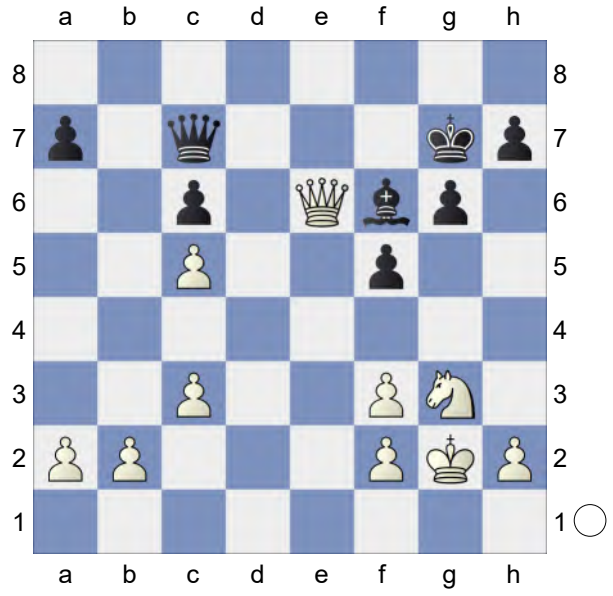


21.Qd1 Be7 2.61/23
[21...Qe7 1.70/21 is a better defense. 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Bxf4 exf4]
22.Bxc6 1.49/21
[22.Qd7+- 2.61/23]
22...bxc6± 23.Qd7 Bg5? 3.88/23
Black cannot hold the game after this.
[23...Qh3± 1.13/23 keeps fighting. 24.Qxh3 *(24.Qxe7? Qg2#)* 24...Nxh3+ 25.Kg2 Nf4+ 26.Bxf4 exf4]
24.Qe8++-
[24.Qxc6 Ne6 25.Qe8+ Kg7+-]
[24.Qxa7 Nd3 25.Qd7 Bxe3 26.fxe3 *(26.Qxd3 Bxf2+* Double Attack *27.Kg2 Bxc5=)* 26...e4 27.Qxc6 Nxb2 28.Qe8+ *(28.Qxe4 Qf6+-; 28.Nxe4 Qe1+ 29.Kg2 Nc4=)* 28...Kg7+-]
24...Kg7 25.Qxe5+ Kg8 5.52/22
[25...Kf8 3.62/23 might work better. 26.Qh8+ Ke7]

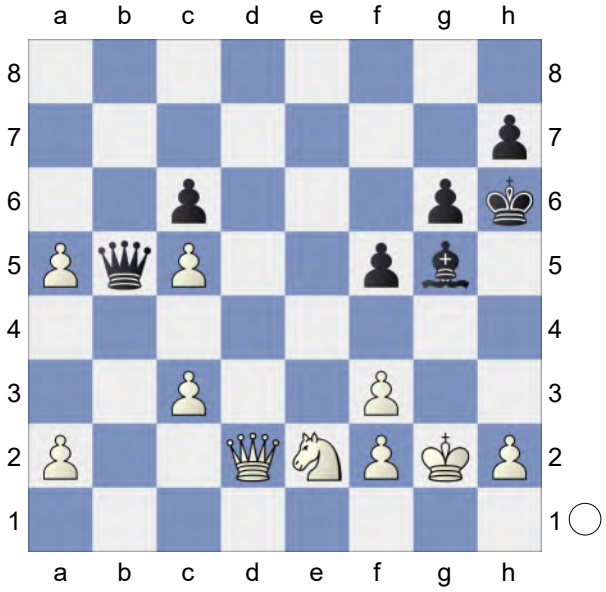
(Diagram)



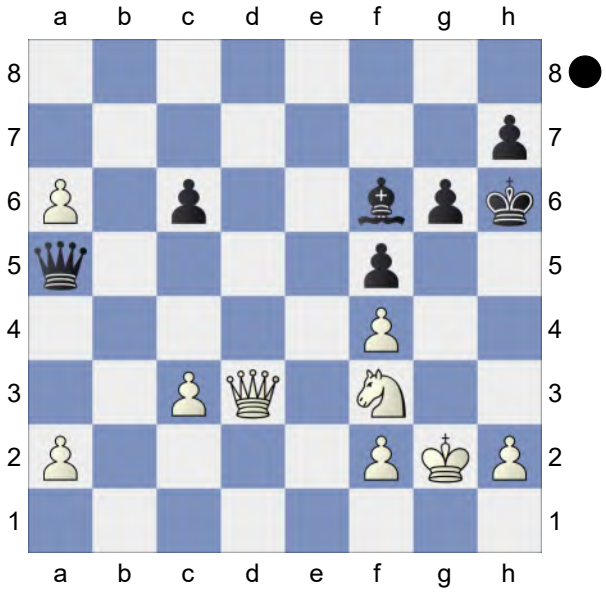
26.Qe8+ 2.57/5
[⌓26.Ne4 5.52/22 Threatens to win with Qe8+. Nh3+ 27.Kg2 Bxe3 28.fxe3]
26...Kg7 27.Bxf4
[Don't take 27.Qxc6 Ne2+ 28.Kf1 *(28.Nxe2 Bxe3 29.Ng3 Bxf2+ 30.Kg2 Bxg3+-)* 28...Bxe3]
27...Qxf4 Endgame. KQB-KQN **28.Kg2 Qc7 29.Qe4 f5?** 3.82/22
[29...Bf6 2.07/21 was called for. 30.Qe3 a6]
30.Qe6 Bf6



31.Ne2 Qb7 32.b4 Strongly threatening Nd4. **32...a5?** 6.79/20
[32...Qc7 2.97/21 33.Qe8 Qf7 34.Qxc6 Qe7]
33.bxa5 Qb5 34.Qd7+ Kh6 35.Qd2+ Bg5

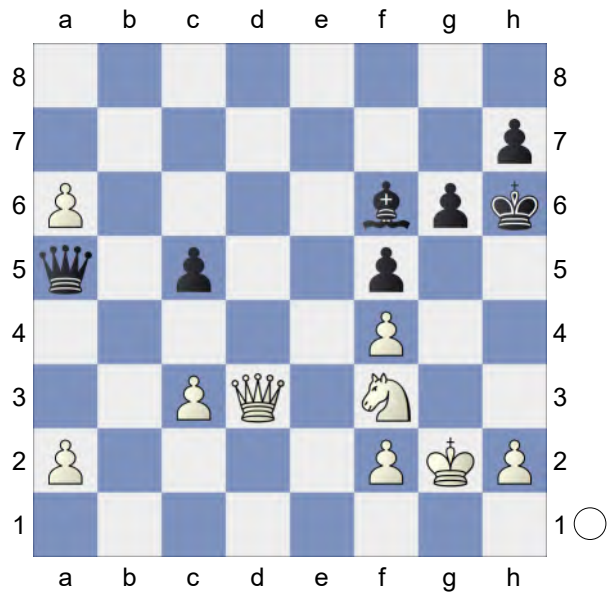


36.f4 Bf6 37.Nd4 Qxc5 7.23/21
[37...Bxd4 3.62/21 38.cxd4 Qc4]
38.a6 Qd5+ 39.Nf3 Qa5 40.Qd3

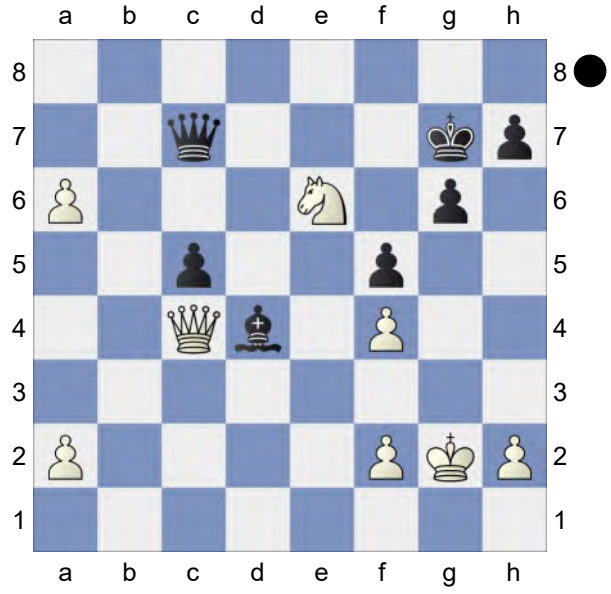


Hoping for Qd6. **40...c5**

(Diagram)



41.Qc4 Bxc3 42.Ne5? 3.33/19
[42.Ng5 10.76/21 Intending Qf7 and mate. Bf6 43.Nf7+ Kg7 44.Nd6 Qxa6 45.Qxa6]
42...Bd4? #10/21
[42...Bxe5+- 3.33/19 43.fxe5 Kg7]
43.Nf7+ Kg7 44.Ng5 Qc7 45.Ne6+

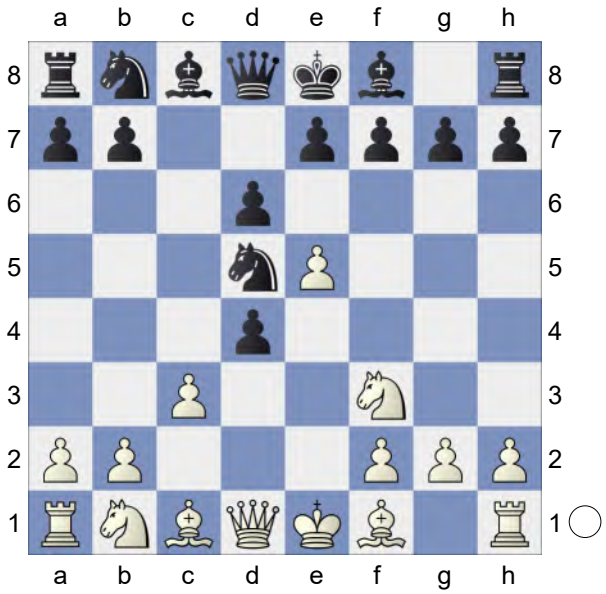


Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.70
1-0

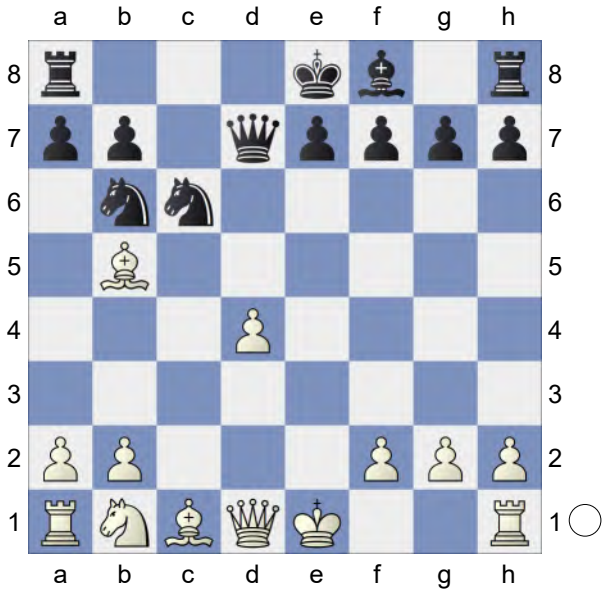
18 **B22**
□ **Raspfish** **3049**
■ **Torombot** **3065**
Rapid 14.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 8min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
As we write Sergey Tiviakov is using 2 c3 as a drawing weapon only at Wijk-aan Zee. The games are important theoretically, but don't expect too much excitement. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Andrew Martin: 'As we write Sergey Tiviakov is using 2 c3 as a drawing weapon only at Wijk-aan Zee. The games are important theoretically, but don't expect too much excitement." As we write Sergey Tiviakov is using 2 c3 as a drawing weapon only at Wijk-aan Zee. The games are important theoretically, but don't expect too much excitement. RR: 'Inf 100/(76)' Rogozenko: 'In the past years Sergei Tiviakov scored well against Sicilian with the help of the Alapin System. However, on the long run 2.c3 is hardly the optimal choice for a top GM, since it leads to simple positions with limited active possibilities for White. In Corus 2007 Tiviakov failed to set any opening problems against well-prepared opponents.' **1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4**

(Diagram)

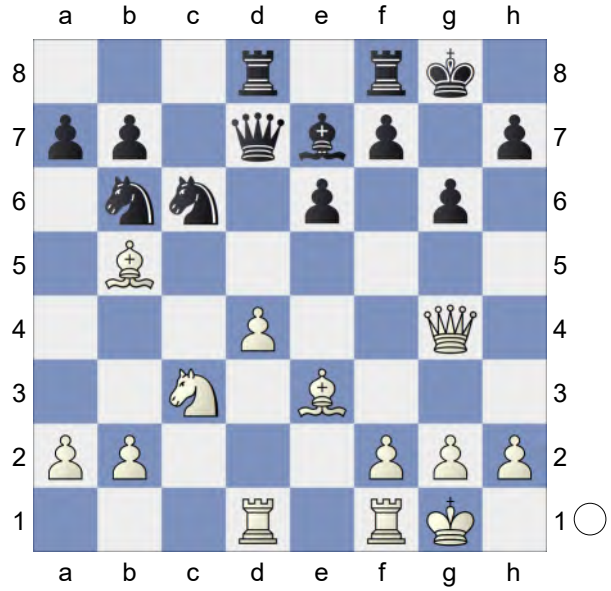


6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Be3 Be7 14.Qg4
[14.Rc1 0-0 15.Na4 Qd5 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Nc3 Qa5 18.Qe2 Rd7 19.a3 Bf6 20.Ne4 Bxd4 21.Rxc6 Qe5 22.Bxd4 Rxd4 23.Re1 Rfd8 24.g3 h6 25.Rc2 Qf5 26.Rd2 Nc4 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.f3 Qd5 0-1 (44) Tiviakov,S (2663)-Bu Xiangzhi (2683) World Teams 2013 (1.3)]
14...0-0 15.Rad1 g6

[15...Rfe8 16.d5 Nxd5 17.Bxa7 Qc7 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Bd4 g6 20.Rd3 Bf8 21.Be3 Re4 22.Qd1 d4 23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Bxd4 Qa6 25.Rd2 Qxa2 26.Bc3 ½-½ Urquhart Jr,J (2401)-Tarnowski (2298) London 2004]



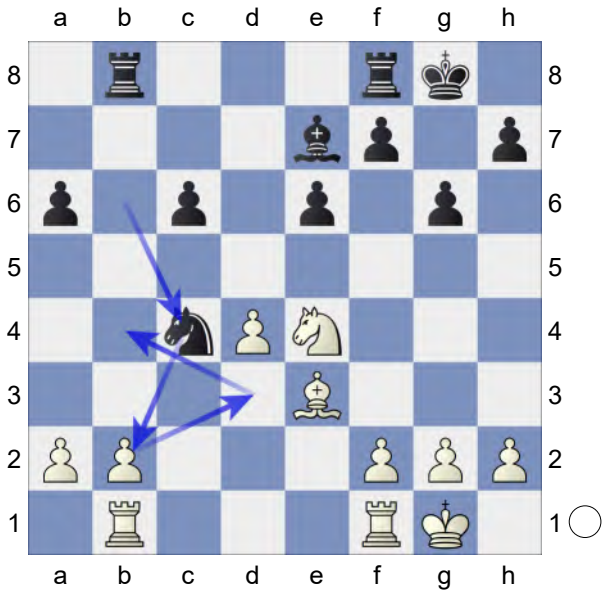
16.Qf3N

[16.Rfe1 a6 17.Bd3 Bf6 18.Be4 Nxd4 19.Bxb7 Qxb7 20.Bxd4 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 ½-½ Tiviakov,S (2667)-Karjakin,S (2678) Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED 2007 (7)]

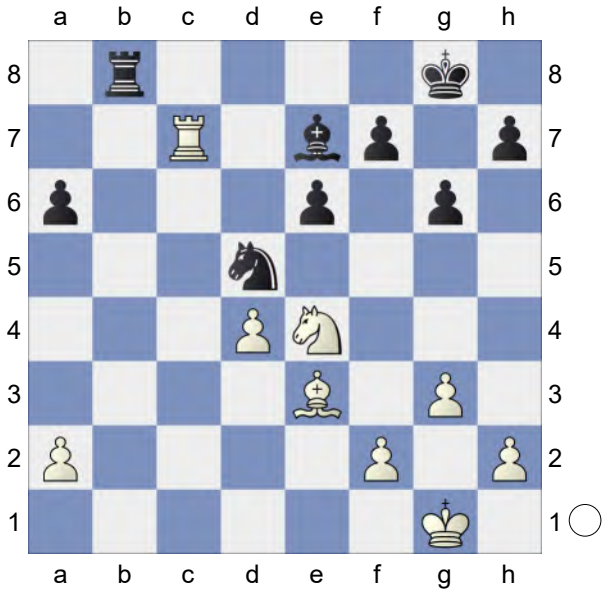
[16.d5 Nxd5 17.Bxa7 Qc7 *(17...h5 18.Qf3 Qc7 19.Nxd5 Rxd5 20.Rxd5 exd5 21.Be3 Qe5 22.a4 Nd4 23.Bxd4 Qxd4* 28: 2.c3 Alapin-6. cxd4 #9 *)* 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Be3 Bf6 20.b3 d4 21.Bh6 Rfe8 22.a4 Qd6 23.h3 Re6 24.Qf3 Rde8 25.Rc1 Bg7 26.Bf4 Be5 27.Bxc6 bxc6 28.Bxe5 Qxe5 29.Rxc6 Rxc6 30.Qxc6 d3 ½-½ (39) Godena,M (2558)-Ris,R (2411) EU-ch 8th Dresden 2007 (4)]

16...a6 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Qxc6 bxc6 19.Ne4 Rb8 20.Rb1 Nc4

(Diagram)

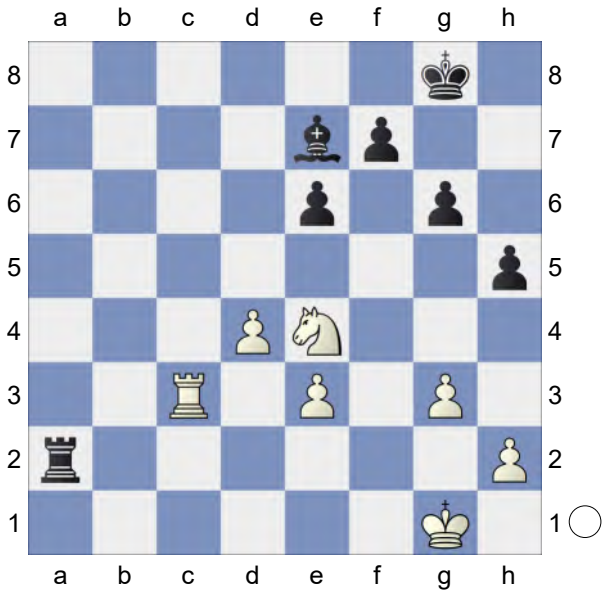


21.Rfc1 Nxb2 22.Rxc6 Nd3 23.Rxb8 Rxb8 24.g3 Nb4 25.Rc7 Nd5

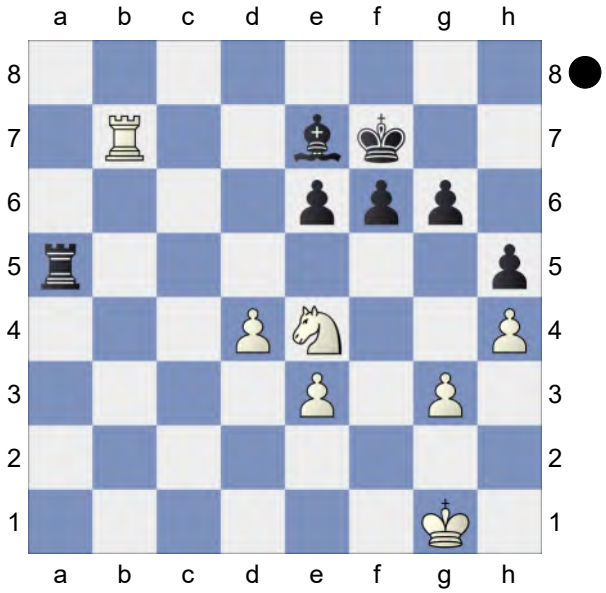


26.Ra7 h5 27.Rxa6 Nxe3 The position is equal. **28.fxe3=** Endgame. Black should prevent h4. KRB-KRN **28...Rb2 29.Rc6 Re2 30.Rc3 Rxa2**

(Diagram)



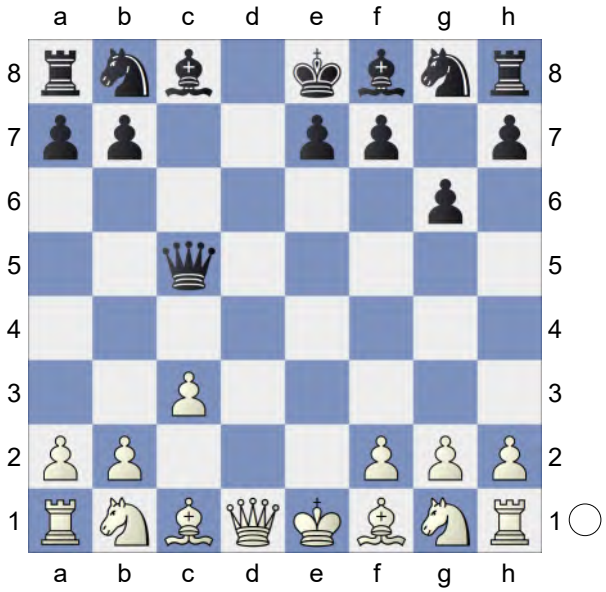
31.h4 f6 32.Rb3 Ra5 33.Rb7 Kf8 34.Rb8+ Kf7 35.Rb7



A rather calm draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)
½-½

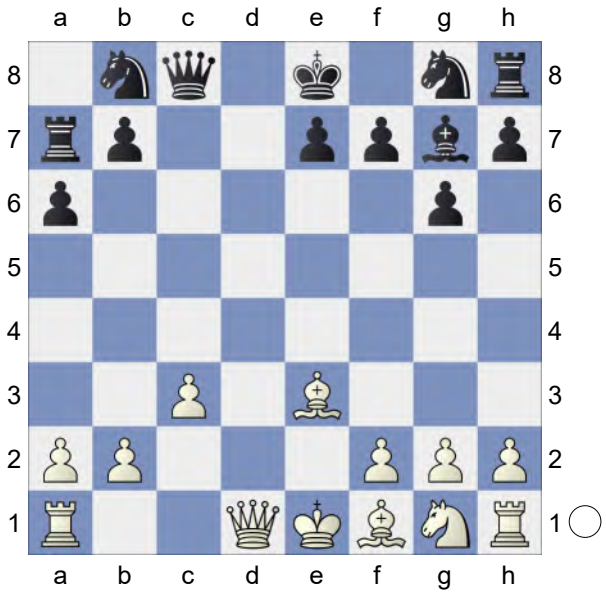
19 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3044**
■ **Halfmillion2023** **2868**
Blitz 02.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Nevednichy,V: 'Inf 81/104' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.dxc5 Qxc5**



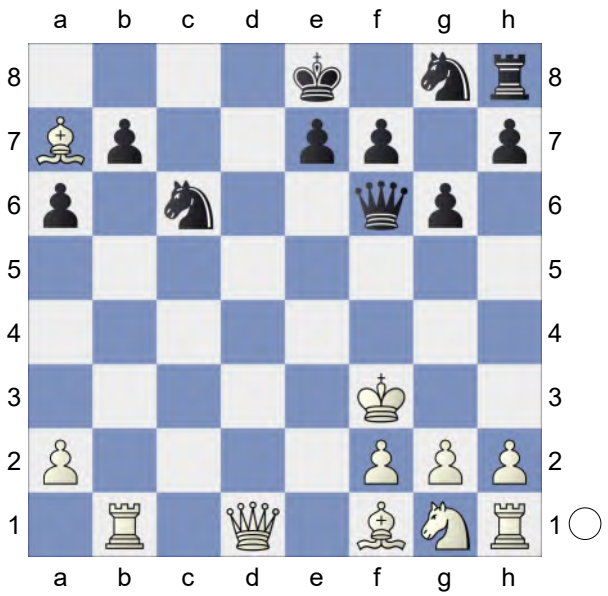
6.Be3 Qc7 7.Na3 And now Qd4 would win. **7...a6**
[7...Nc6 8.Nb5 Qb8 9.a4 *(9.Nf3 a6 10.Nbd4 Bg7 11.Bc4 Nf6 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.Ng5+ Ke8 14.Qb3 Nd8 15.0-0-0 Ng4 16.Nc6 bxc6 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8 18.Bb6+ Kd7 19.Rd1+ Qd6 20.Qe6+ Ke8 21.Qf7+ Kd7 22.Rxd6+ Kxd6 23.Qxg7 Be6* 1-0 (28) 9.c3 ♕c7 10.a3 (2035)-3.g3 b5 4. ♗g2 ♗b7 (2195) (ol) 80/(135) 2000 (7) *)* 9...Bg7 10.Qd2 Nf6 11.Bf4 Ne5 12.Nf3 Nh5 13.Bxe5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 15.Qe2 Qb8 16.Qc4 Qe5+ 17.Qe2 Qb8 18.Qc4 Qe5+ 19.Be2 Vajda,L (2450)-Nevednichy,V (2560) Bucuresti 81/104 2001]

8.Nc4 aiming for Nb6. **8...Bg7N** 3.64/21
[8...Nd7= 0.23/19 and Black is okay. 9.a4 Bg7 10.a5 *(10.Nf3 Nh6 11.a5 Nf5 12.Bb6 Nxb6 13.Nxb6 Rb8* Meeting Alapin-Meeting Alapin #2*)* 10...Nh6 11.Nb6 Nxb6 12.Bxb6 Qd7 13.g3 0-0 14.Bg2 Qb5 15.Qe2 Qb3 16.Qd2 Ng4 17.Nf3 Be6 18.h3 Bh6 19.Qe2 Nf6 20.Nd4 Qc4 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Qxe6 fxe6 23.Bxb7 Rab8 1-0 (35) Paessler,H (2480)-Rudolph,J (2398) 73/374 Pardubice 1998 (3)]
9.Nb6+- White is winning. **9...Ra7**
10.Nxc8 Discovered Attack **10...Qxc8**

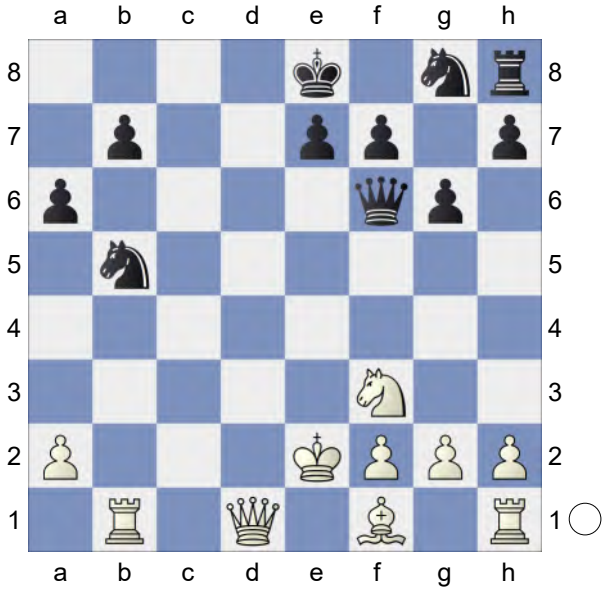


11.Bxa7 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qxc3+ 13.Ke2 Qb2+ 14.Kf3 Nc6 15.Rb1 Qf6+

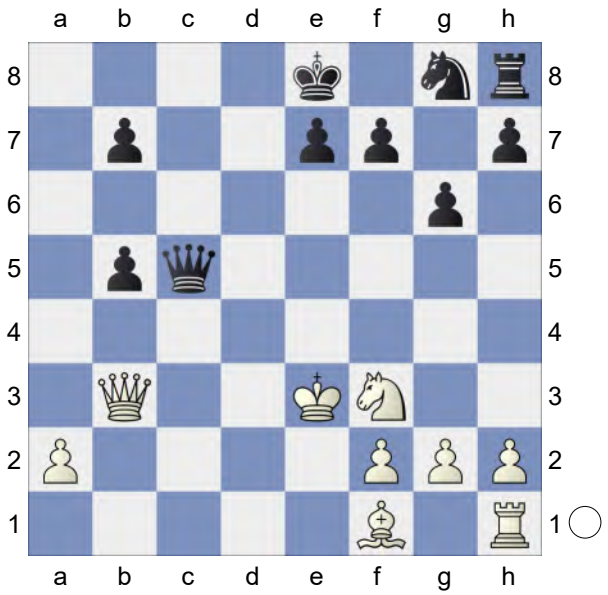
(Diagram)



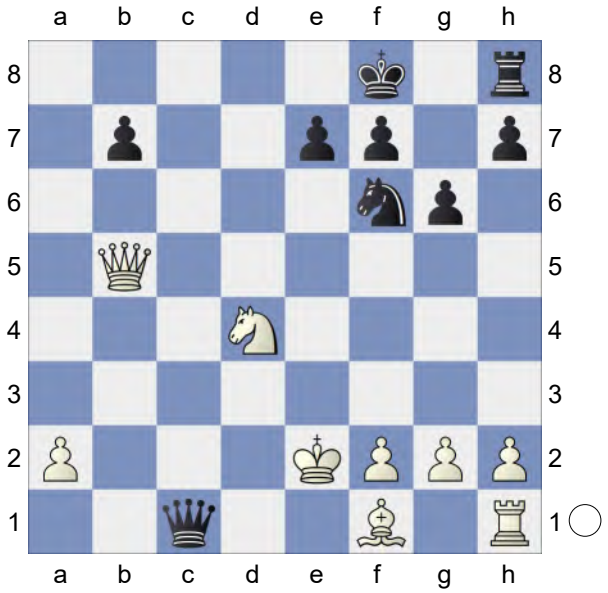
16.Ke2 Nxa7 17.Nf3
[17.Rxb7 Qe6+ 18.Kd2 Qd5+ *(18...Qxa2+? 19.Ke1+-)* 19.Bd3 Qxb7=]
17...Nb5



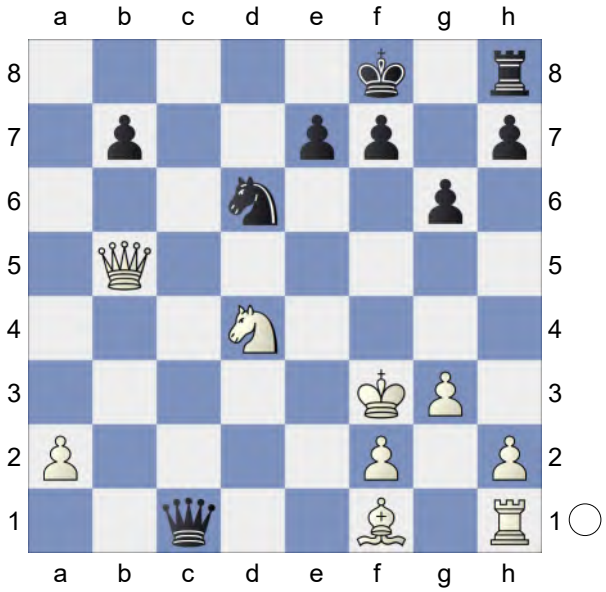
18.Rxb5 axb5 19.Qb3 1.54/21
[Better is 19.Qd4+- 2.61/21]
19...Qc6 2.73/20
[19...Kf8± 1.54/21 20.Rg1 *(20.Qxb5 Qe6+ 21.Qe5 Qxa2+ 22.Nd2 Nf6±)* 20...Kg7]
20.Ke3? 0.78/21
[20.Kd2+- 2.73/20 has better winning chances. Qd6+ 21.Bd3]
20...Qc5+ 1.39/22
[⌓20...Qc1+ 0.78/21 21.Kd3 Nf6 22.Qxb5+ Kf8]



21.Nd4 0.82/21
[White should play 21.Kd2! 1.39/22 Qxf2+ 22.Kc1]
21...Kf8 1.77/21
[21...Qe5+± 0.82/21 22.Kd3 Qd6]
22.Qxb5
[22.Bxb5 e5±]
22...Qc1+ 23.Ke2 Nf6

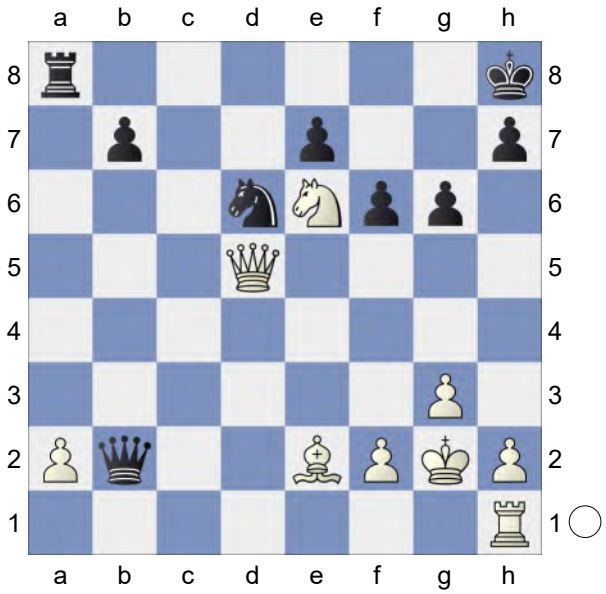


24.g3!
[24.Qxb7? too greedy. Qc4+ 25.Ke3 Qc3+ *(25...Qxa2 26.Be2±)* 26.Bd3 Ng4+ 27.Ke2 Qxd4-+]
24...Ne4? 3.26/22
[24...Qa1± 1.45/21 might work better.]
25.Kf3
[Inferior is 25.Qxb7 Qd2+ 26.Kf3 Ng5+ 27.Kg2 *(27.Kg4* leads to mate. *Qxd4+ 28.f4 Qd1+)* 27...Qxd4=]
25...Nd6

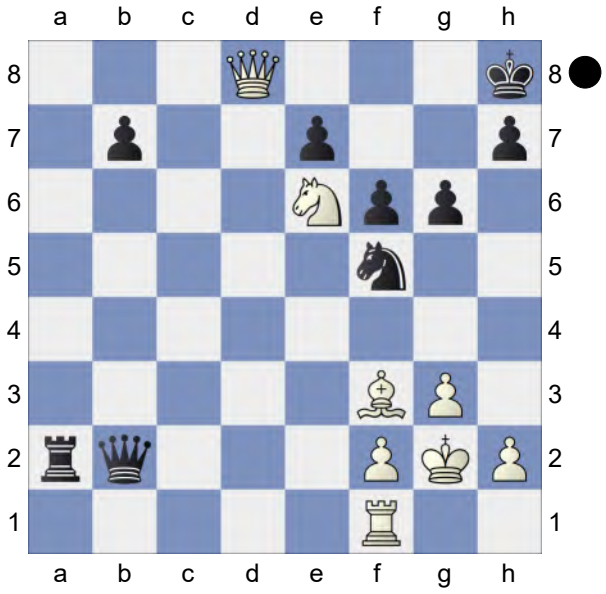


26.Qe5 f6 27.Qd5 Kg7 28.Kg2 Ra8 29.Be2 Qb2 30.Ne6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



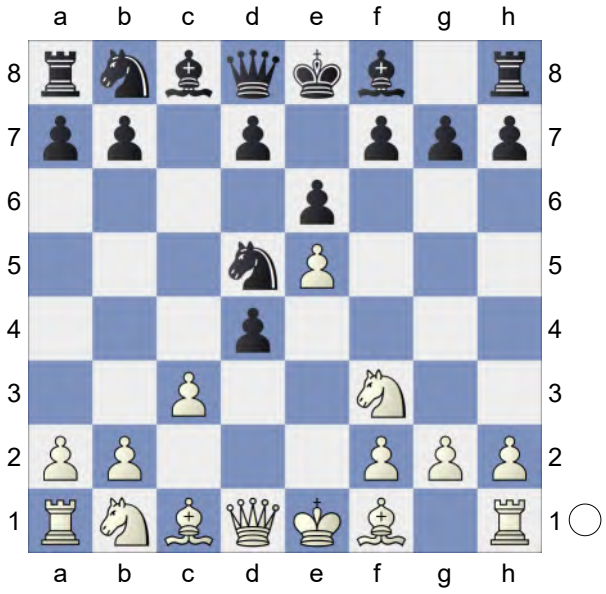
31.Bf3 Rxa2 32.Rf1 Nf5? #1/6
[32...Qd2+- 3.30/23 33.Qxd2 Rxd2]
33.Qd8#



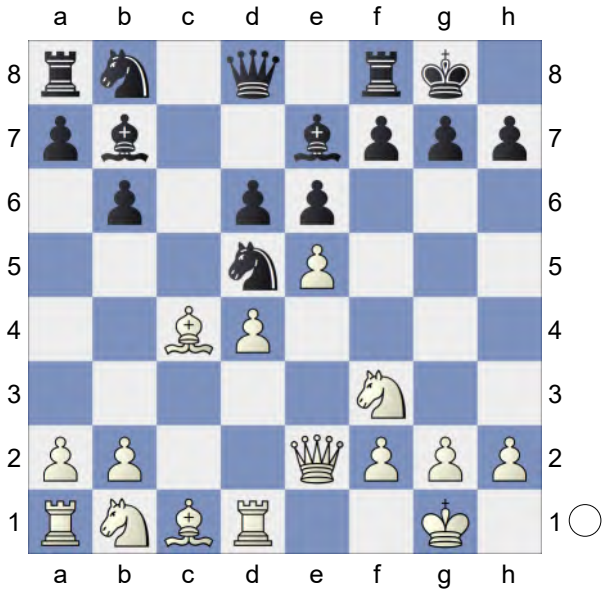
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.65
1-0

20 **B22**
□ **Torombot** **3044**
■ **Raspfish** **3042**
Rapid 03.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

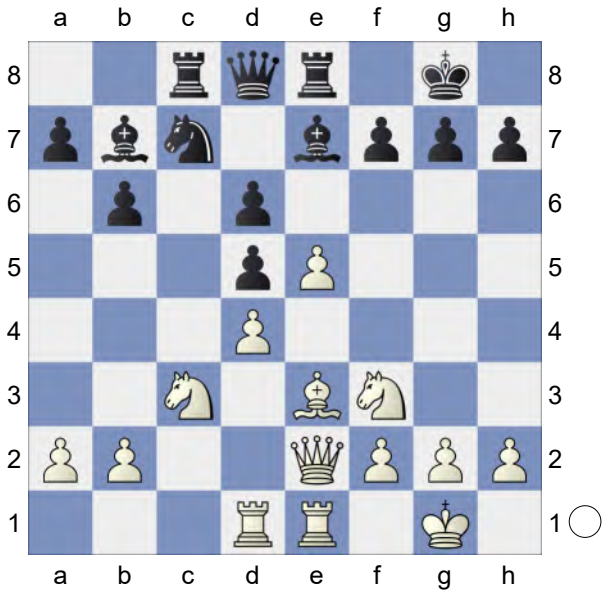
Blitz 8min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.Qe2 b6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 White has an edge.
10...Bb7

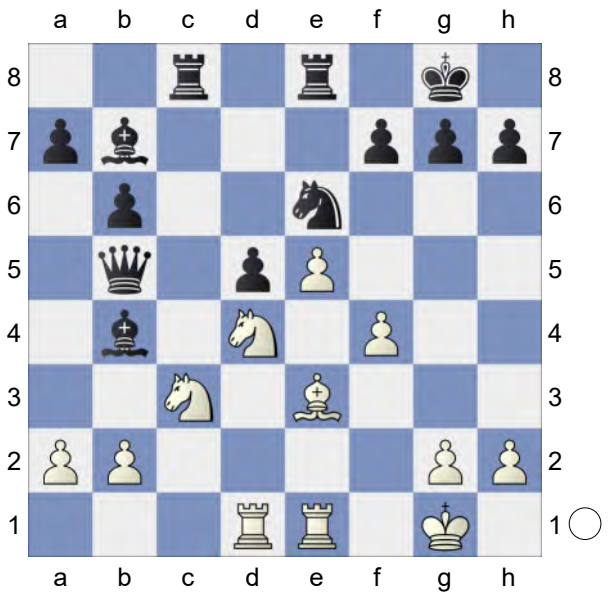


11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 Na6 13.Be3
[13.Bf4 Nc7 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qe5 Qd8 17.Re1 Ne6 18.h4 h6 19.Rac1 Ba6 20.Qxd5 Nf4 21.Qxd8 Rfxd8 22.Re3 Nd3 23.Rc2 g5 24.hxg5 hxg5 25.Nxg5 Rxd4 26.Rg3 Kf8 27.Re2 Rh4 1-0 (32) Hoffmann,A (2202)-3. ♘d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7/ 7. (2275) 38/138 Bor 1984 (9)]
13...Nc7 14.Re1N
[14.Qd3 Ne6 15.h3 22) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6-5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7. Bc4 Be7]
14...Re8 15.Rad1 Rc8

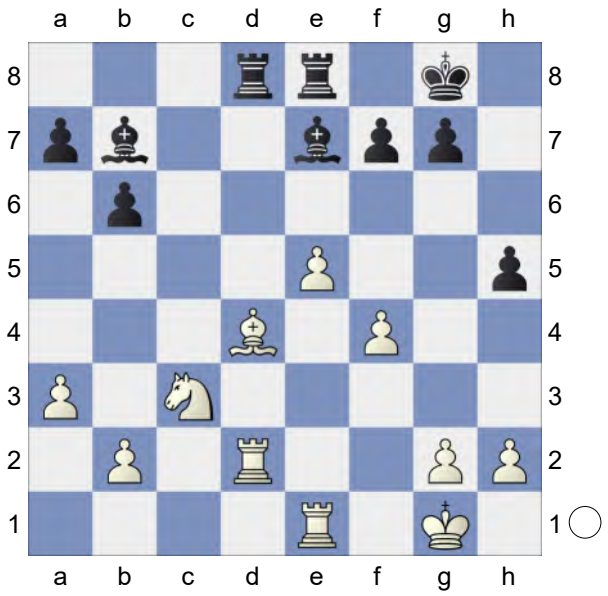


16.Qd3 dxe5 17.dxe5 Qd7 18.Nd4 Bb4 19.f4 Ne6 20.Qb5 Qxb5

(Diagram)



21.Ndxb5 d4 22.Nxd4 Nxd4 23.Bxd4 h5 24.a3 Be7 25.Rd2 Rcd8

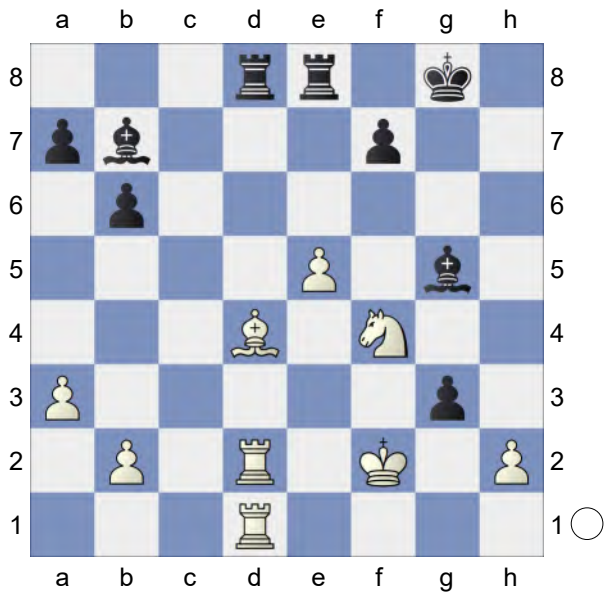


26.Kf2 g5! 27.Ne2 gxf4! 28.Nxf4 h4 0.55/20

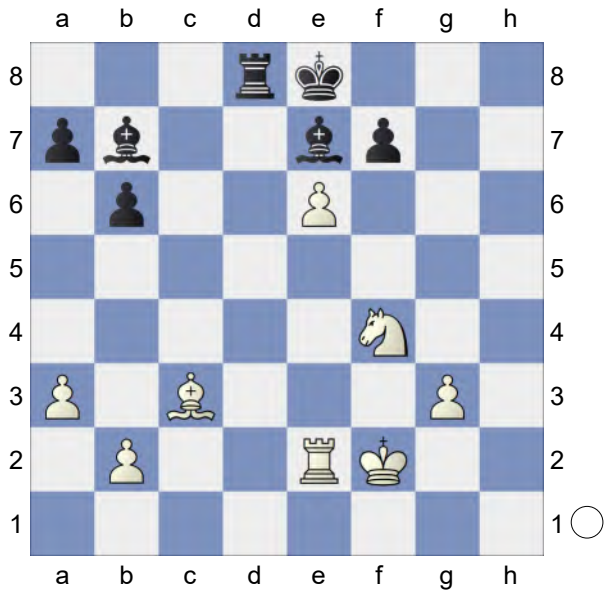
[28...Rxd4= -0.01/21 29.Rxd4 Bc5 Pin]

29.Red1± Bg5 30.g3 hxg3+

(Diagram)



31.hxg3 Kf8 32.Bc3 Rxd2+ 33.Rxd2 Rd8 Dodges Rd7 **34.Re2 Ke8 35.e6 Be7**



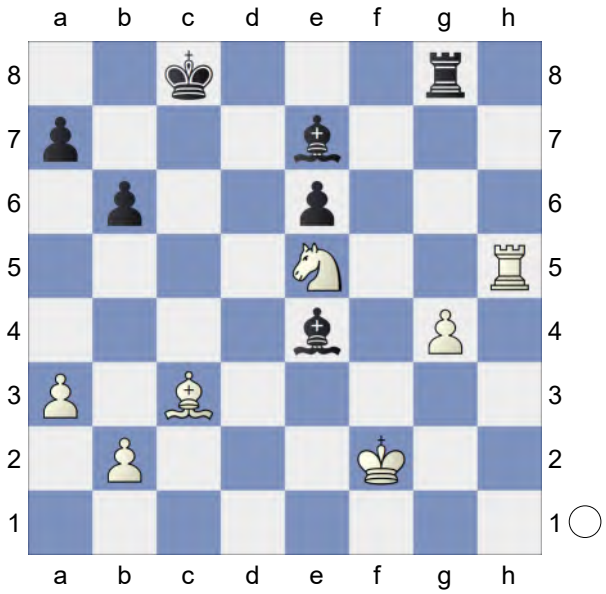
36.Re5 fxe6 37.g4 Kd7 38.Rh5

[Much worse is 38.Rxe6 Bg5 39.Bf6 Bxf4∓]

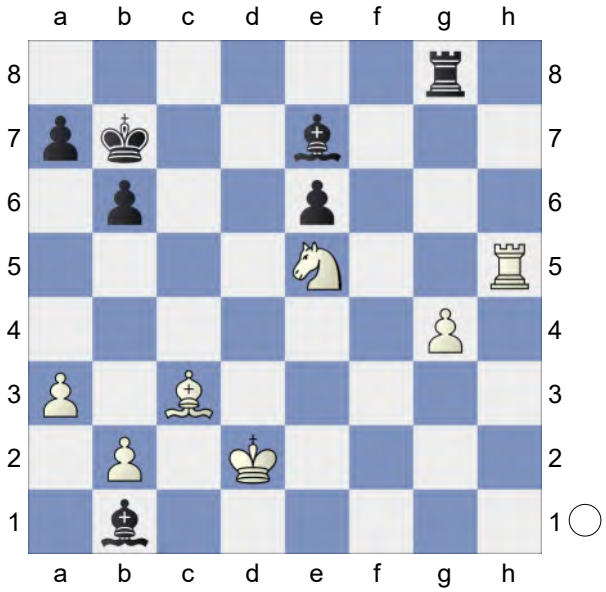
[Much weaker is 38.Nxe6 Rg8∓]

38...Rg8 The position is equal. **39.Nd3 Be4 40.Ne5+ Kc8**

(Diagram)



41.Rh6 Bd6 42.Rh4 Be7 This pair of bishops is nice. **43.Rh5 Kb7 44.Ke3 Bc2 45.Kd2 Bb1**

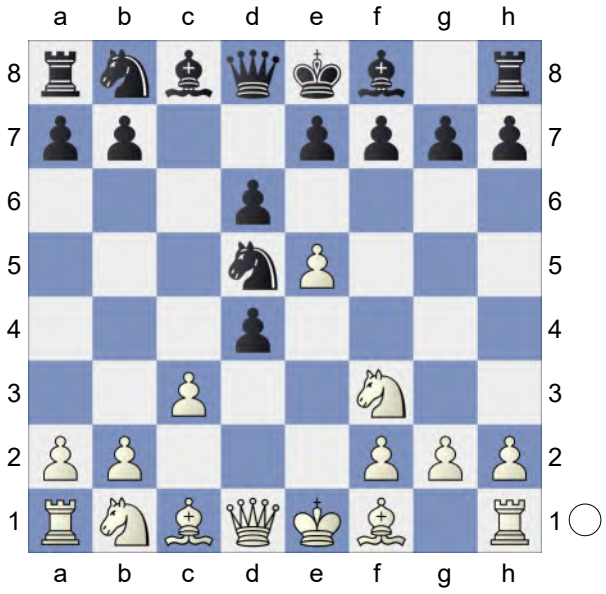


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

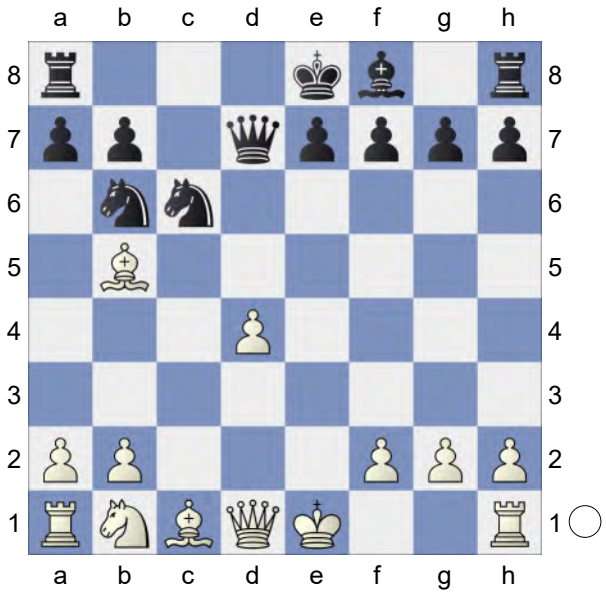
½-½

21 **B22**
□ **Raspfish** **3043**
■ **Torombot** **3060**
Rapid 19.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

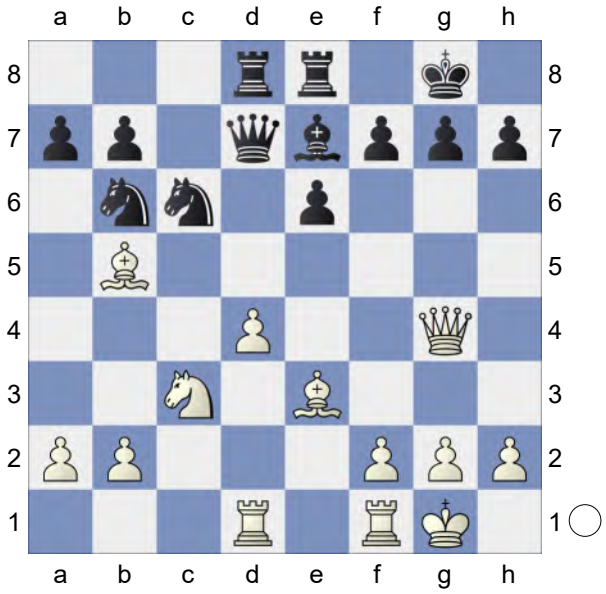
Blitz 8min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4



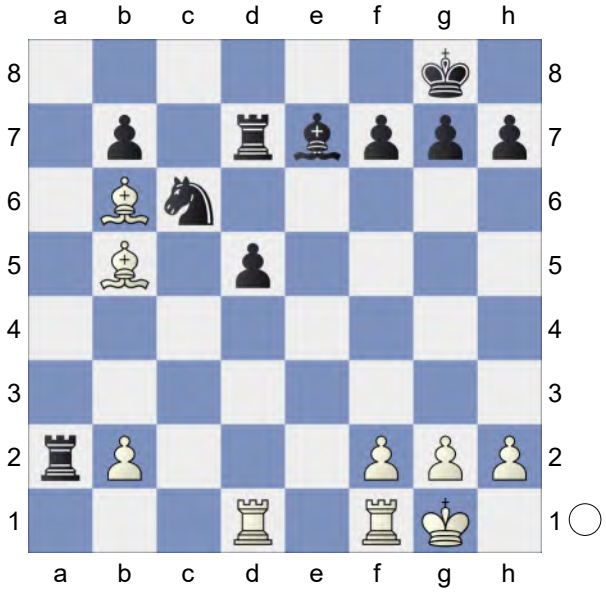
6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Be3 Be7 14.Qg4 0-0 White is slightly better.
15.Rad1 Rfe8

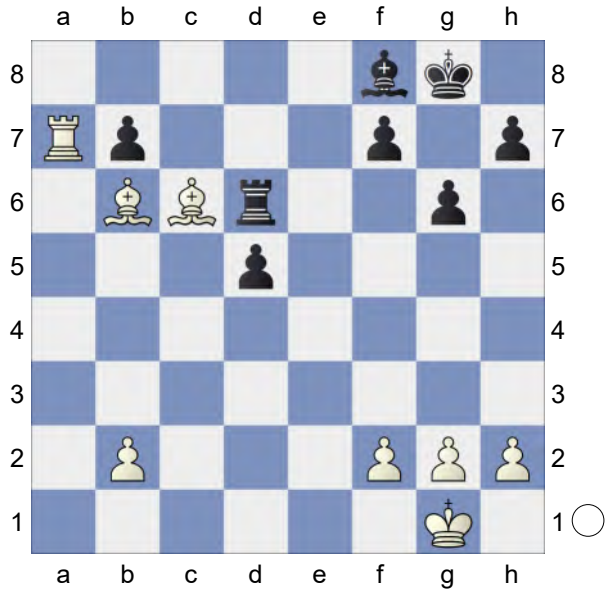


16.d5! Deflection **16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5N**
[17.Bxa7 is interesting. Qc7 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Bd4 g6 20.Rd3 Bf8 21.Be3 Re4 22.Qd1 d4 23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Bxd4 Qa6 25.Rd2 Qxa2 26.Bc3 ½-½ Bellmann,H (2401)-Wlodarczyk, R (2298) corr Pyramid 2009]
17...exd5 18.Qxd7 Rxd7 19.Bxa7! Ra8 20.Bb6 Rxa2

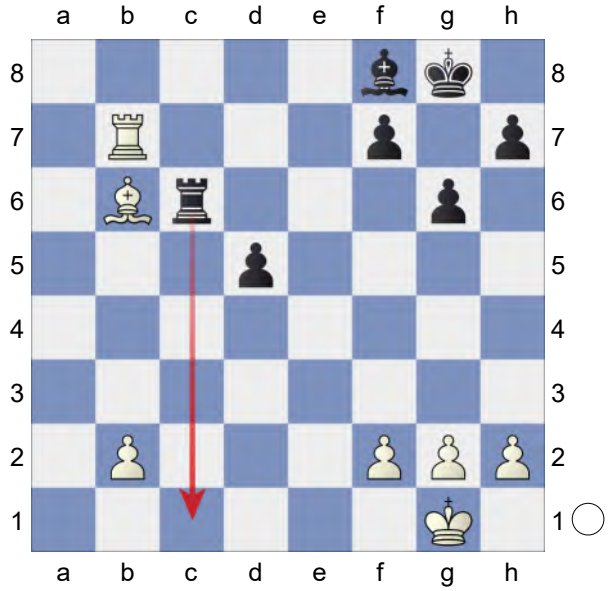


21.Ra1! Rxa1
[21...Rxb2? too greedy. 22.Bxc6

bxc6 23.Ra8+ Bf8 24.Bc5+-]
22.Rxa1 Hoping for Bxc6. **22...g6 23.Ra7 Bf8 24.Bxc6 Rd6**

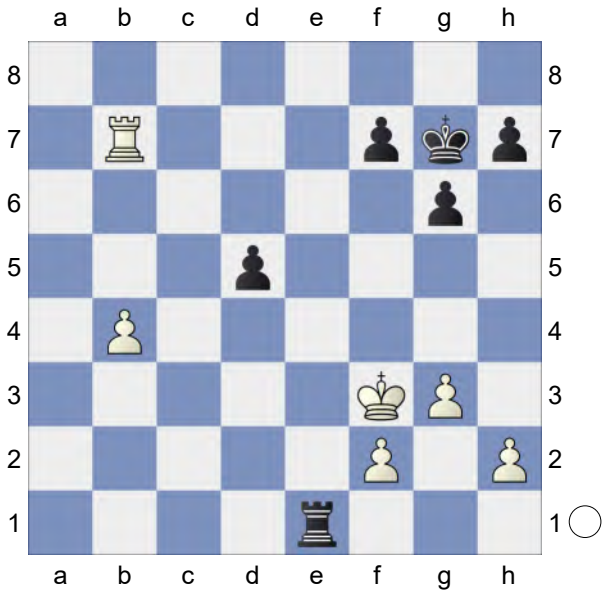


25.Rxb7 0.01/23 **Rxc6±**

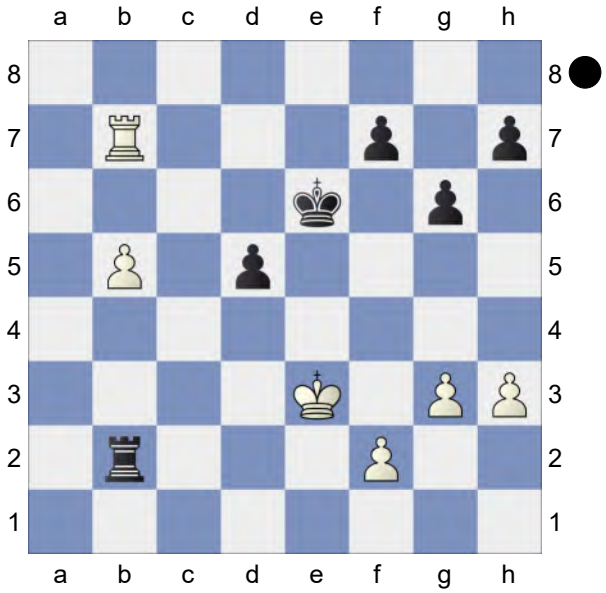


Endgame. KRB-KRB. The position is equal. **26.g3 Bc5 27.Bxc5 Rxc5=** KR-KR **28.b4 Rc1+ 29.Kg2 Kg7 30.Kf3 Re1**

(Diagram)



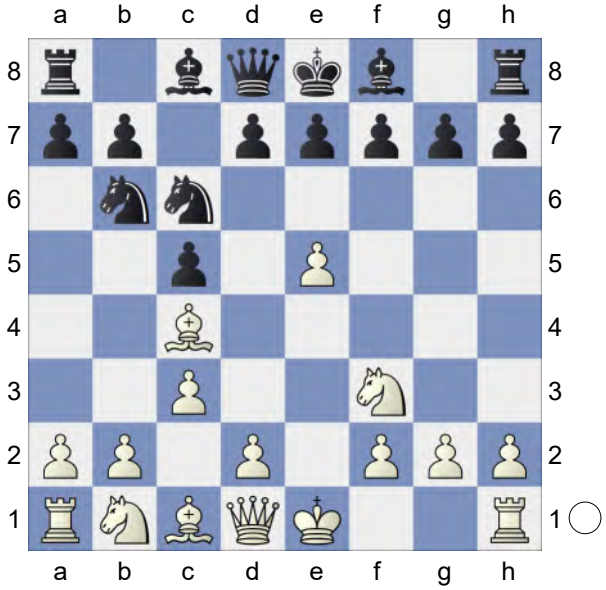
31.Rd7 Rb1 32.Rb7 Kf6 33.Ke3 Rb2 34.b5 Ke6 35.h3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

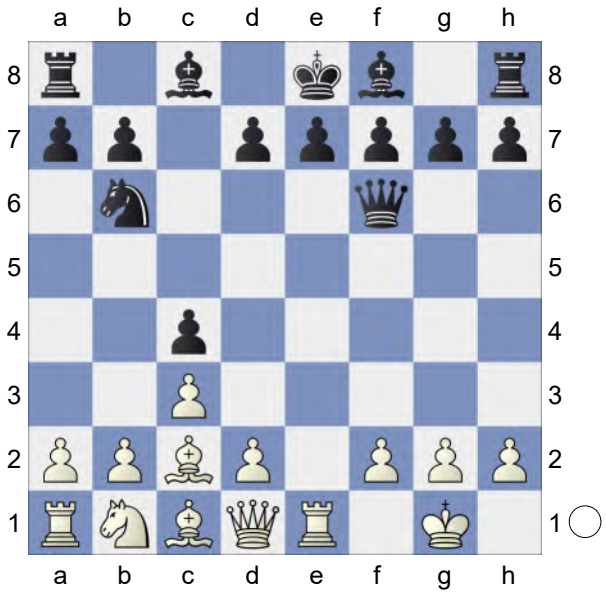
22 **B22**
□ **Torombot** **3041**
■ **Odonata** **2715**
Blitz 25.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6

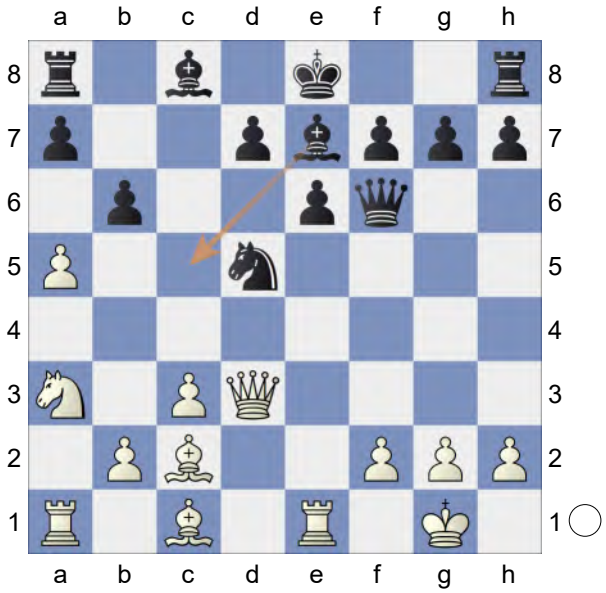


6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 Qc7 8.0-0 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Qxe5 White is slightly better. **10.Re1** Prevents d5. **10...Qf6**
[10...Qc7 11.a4 e6 12.d3 cxd3 13.Qxd3 Be7 14.Na3 a6 15.Qd4 0-0 16.Qd3 f5 17.Bb3 d5 18.Nc2 Bd6 19.Nd4 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Be5 21.Qe2 Bxd4 22.cxd4 Bd7 23.g3 Nc4 24.Bf4 Qb6 25.Bxc4 0-1 (53) Ragger,M (2631)-Narayanan,S (2657) FRA-chT Top 16 Gp Haute 2023 (2.1)]

(Diagram)



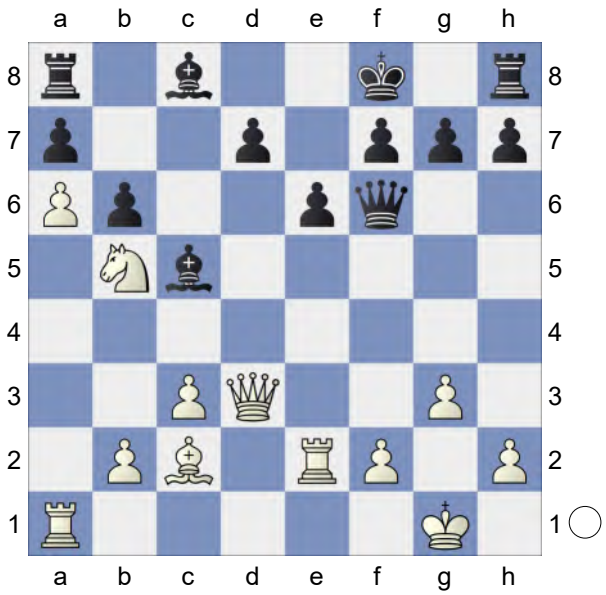
11.a4 e6 12.d4N Dodges Bc5
[12.a5!? Nd5□ 13.d3±]
[12.Qh5 Be7 13.a5 Nd5 14.Na3 Nf4 15.Qf3 Nd3 16.Qxf6 gxf6 17.Bxd3 cxd3 18.Nb5 Kd8 19.Re3 a6 20.Nd4 d5 21.Rxd3 Rg8 22.Rf3 Bd7 23.d3 Rg6 24.Be3 Kc7 25.Nb3 e5 26.Bb6+ Kc6 0-1 (48) Ripley,J (1809)-9.b3 ♖e8 10.h3_68766 (2500) GBR-ch 105th 2018 (4)]
12...cxd3 13.Qxd3 Be7 14.a5 White has compensation. **14...Nd5 15.Na3 b6**



16.a6 Nb5 is the strong threat. **16...Bc5** 1.13/19 **17.Re2±** **Kf8** **18.Nb5** **Nf4** 1.46/21

[Better is 18...g5 0.89/19]

19.Bxf4 **Qxf4** **20.g3** **Qf6**



21.b4 Black is weak on the light squares

21...Be7

[21...Bxb4? 22.Qe4 d5 23.Qxb4+ Qe7 24.Qf4+-]

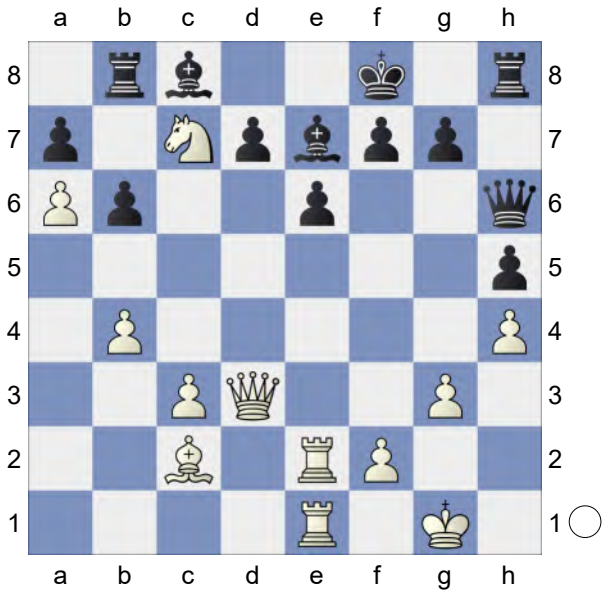
22.Nc7! **Rb8** **23.Rae1!** Threatens to win with Nd5! White is much more active. The black rooks are passive. **23...h5** 1.67/24

[23...d6± 1.02/19]

24.h4 aiming for Nd5! **24...Qh6** 1.94/22

[24...Qg6± 1.51/21]

(Diagram)

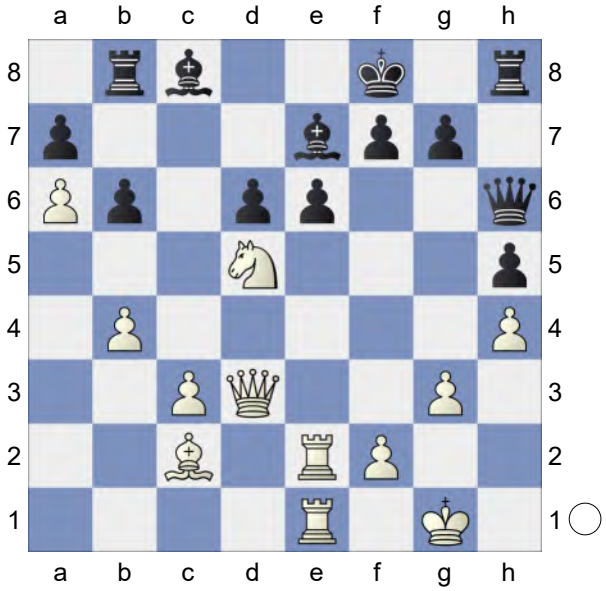


25.Nd5 1.45/20

[25.Ba4!!+- 1.94/22]

25...d6 2.77/21

[25...Bd8± 1.45/20 keeps fighting. 26.b5 Kg8]



26.Qc4→ Black is in trouble. **26...Bd8** Against Qc7

[26...exd5 27.Qc7 *(27.Rxe7 Be6+-)* 27...g5 28.Rxe7 *(28.Qxb8 Kg7+-; 28.Qxe7+ Kg8+-)* 28...Be6 29.R7xe6 *(29.Qxb8+ Kxe7 30.Qxa7+ Kf8+-)* 29...fxe6 30.Qxb8+ Kf7 31.Qxa7+

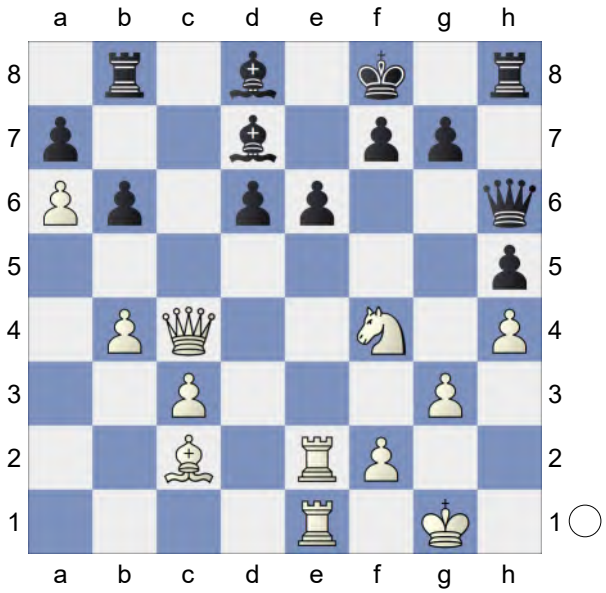
(31.Qxd6 Re8+-) 31...Kg8 32.hxg5 *(32.Qxb6 Qf6+-)*]

27.Nf4

[27.Qc6 e5 28.Nc7 g5]

27...Bd7 4.99/19

[27...Qf6 1.89/21 is tougher. 28.Ng6+ Kg8 *(28...fxg6? 29.Rxe6 Bxe6 30.Rxe6+-)* 29.Nxh8 e5]



Dodges Qc6 **28.Ng6+! fxg6**

[28...Kg8 29.Rxe6]

29.Rxe6! b5 19.30/22

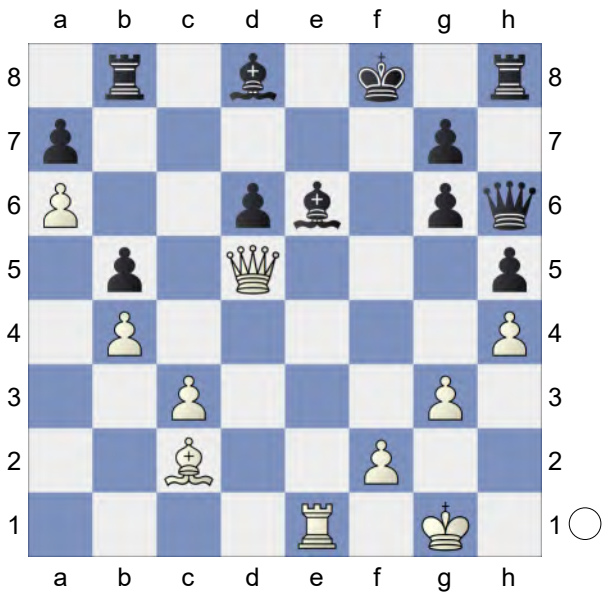
[Weaker is 29...Bxe6 30.Qxe6 Bxh4 31.Bb3 *(31.Qxd6+ Kg8+-; 31.Bxg6 Qxg6 32.Qxg6 Bf6+-)* 31...d5 32.Bxd5 *(32.gxh4 Qf4+-; 32.Qd6+ Kg8±; 32.gxh4 Qf4+-; 32.Qd6+ Kg8±)*]

[⌓29...Bf6 4.80/22 30.Rxd6 *(30.Qc7 Bxe6 31.Qxb8+ Kf7+-)* 30...b5 31.Rxf6+ *(31.Qc5 Kg8+-)* 31...gxf6]

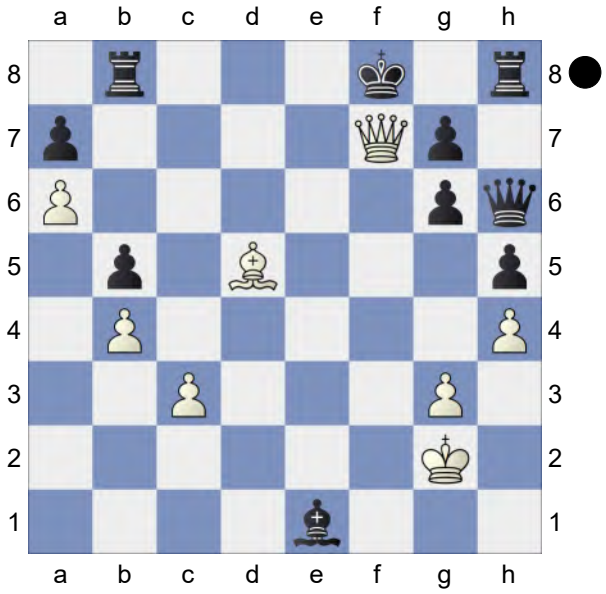
30.Qd5 White threatens Bb3! and mate.

30...Bxe6

(Diagram)



31.Qxe6 Bb6 32.Bb3 Bxf2+ 33.Kg2 d5 34.Bxd5 Bxe1 35.Qf7#



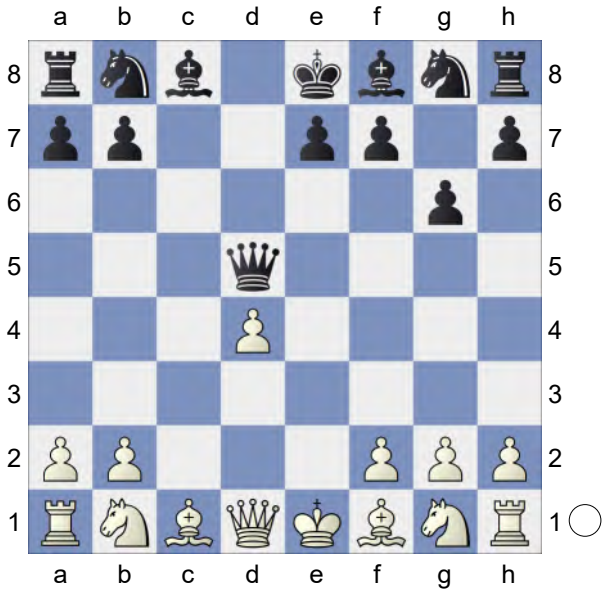
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.55

1-0

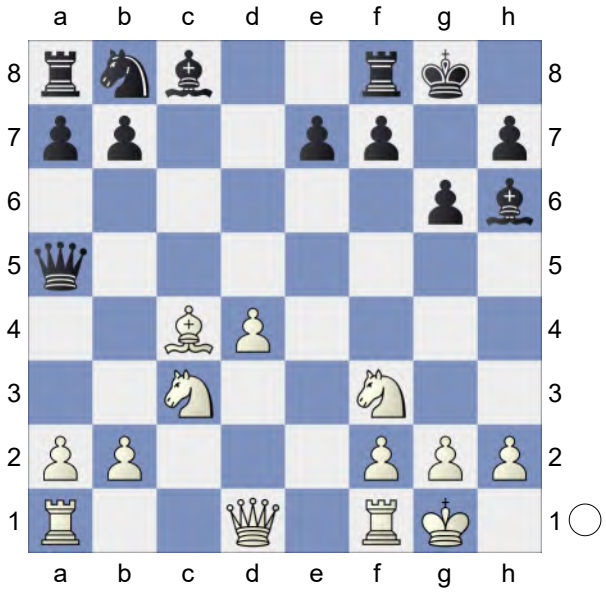
23 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3036**
■ **Randomburneraccount** **2794**
Blitz 20.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B27: Sicilian: 2 Nf3, unusual Black 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5
[5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd5 *(6...Bg7 7.Qb3 0-0 8.Be2 Na6 9.Bf3 h6 10.Nge2 Nc7 11.0-0 g5 12.h3 Rb8 13.a4 a6 14.a5 Nce8 15.Ng3 Nd6 16.Re1 Nfe8 17.Qd1 Nf5 18.Nxf5 Bxf5 19.Qe2 Bxd4 20.Qxe7 Qxe7 21.Rxe7* "-" (46) 3. ♗g5 h6 4.♗f6 ♕f6 (2420)-14. ♗f4 ♖ac8 16.c4 (2390) corr EU/C2015/pr.23 (7)*)* 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 Bg7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Nge2 0-0 12.Bd4 Bg4 13.f3 Bd7 14.0-0 Rc8 15.Rf2 Nec4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Ne4 Bf5 19.Rd1 Bxe4 20.fxe4 1-0 (33) Wittram,T (2560)-Jaivardhan,R (2615) USSR 38/(47) 1984 (5.1)]

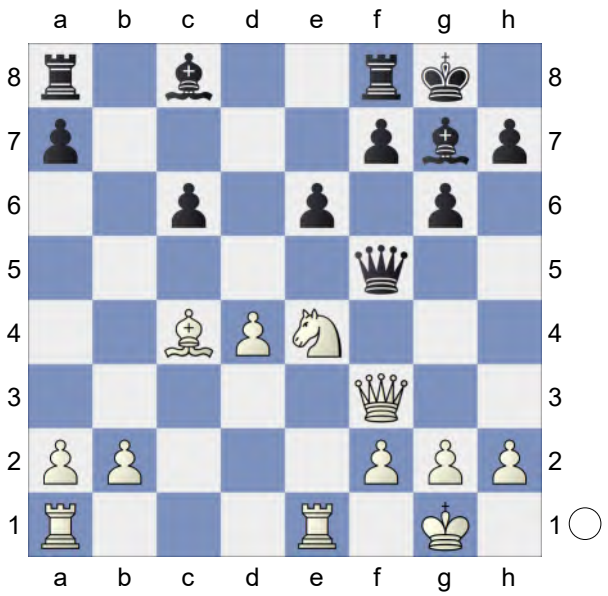


6.Nc3 Qa5N
[6...Qd8 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Bf4 Nf6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 b6 12.Qa4 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Nb4 14.Ne5 Nfd5 15.Bg3 0-1 Petrosino,G (2007)-Chiesa (2000) 2: Lloyds Bank Open 1994 (2)]
7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bc4 Nh6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxh6 White is slightly better.
10...Bxh6



11.Re1 e6 0.98/19
[11...Qd8± 0.62/19]
12.Ne5 -0.01/19
[White should try 12.d5± 0.98/19]
12...Nc6= 13.Ne4 -0.59/20
[13.d5= -0.10/19 Nxe5 14.Rxe5]
13...Bg7∓ 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qf3 -0.93/18
[15.Re3∓ -0.43/18]
15...Qf5 0.01/19
[15...Bxd4∓ -0.93/18 16.Rad1 Bxb2]

(Diagram)



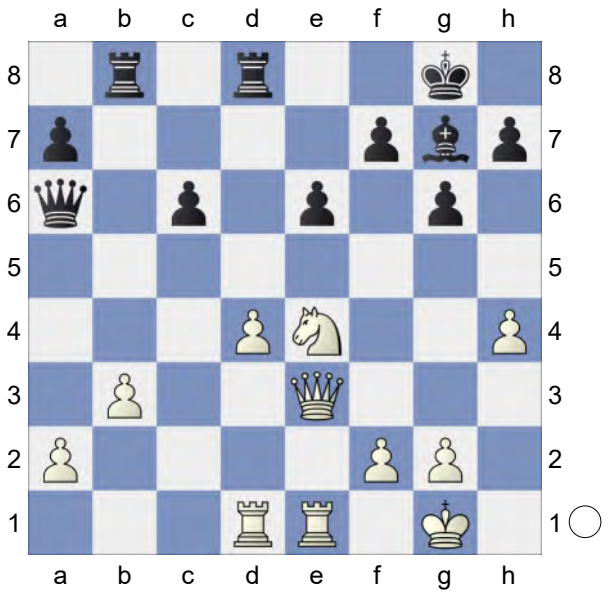
16.Qe3= Rb8 17.b3 Rd8 18.Rad1 Qa5 19.h4

[19.Qf4 is interesting. Ba6 20.Nd6 Rf8 21.Bxa6 Qxa6 22.Nxf7 Qxa2 23.Ra1]

19...Ba6

[19...Qxa2? too greedy. 20.Qg5 Bd7 21.Qc5+-]

20.Bxa6 Qxa6

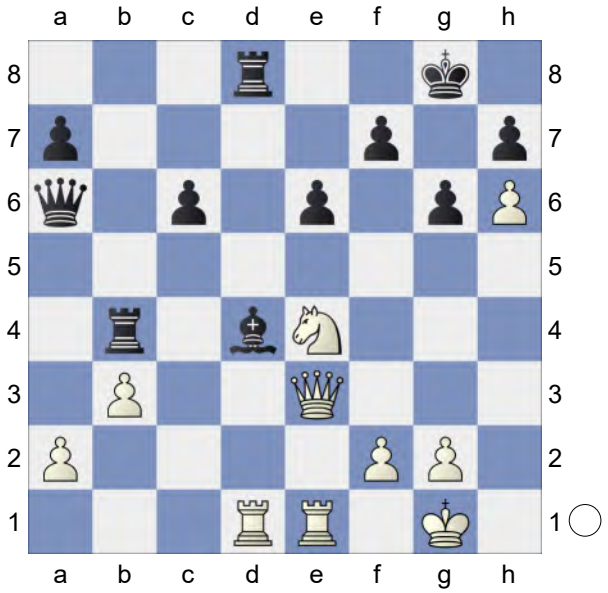


21.h5 Rb4 0.01/21

[21...Qxa2∓ -0.47/21 is more appropriate. 22.h6 Bh8 *(22...Rxb3? perishes. 23.Qg5+-)*]

22.h6 Bxd4 5.96/23

[22...Rbxd4= 0.01/22 and Black is okay. 23.Rc1 Bf8]



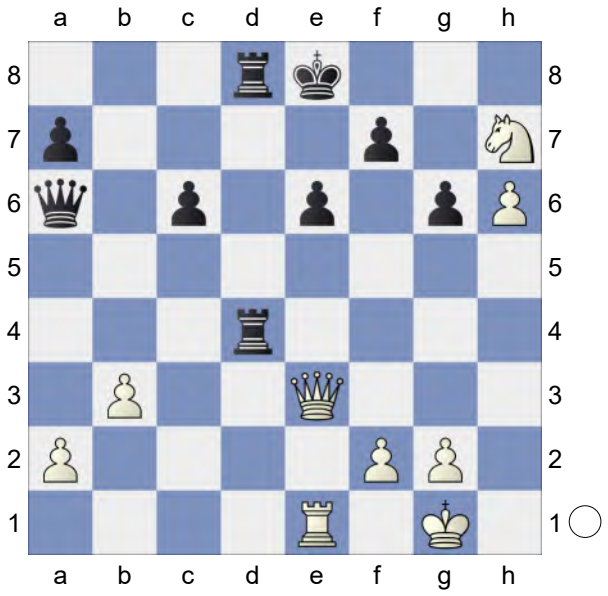
A mistake that costs the game. **23.Rxd4!** Remove Defender **23...Rbxd4**

[23...Rdxd4 24.Nf6+]

24.Nf6+ Kf8 ...Qa5 is the strong threat.

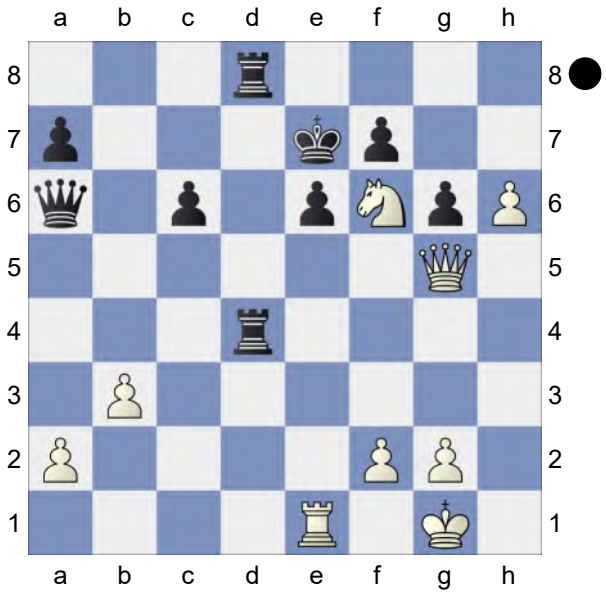
25.Nxh7+ Ke8 5.74/20

[⌓25...Ke7 3.89/22]



26.Nf6++- White is clearly winning.

26...Ke7 27.Qg5

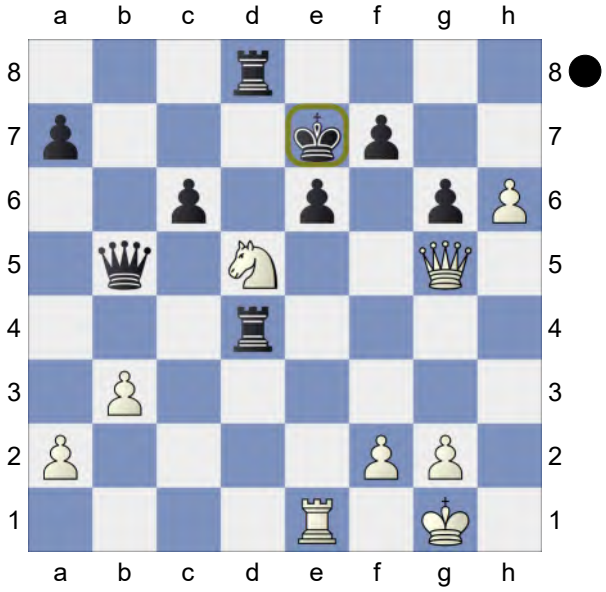


White threatens Nd5+ and mate.

27...Qb5 23.84/21

[⌓27...Qa3 5.19/20 28.h7 Rh8 29.Nd5+ Kf8]

28.Nd5+



Discovered Attack (Double Check), Deflection.

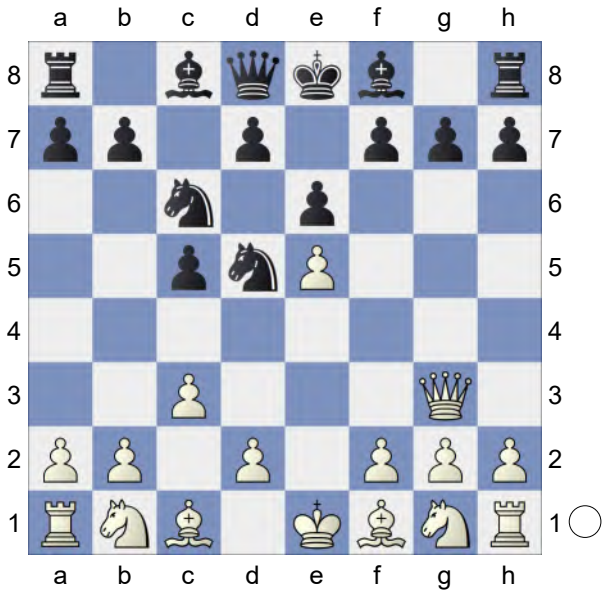
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.69

1-0

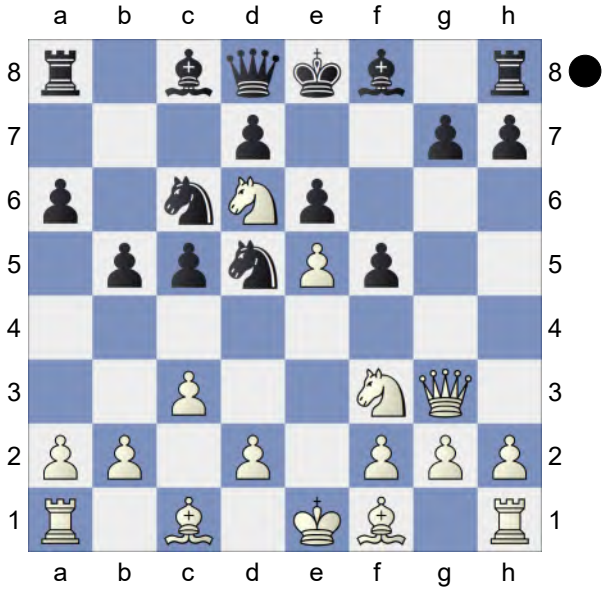
24 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3035**
■ **Ggs2000** **2838**
Blitz 30.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

4...e6 5.Qg3 Nc6

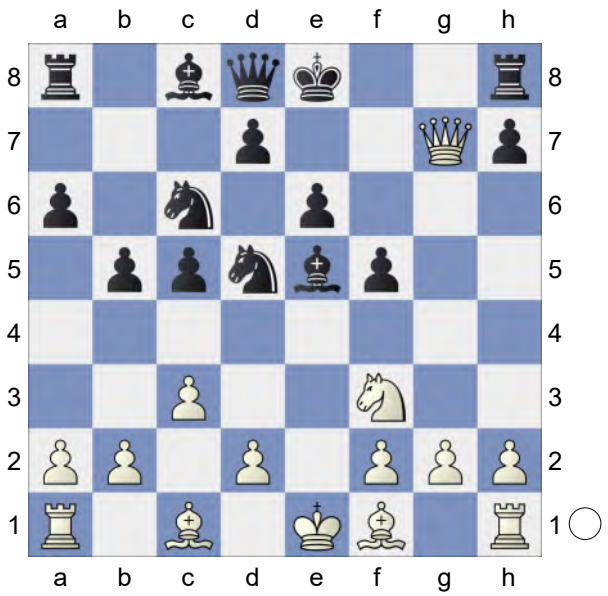


6.Nf3 f5 0.44/17
[Black should try 6...h5= -0.12/16]
7.Na3 a6 8.Nc4 White is slightly better.
8...b5 9.Nd6+

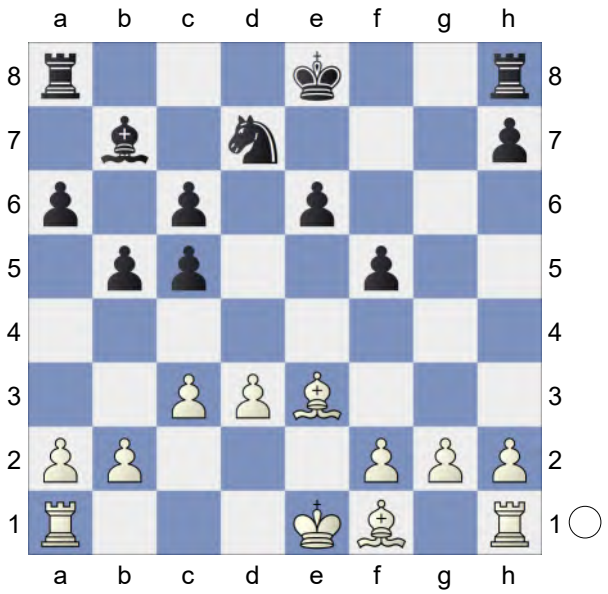


Overworked Piece **9...Bxd6 10.Qxg7 Bxe5**

(Diagram)

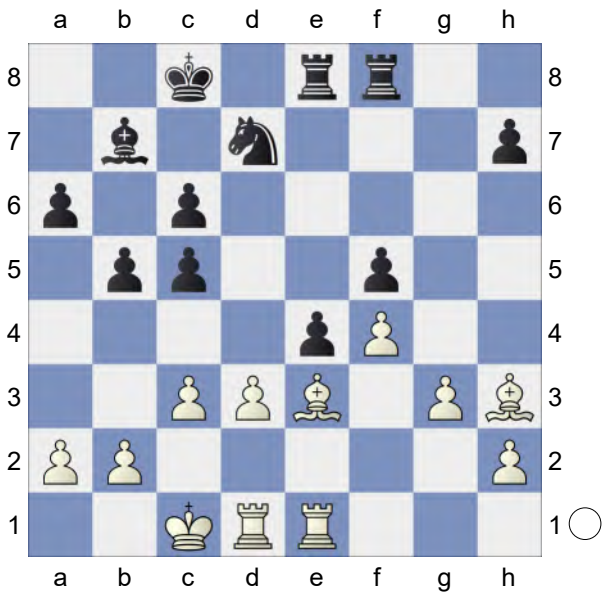


11.Nxe5 Qf6 Against Qf7+ **12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.Nxc6 dxc6 14.d3** Black is now going downhill. **14...Bb7 15.Be3 Nd7**

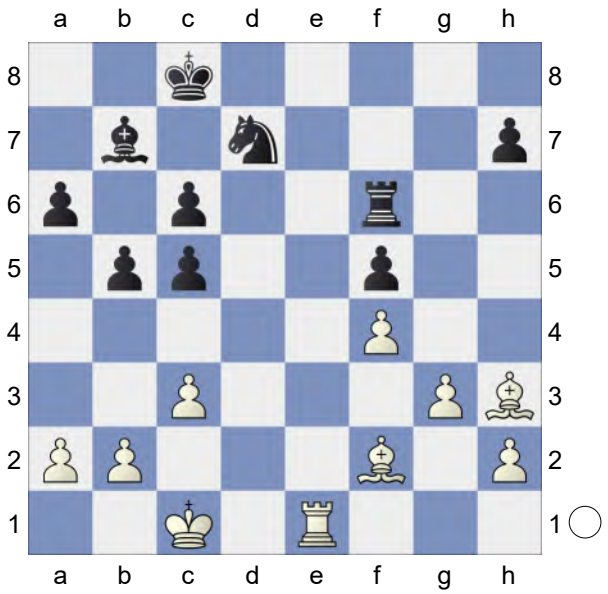


16.0-0-0 0-0-0 17.g3 e5 2.15/21
[17...b4± 1.00/18 18.Kc2 a5]
18.Bh3+- Rhf8 2.39/20
[18...Rdf8 1.96/19 was called for. 19.f4 exf4]
19.f4 Rde8 20.Rhe1 e4

(Diagram)

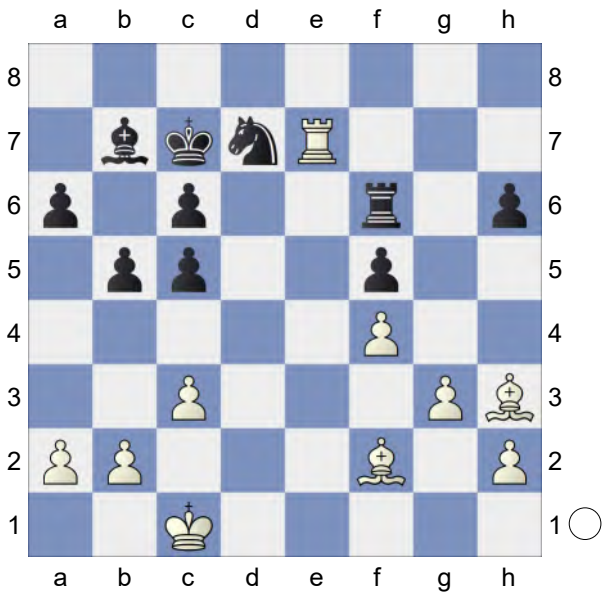


21.dxe4 Rxe4 22.Bf2 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 aiming for Re7. **23...Rf6?** 3.80/25
[23...Kd8 1.72/21 24.Re6 Rf7]

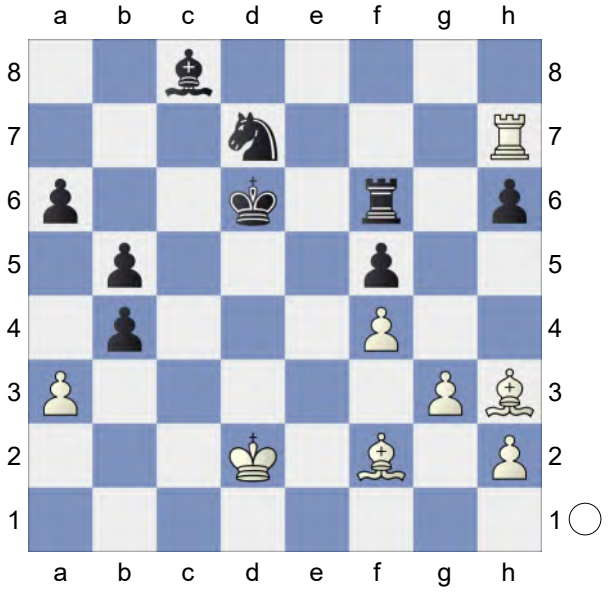


24.Re8+ Kc7 25.Re7 Repels Rf7
25...h6

(Diagram)

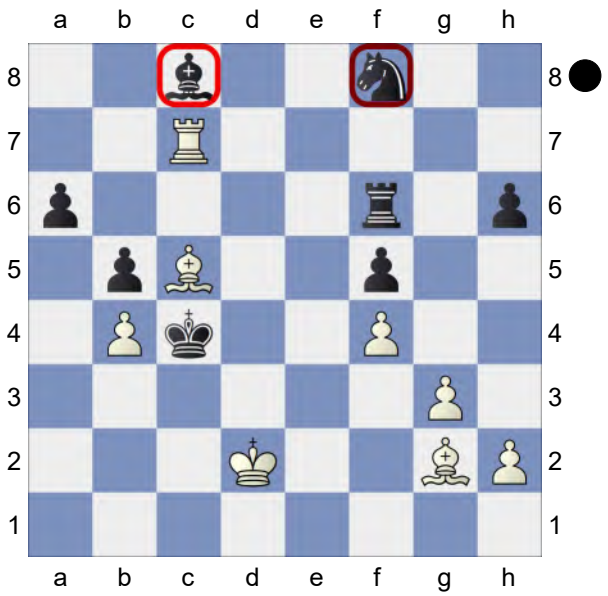


26.Kd2 2.25/22
[Not 26.Bxc5 Kd8±]
[⌓26.Rg7 3.87/22]
26...Kd6 27.Rh7 Bc8 28.b4 cxb4
29.cxb4 c5 30.a3 cxb4



31.axb4 Nf8? 8.54/25
[31...Kd5 2.84/23 32.Kd3 Ke6]
32.Bc5+ White is clearly winning.
32...Kd5 33.Bg2+ Kc4 34.Rc7

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)
1-0

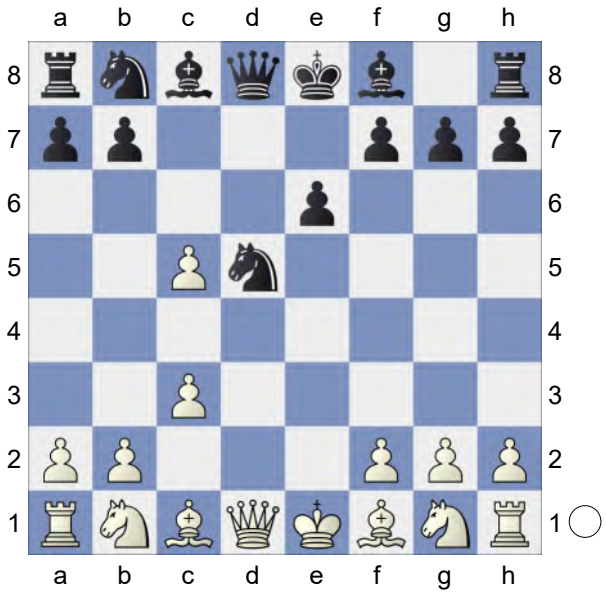
25 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3034**
■ **Licg** **2739**
Blitz 27.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.d4 Nxd5

[4...cxd4 5.Qa4+ *(5.cxd4 Nxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Bb4 9.Bd2 0-0 10.0-0 Ba5 11.a3 a6 12.Re1 Bc7 13.Bc2 Nf4 14.Be3 b5 15.Qd2 Nd5 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Ne4 Bb7 19.Rad1 Rc8* 0-1 (31) Von Herman,B (1911)-Dolzhikova,K (2321) GER-ch Blitz (Women) 2023 (14)*)* 5...Nbd7 6.Qxd4 Qb6 7.Qc4 Qa5 8.Na3 a6 9.Nf3 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Nxd5 11.Bc4 e6 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Nc2 f6 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.0-0-0 Be6 16.Rhe1 0-0-0 17.Nfd4 Bf7 18.f3 h5 19.Nf5 1-0 (53) Tiviakov,S (2669)-Van der Wiel,J (2511) ch Hilversum NED 2006 (6)]

5.dxc5 e6

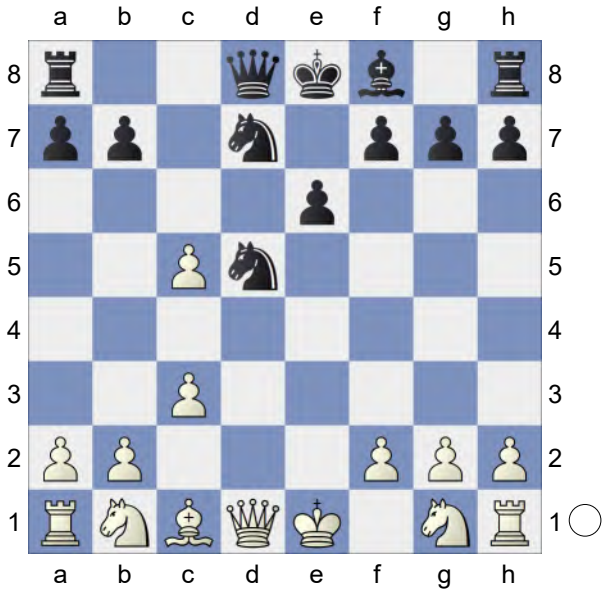


6.Bb5+N

[6.b4 a5 7.Bc4 axb4 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 *(8...exd5 9.cxb4 Nc6 10.b5 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Bxc5 12.Qxa5 Nxa5 13.Ne2 Nb3* 0-1 Virgillito,C (2215)-Needleman,G (2406) Mar del Plata op 39th 2008 (3) *)* 9.Qxd5 exd5 10.cxb4 Nc6 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Kd1 Nb3 White goes for-piece-play #2 I hate the Alapin (2. c3)]

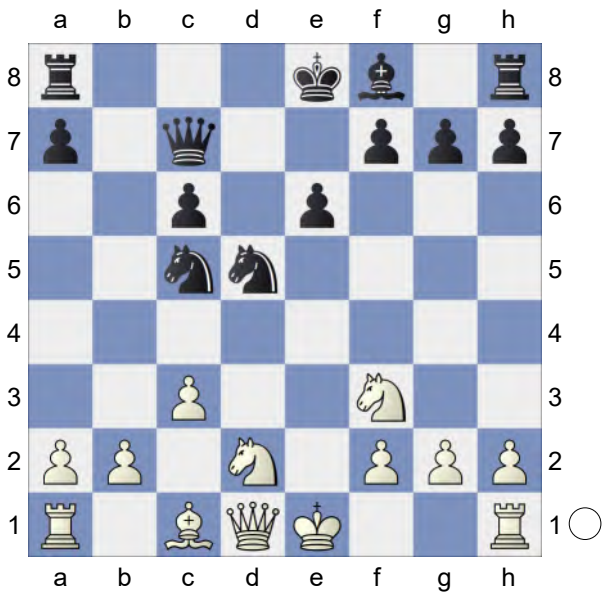
[6.Nf3 Bxc5 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 h6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.a3 b6 12.Nbd2 Bb7 13.Ne4 Be7 14.c4 Nf4 15.Bf1 Rad8 16.Be3 Ng6 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Re1 Nge5 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Ng3 Bf6 White goes for-piece-play #3 I hate the Alapin (2. c3)]

6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7

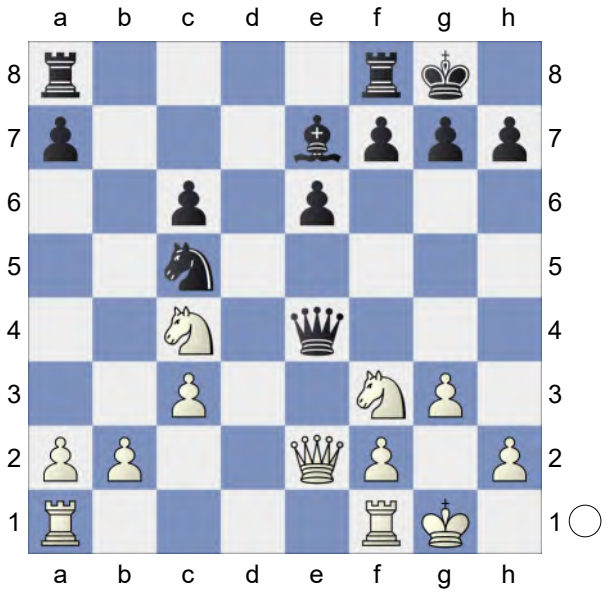


8.c6! The position is equal. **8...bxc6 9.Nf3 Qc7 10.Nbd2 Nc5**

(Diagram)

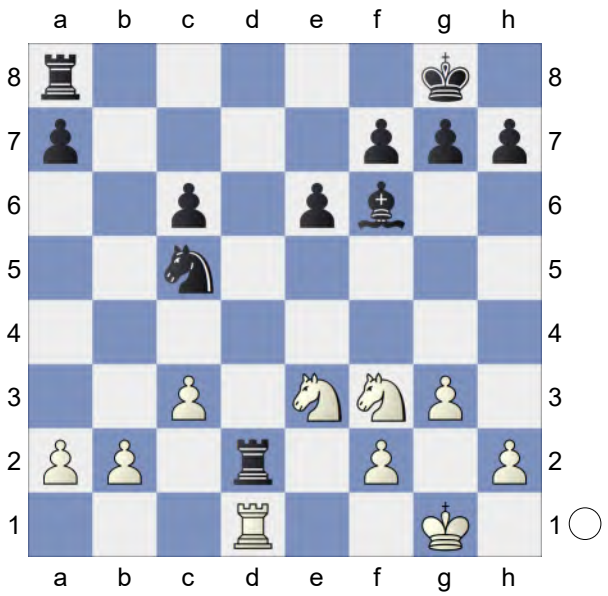


11.0-0 Be7 12.Nc4 0-0 13.Qe2 Nf4 0.79/22
[13...Rad8= 0.02/16]
14.Bxf4± Qxf4 15.g3 0.35/21
[White should play 15.Nfe5± 0.88/20]
15...Qe4

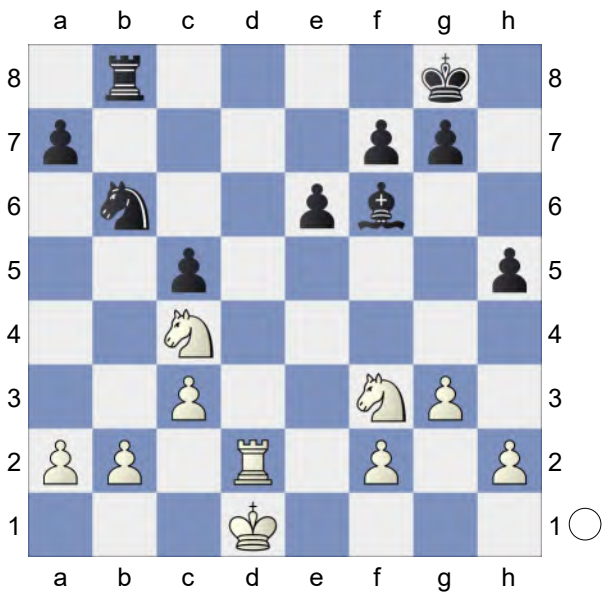


16.Rfe1 Qxe2 17.Rxe2 Bf6 18.Rd1 Rfd8 19.Red2 Rd5 20.Ne3 A dynamic duo of knights. **20...Rxd2**

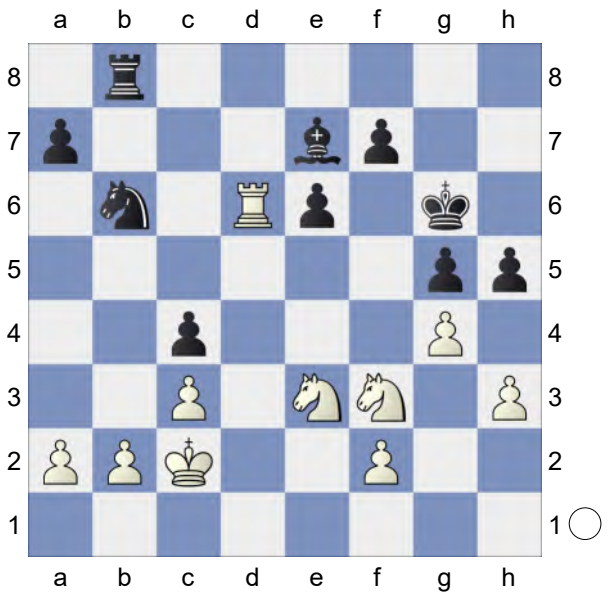
(Diagram)



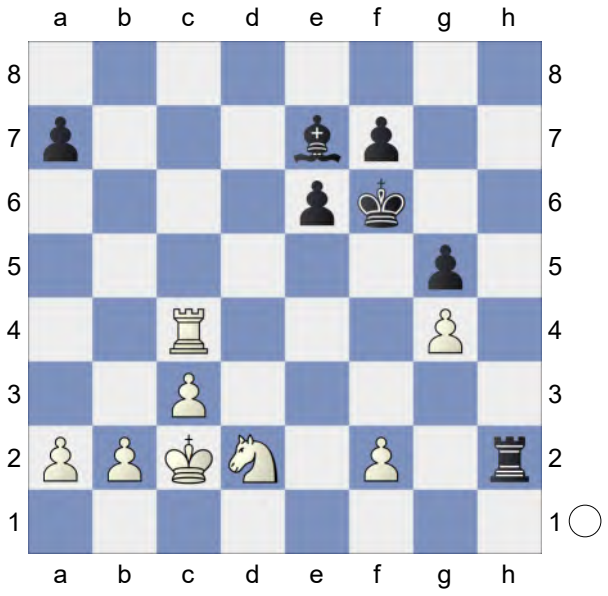
21.Rxd2 Rb8 22.Kf1 0.25/21
[22.Nc4± 0.61/21]
22...h5 23.Nc4 Na4 24.Ke2 c5 25.Kd1 Nb6



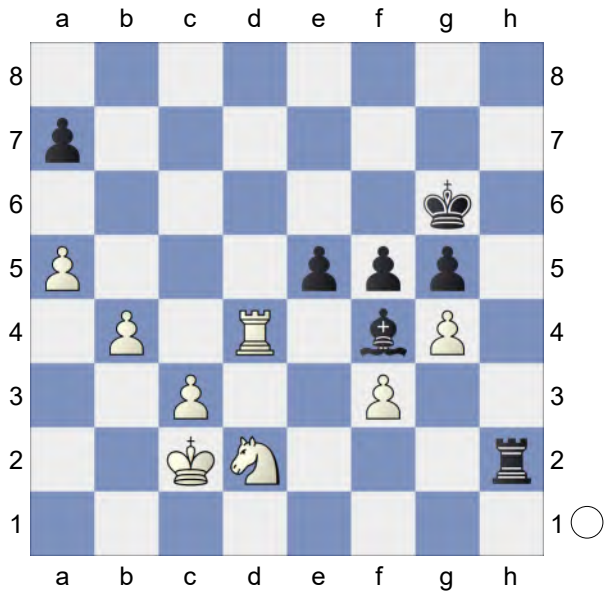
26.Ne3 0.19/20
[26.Nfe5± 0.73/20]
26...c4 27.Kc2 g5 28.h3 0.01/20
[28.Nd4± 0.37/19 feels stronger.]
28...Kg7 29.g4 Kg6 30.Rd6 Be7? 1.64/24
[30...Rc8= -0.04/19 and Black is okay.]



31.Rc6+- hxg4 32.hxg4 Kf6 33.Nxc4 Nxc4 34.Rxc4 Endgame. KRB-KRN
34...Rh8 2.11/20
[34...Bd8 1.74/21 might work better. 35.Rc5 Bb6 36.Rxg5 Bxf2]
35.Nd2 Rh2

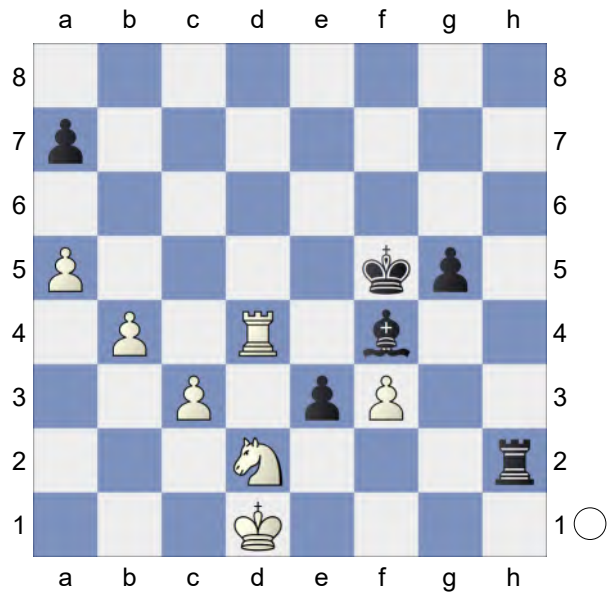


36.b4 0.68/20
[36.Kd3± 1.48/21]
36...Kg6? 2.32/23
[36...Rxf2± 0.68/20 37.Rc7 Rf4]
37.f3 1.06/22
[37.Rc7+- 2.32/23 is more deadly. Bd6 38.Rxa7 Rxf2 39.a4]
37...Bd6± 38.a4 0.15/24
[38.Rd4!± 1.36/22 Bf4 39.c4]
38...Bf4= 39.Rd4 f5 40.a5 0.01/21
[40.gxf5+± 0.37/21 Kxf5 41.c4]
40...e5

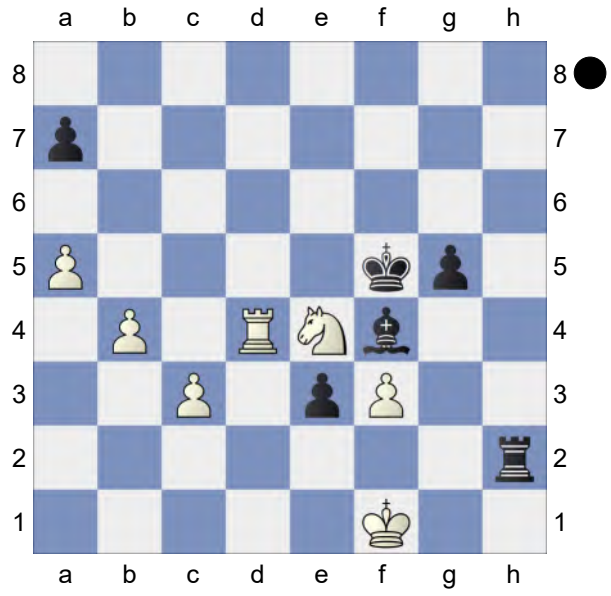


41.Rd6+ Deflection **41...Kf7 42.Kd1** -0.55/23
[42.gxf5? e4 43.Rd7+ Ke8-+]
[42.Rd5= -0.01/23]
42...e4!∓ 43.Rd7+? -3.23/24
[43.Rd5!= -0.01/21 and White has nothing to worry. Ke6 *(43...fxg4 44.fxg4 Rh1+ 45.Ke2=)* 44.c4 Rh1+ *(44...Rxd2+ 45.Rxd2 exf3 46.gxf5+ Kxf5 47.b5=)* 45.Ke2 Rh2+ 46.Kd1 Rxd2+ 47.Rxd2 exf3 *(47...Bxd2? 48.Kxd2 exf3 49.gxf5+ Kxf5 50.b5+-)* 48.gxf5+ Kxf5 49.b5]
43...Ke6 -1.69/23
[⌓43...Ke8 -3.23/24 44.Rd5 e3]
44.Rd4-+ Hoping for gxf5+. **44...e3**
[44...Rxd2+? 45.Rxd2 exf3 *(45...Bxd2? 46.Kxd2 fxg4 47.fxg4+-)* 46.Rd3+- *(46.gxf5+ Kxf5 47.Rd5+ Ke4=)*]
45.gxf5+ Kxf5

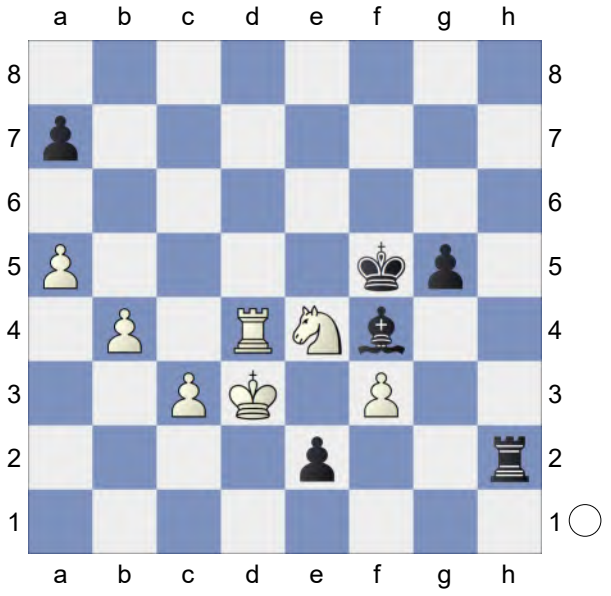
(Diagram)



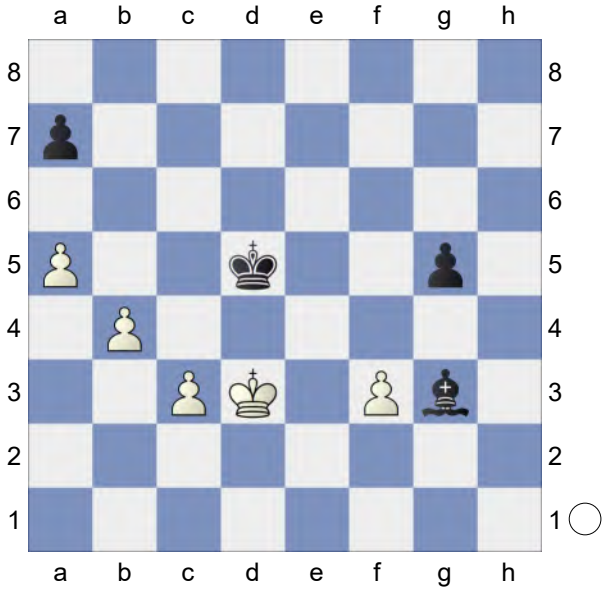
...e2+ is the strong threat. **46.Ne4 Rh1+?** -0.01/22
[46...g4!-+ -1.69/23 47.fxg4+ Kxg4]
47.Ke2= Rh2+ 48.Kf1 -1.50/23
[48.Kd1!= -0.01/20 was the only way to keep the balance.]



48...Rh1+ -0.01/21
[Black should try 48...g4!∓ -1.50/23 49.Nd6+ *(49.fxg4+? Kxg4 50.Ke1 Kf3-+)* 49...Bxd6 50.fxg4+ Ke6 *(50...Ke5 51.Rd3∓)* 51.Re4+ Be5 52.Rxe3 Kd5 53.Rd3+ Ke4]
49.Ke2 Rh2+ 50.Kd3? -7.55/24
[50.Kd1= 0.01/32]
50...e2-+

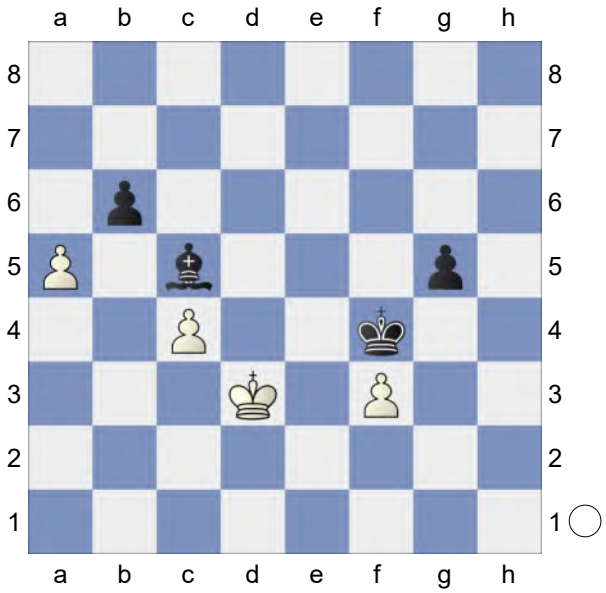


51.Nd6+ Bxd6 KRB-KR **52.Re4 Bg3 53.Rxe2 Rxe2 54.Kxe2** KB-KP **54...Ke5 55.Kd3 Kd5**



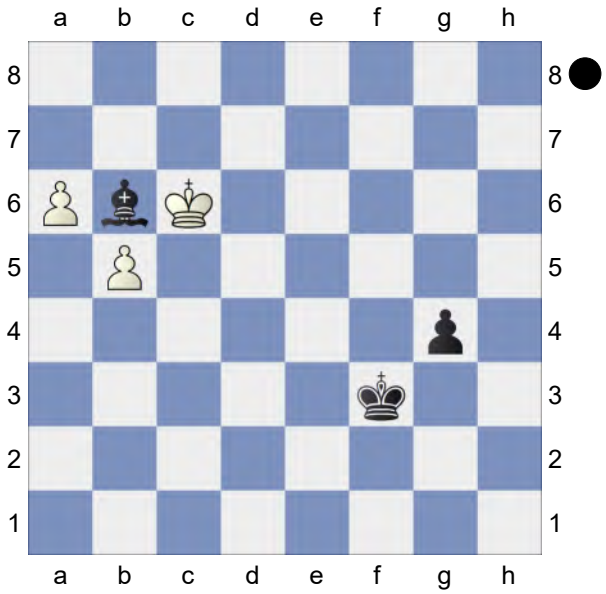
56.c4+ Ke5 57.b5 Bf2 White must now prevent ...Kf4. **58.Ke2 Bc5 59.Kd3 Kf4 60.b6 axb6** -4.73/24
[⌓60...Kxf3 -#18/23 61.b7 Bd6 62.c5 Bb8 *(62...Bxc5? 63.b8Q+-; 62...Bc7 63.Kd4 g4 64.Kd5 g3 65.Kc6 Bf4 66.Kd5 g2 67.Kd4 g1Q+*

68.Kc4 Qg8+ 69.Kd4 Qb3 70.c6 a6 71.b8B Bxb8 72.c7 Bxc7 73.Kc5 Qb5+ 74.Kd4 Be5#) 63.c6 g4 64.Kc4 g3 65.Kd4 g2 66.Kc4 g1Q *(66...g1R? 67.Kd5-+)* 67.c7 Bxc7 68.b8B Bxb8 69.Kd5 Qg8+ 70.Kc5 Qb3 71.Kc6 Ke4 72.Kd7 Qf7+ 73.Kd8 a6 74.Kc8 Qc7#]

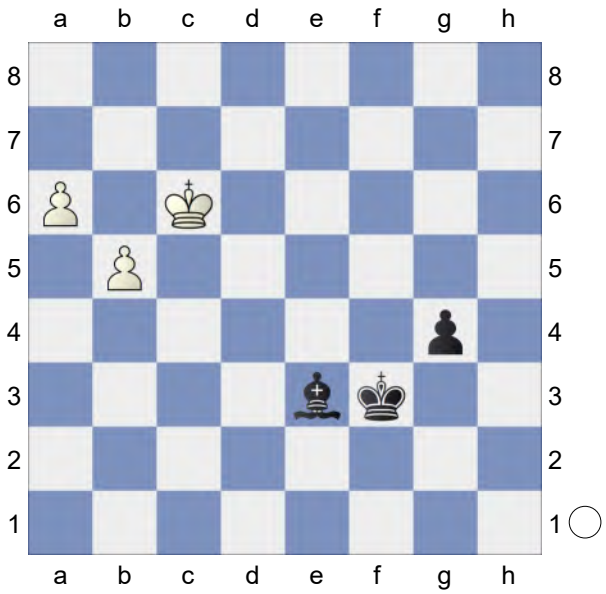


KB-K3P **61.a6 b5!**
[61...Kxf3? perishes. 62.a7 Kf4 63.a8Q+- *(63.a8B Ke5=)*]
62.cxb5 Kxf3? -1.68/24 KB-KPP
[62...Ke5 -5.95/29 63.Kc3 Kd5]
63.Kc4 Bb6 64.Kd5 Strongly threatening Kc6. **64...g4 65.Kc6**

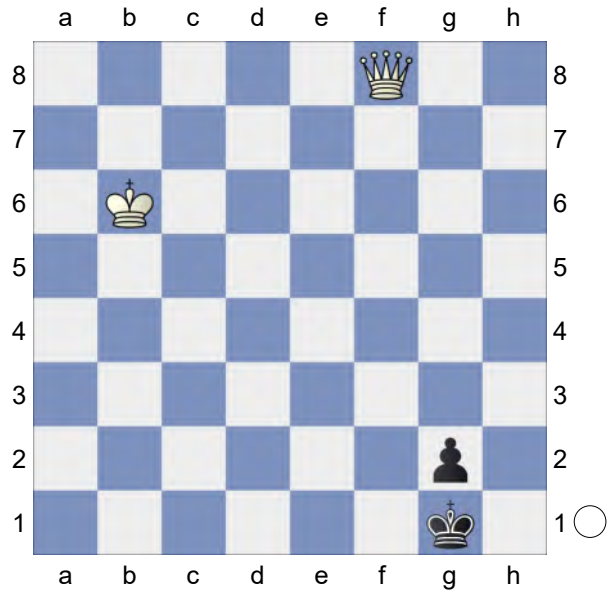
(Diagram)



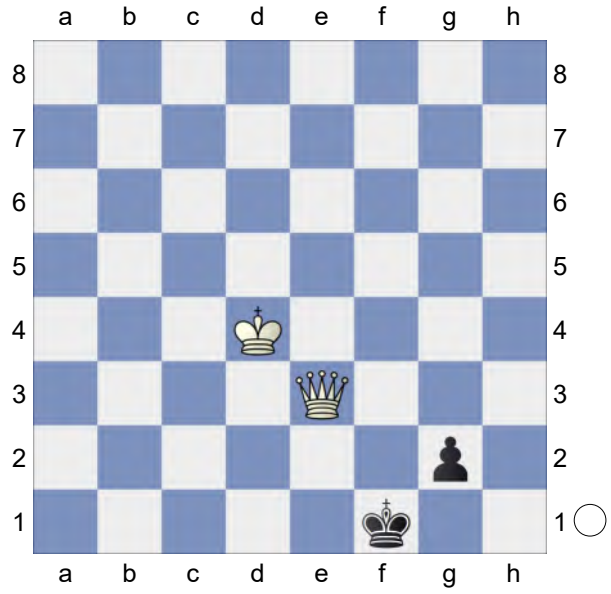
Be3? 0.00/20
[65...g3!-+ -3.05/20 (-> ...g2) 66.Kxb6 g2]



66.b6= Bxb6? 10.32/22 **67.Kxb6** KP-KP **67...g3 68.a7 g2 69.a8Q+**
[And not 69.a8B+ Kg4 70.Bxg2=]
69...Kf2 70.Qf8+? 0.07/28
[70.Qa2+ #18/28 mates Kg3 71.Qa3+ Kf2 72.Qc5+ Kf1 73.Qc1+ Kf2 74.Qf4+ Ke2 75.Qg3]
70...Kg1? #11/24
[70...Ke2= 0.07/28]

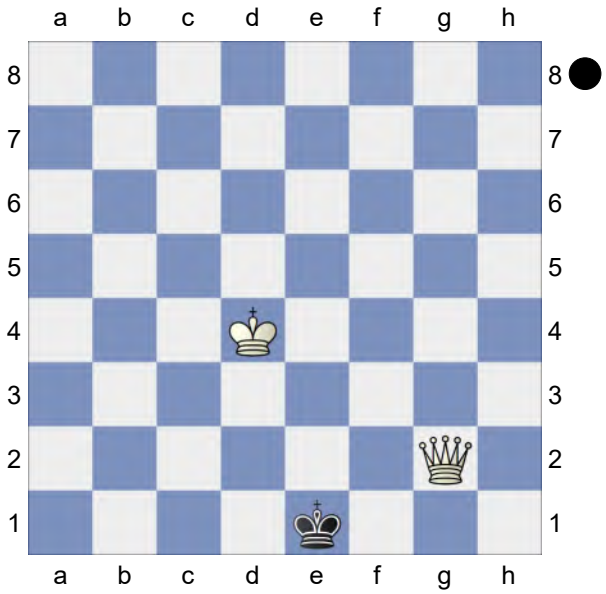


71.Kc5 Kh1 72.Qh6+ Kg1 73.Kd4 Kf1 74.Qf4+ Ke1 75.Qe3+ Kf1



76.Qf3+ Ke1 77.Qxg2

(Diagram)

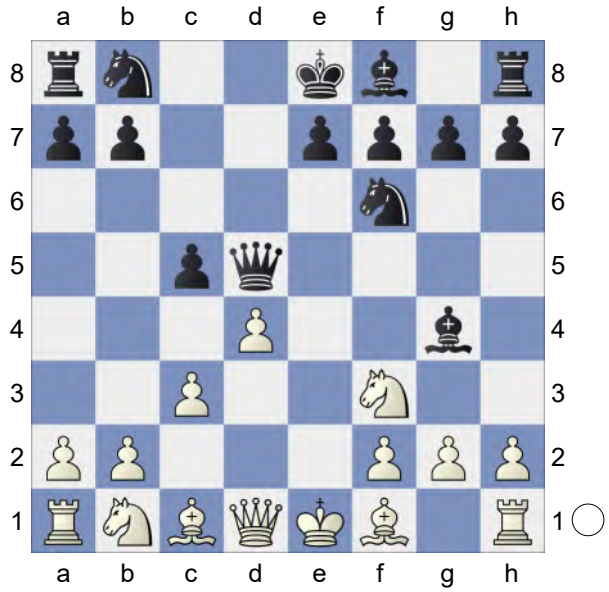


Both players deserved the win here.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.55

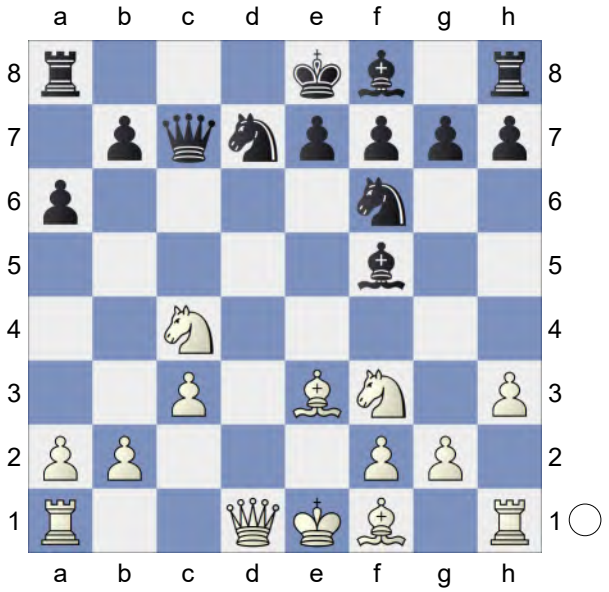
1-0

26 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3031**
■ **Yakamuzosan** **2709**
Blitz 29.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4

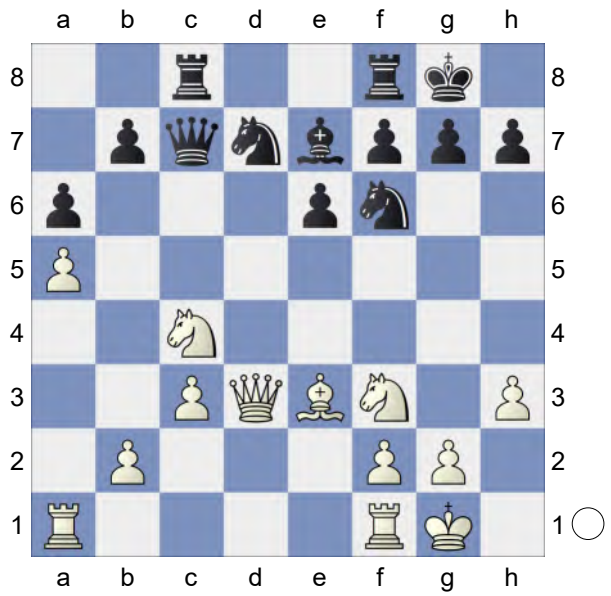


6.dxc5
[6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.Bc4 Bxf3 8.gxf3 Qg5 9.Ne4 Qf5 10.Qe2 e6 11.Ng3 Qh3 12.d5 Nd8 13.Bb5+ Nd7 14.Bf4 a6 15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 16.0-0-0 Ke8 17.Rhe1 Be7 18.d6 Bf6 19.d7+ Kf8 20.Rd5 g6 1-0 (31) Adams,M (2660)-Huebner,R (2635) Wijk 1996 (11)]
6...Qxc5
[6...Qxd1+ simplifies 7.Kxd1 e5 8.b4 e4]
7.Be3 Qc7 8.Na3N
[8.h3 Bh5 9.Na3 a6 10.Nc4 Nbd7 11.g4 Bg6 12.g5 Nh5 13.Qd4 e6 14.Rd1 13) 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 -- 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 #1]
[8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.Be2 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.h3 Bh5 12.Qb3 0-0 13.Rad1 Nd5 14.Nc4 Nxe3 15.Nxe3 Rfd8 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.Qc4 Qd6 18.Rd1 Qb8 19.Rxd8+ Qxd8 20.b4 a6 21.a4 h6 22.g4 Bg6 0-1 (53) Romero Ruscalleda,J (2188)-Melikhov, E (2269) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Feb Late blitz 2023 (9)]
8...a6 Wards off Nb5 **9.h3** The position is equal. **9...Bf5 10.Nc4 Nbd7**

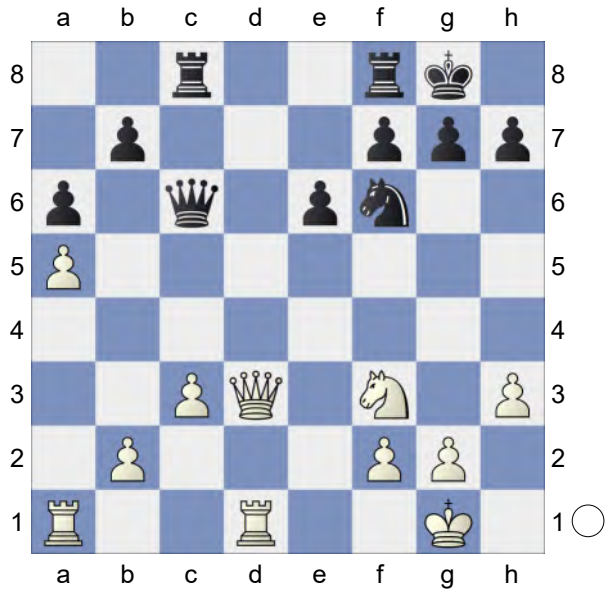


11.a4
[11.Qd4 looks sharper. Be4 12.Rd1 b5 13.Ng5]
11...e6 12.a5 Be7 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 0-0 15.0-0 Rac8

(Diagram)

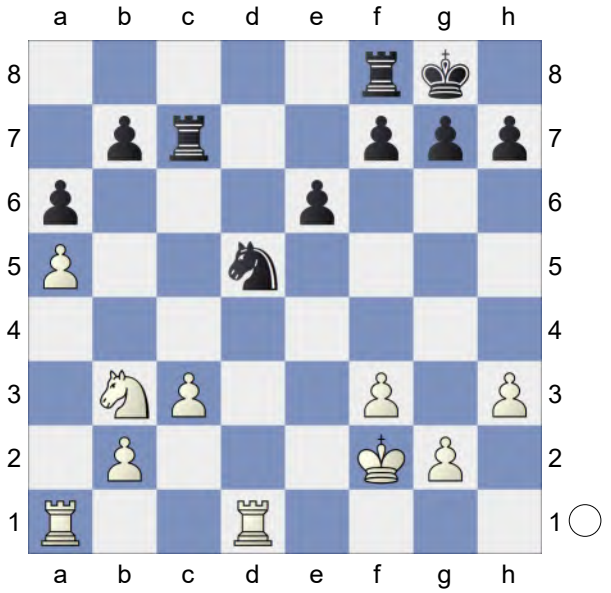


16.Nb6 Nxb6 17.Bxb6 Qc6 18.Rfd1 Nd5 19.Bd4 -0.07/20
[19.Ne5± 0.34/22 might be stronger. Qd6 20.Qe2]
19...Bf6 0.30/19
[⌓19...Nf4 -0.07/20 20.Qd2 *(20.Qe3 Bg5=)* 20...Nd5]
20.Bxf6= Nxf6

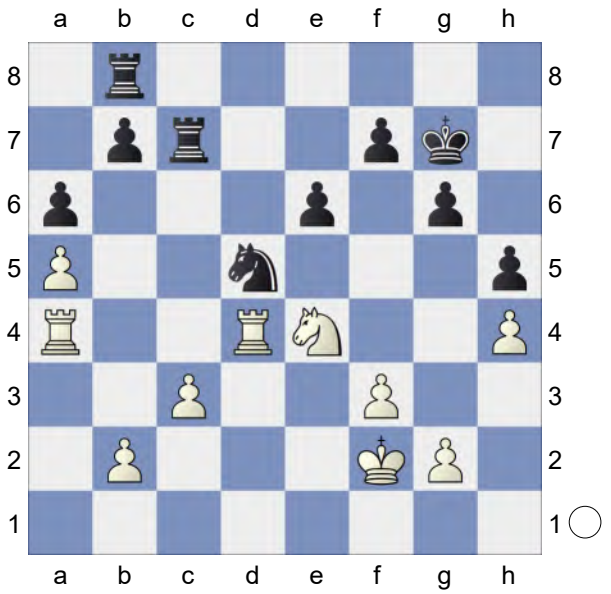


21.Nd4 -0.16/22
[21.Ne5 0.20/21 feels stronger. Qc7 22.Qd6]
21...Qe4 0.31/21
[21...Qc7= -0.16/22]

22.Qxe4± Nxe4 23.Nb3 Rc7
Prevents Rd7. **24.f3 Nf6 25.Kf2 Nd5**

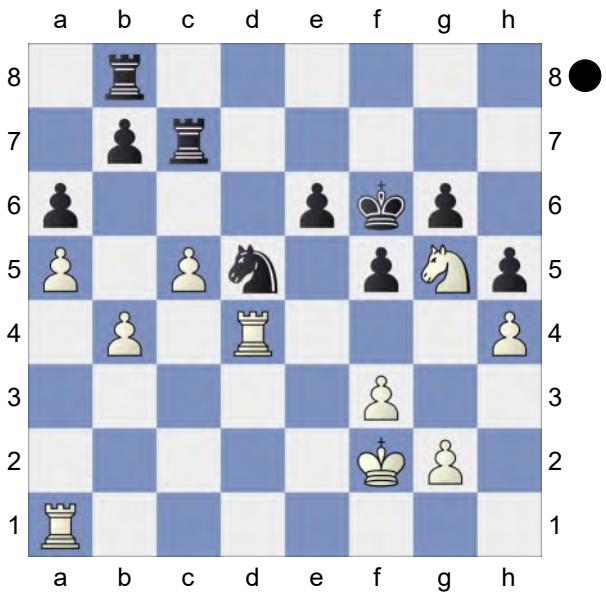


26.Ra4 Rfc8 27.h4 h5 28.Rdd4 g6 29.Nd2 Kg7 30.Ne4 Rb8



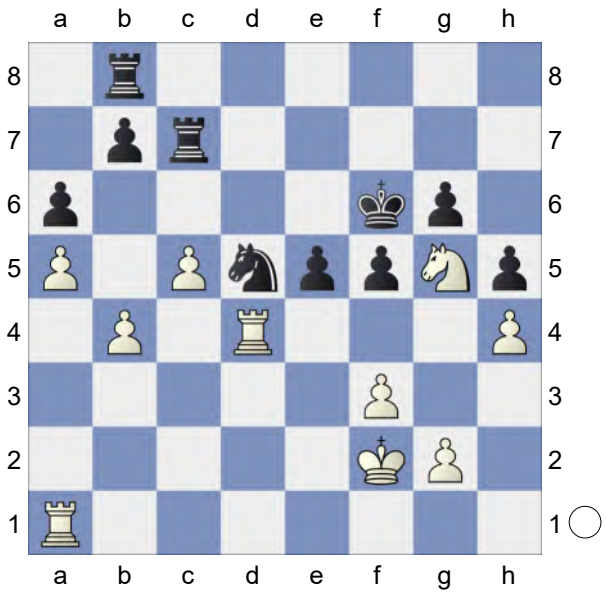
31.c4 Ne7 32.c5 -0.01/22
[32.Rd2± 0.36/21]
32...Nd5 0.45/20
[32...Nf5= -0.01/22]
33.b4 f5 0.81/22
[33...Ne7± 0.40/21]
34.Ng5± Kf6 35.Ra1

(Diagram)



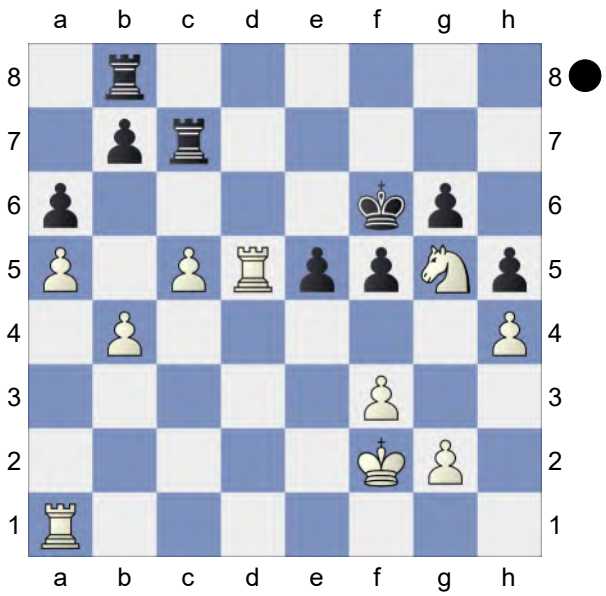
Re1 would now be deadly. **35...e5?** 9.21/23

[35...Rd8± 0.76/22]



36.Rxd5

(Diagram)

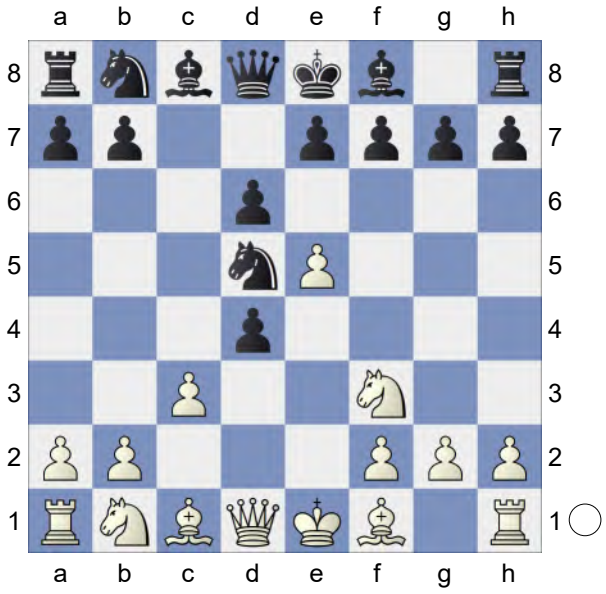


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.11 (very precise)

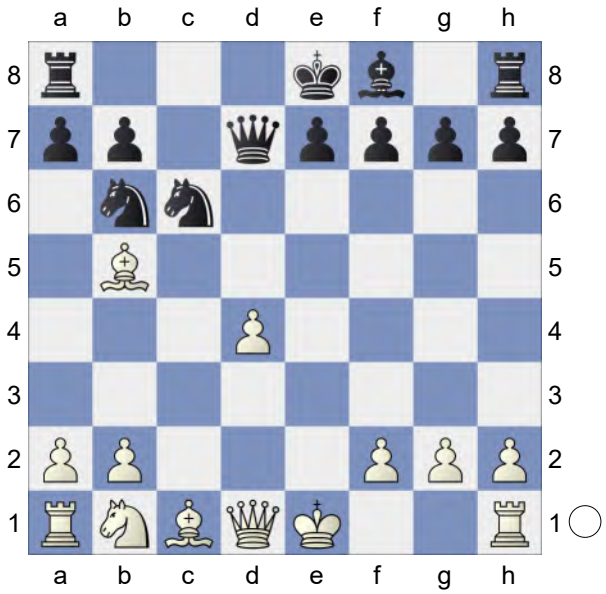
1-0

27 **B22**
□ **Cruelken** **3031**
■ **Torombot** **3050**
Rapid 28.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 6min+3sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4



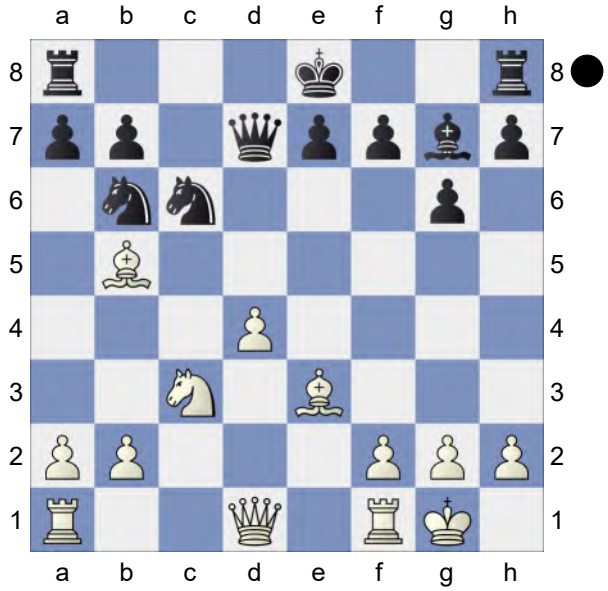
6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



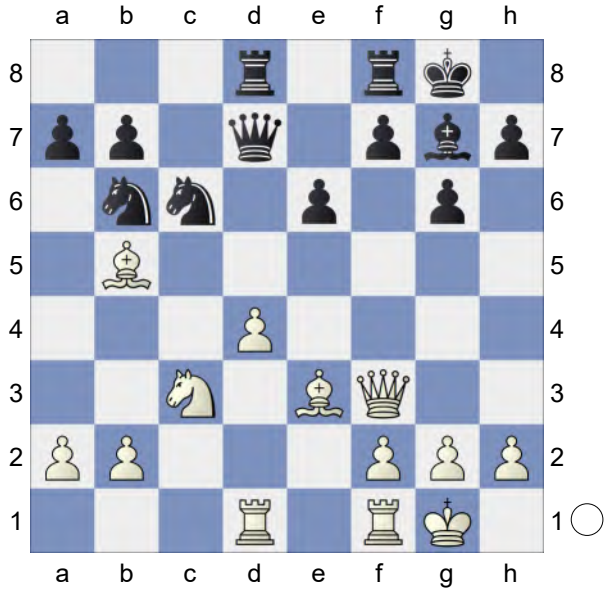
11.0-0N

[11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Be3 Be7 14.Qb3 0-0 15.Rfd1 Qc8 16.Na4 Nd5 17.Rac1 Rd7 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Rxc5 Rb7 21.Qc2 Rb5 22.Rc4 Qb7 23.b3 Rd8 24.Rc1 Ne7 25.Qe4 Qa6 ½-½ (36) Stevic,H (2612)-Ivanchuk,V (2775) 18th European Teams 2011 (3.4)]

11...g6 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.Be3

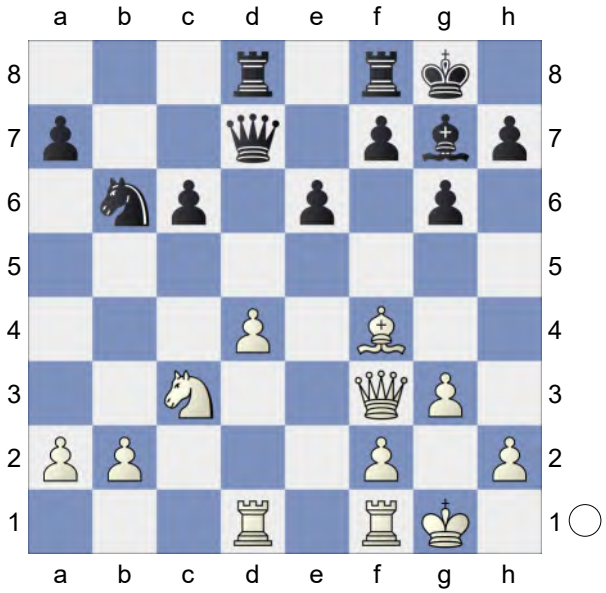


d5 would now be deadly. **13...Rd8 14.Qf3 0-0 15.Rad1 e6**

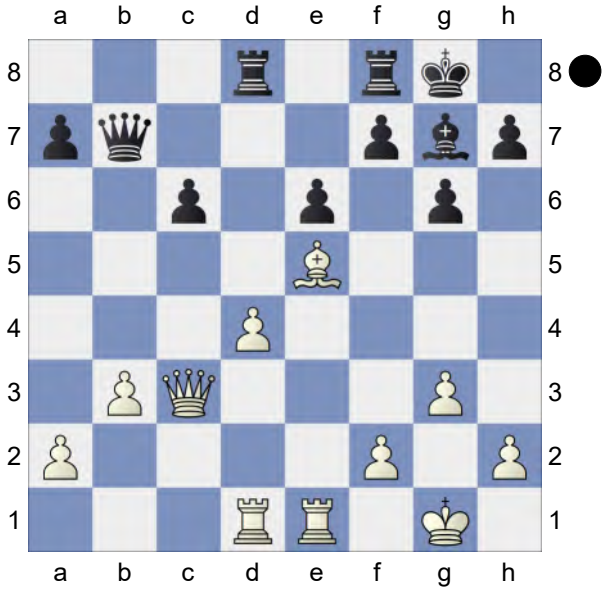


16.g3 -0.10/19
[⌓16.d5 0.26/19 Nxd5 17.Bg5]

16...Qc7 The position is equal. **17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Bf4 Qd7 19.Bg5 Rb8 20.Bf4 Rbd8**

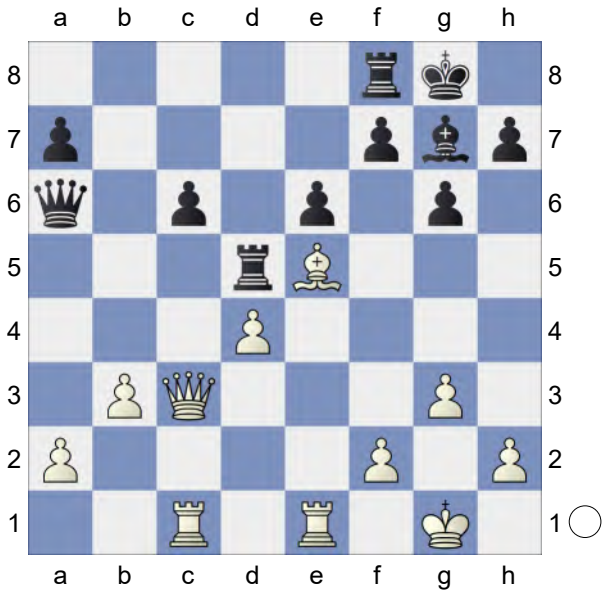


21.Rfe1 Nd5 22.Be5 Qb7 23.b3 Nxc3 24.Qxc3



Threatens to win with Bxg7. **24...Rd5 25.Rc1 Qa6**

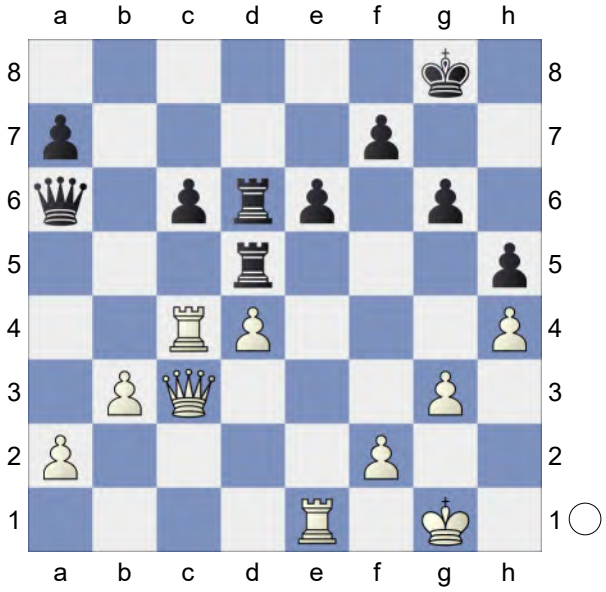
(Diagram)



26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Qb2 Rfd8 28.Rc4 Kg8 29.Qc3 R8d6

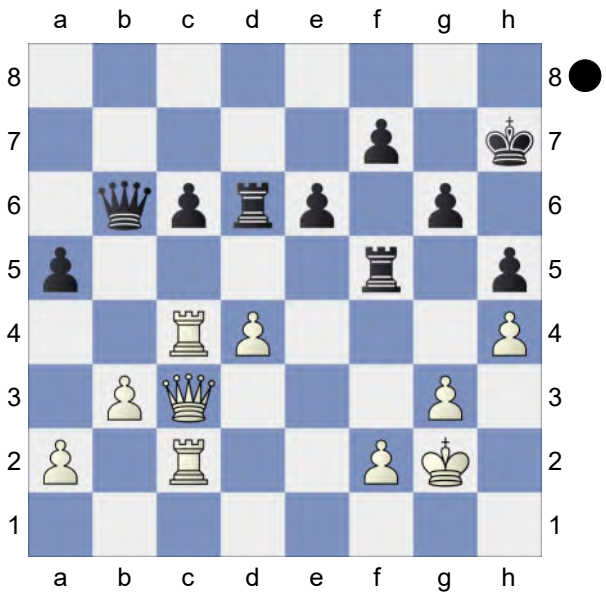
[29...Qxa2? is the wrong capture. 30.Ra4+- *(30.Rxc6 Rxd4 31.Rc7 Qd2∓; 30.Rxc6 Rxd4 31.h4 Rd2∓)*]

30.h4 h5



31.Kg2 Rf5 32.Re2 Kh7 33.Rc2 Qb6 34.Ra4 a5 35.Rc4

(Diagram)



A balanced but interesting game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

28 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3029**
■ **Kacparov** **2842**
Blitz 27.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4

[1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nb5 Qd8 9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bg5 f6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd2 e5 13.Qc2 g6 14.Bd3 Bg7 15.0-0-0 0-0 1-0 (49) Giri,A (2769)-Alekseev,E (2620) Wch Rapid Moscow 2019 (8.18)]

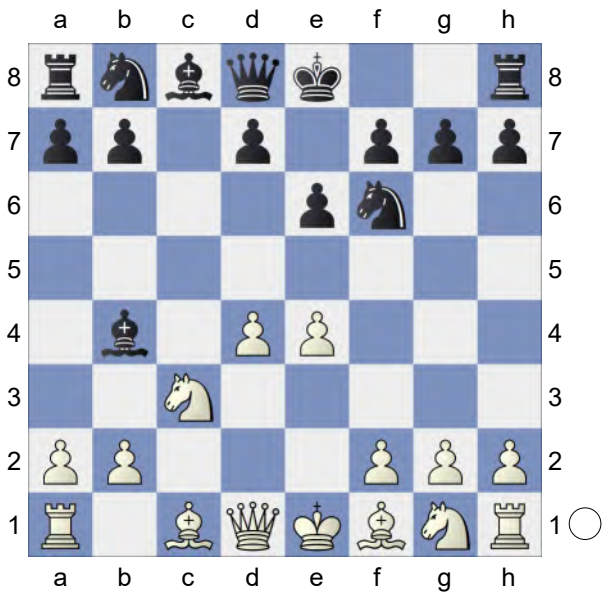
1...c5 2.c3 e6N

[2...d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Be7 9.Ne5 Nxc3 10.dxc3 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 Bd7 12.Nxd7 Kxd7 13.Kc2 Bd6 14.Be3 Kc7 15.Rad1 Rad8 16.Rd2 Ne5 17.Be2 1-0 (36) Sasaki, K (2205)-Pineau,J JPN-ch Tokio 1988 (7)]

[2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Na3 dxc3 10.Qe2 cxb2 11.Bxb2 Qb4+ 12.Kf1 Bg4 13.Nb5 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qf4 15.Bc1 Qb8 16.Qe4 a6 17.Bf4 (20) 9.Na3 dc3 10. Qe2 cb2-N,N Analyse 1996]

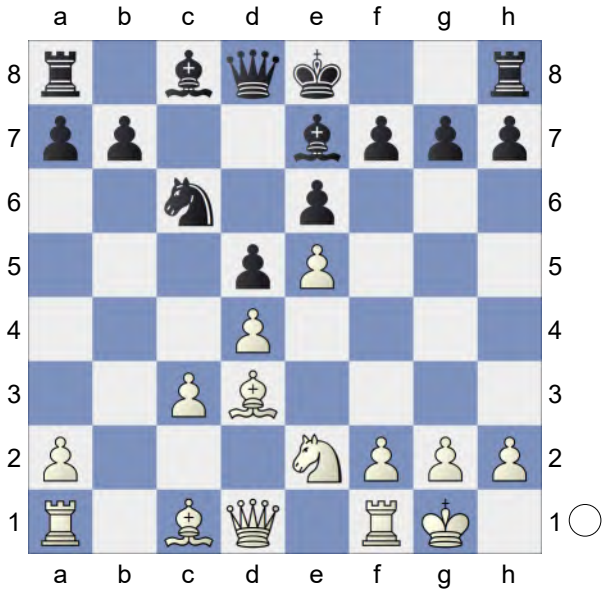
3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4

(Diagram)



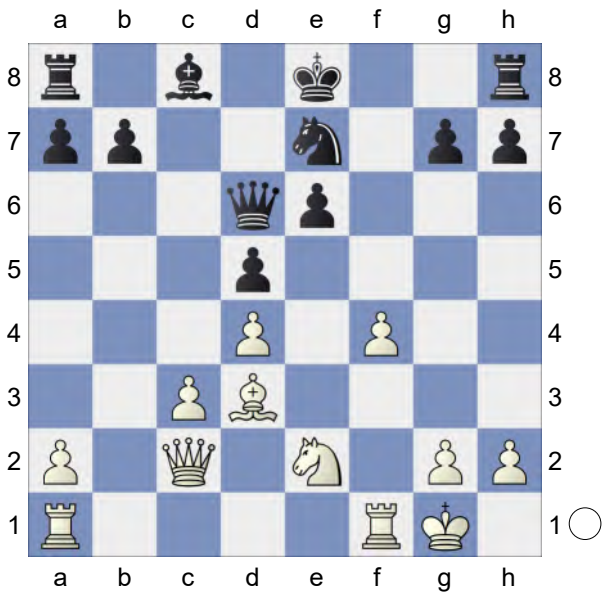
6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nge2 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.0-0

White is better. **9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 Be7**

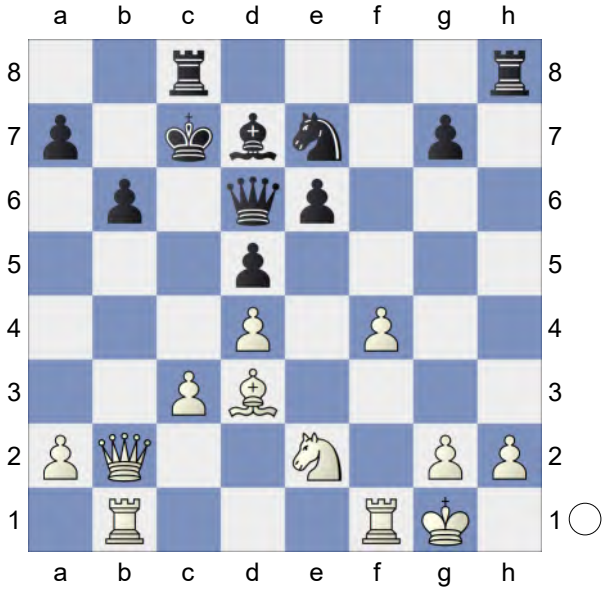


11.f4 f5 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Ba3 Be7 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Qc2 Qd6

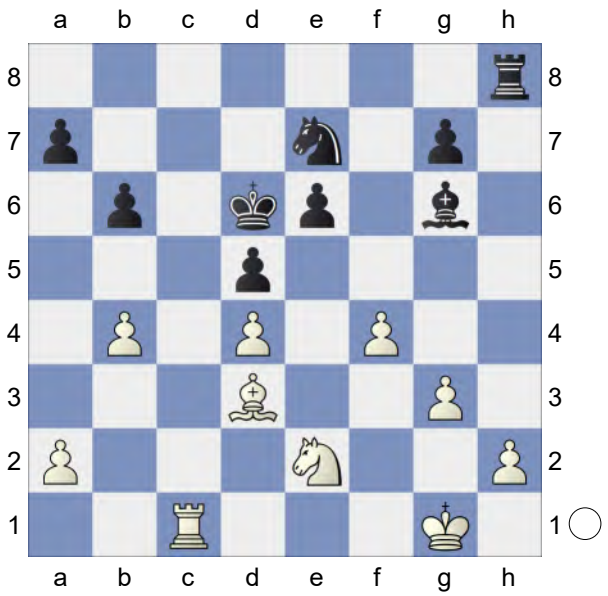
(Diagram)



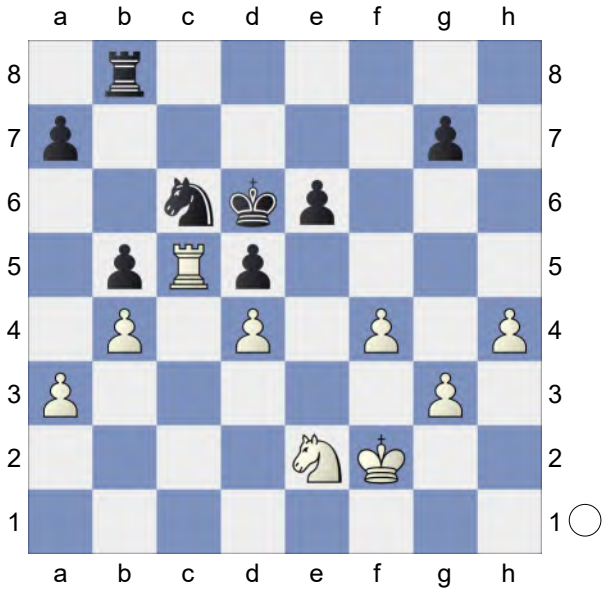
16.Bxh7 White is more active. **16...Bd7** 1.05/17
[16...e5!± 0.46/21]
17.Bg6+± Kd8 18.Bd3 Rc8 19.Rab1 Kc7 20.Qb2 b6



21.Qb4 Qxb4 22.cxb4 Kd6 23.Rfc1 Rxc1+ 1.21/23
[⌓23...a6 0.82/21]
24.Rxc1 Be8 25.g3 0.37/21
[25.h3± 1.32/22]
25...Bg6 1.57/21
[25...Bh5± 0.37/21]

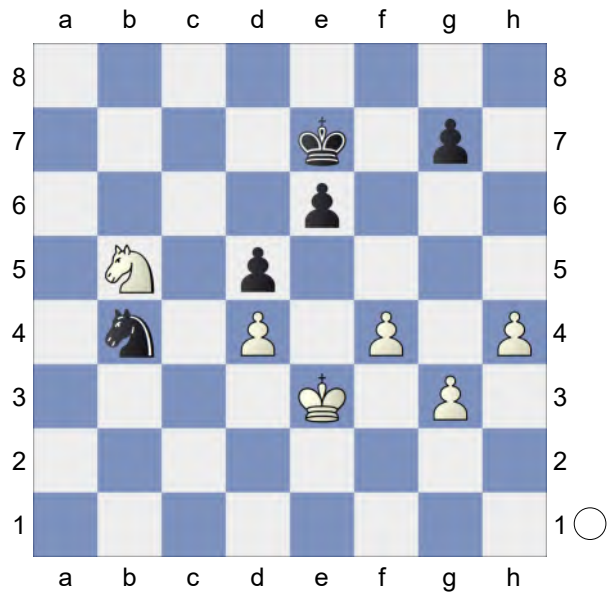


26.Bxg6 Nxg6 Endgame. KRN-KRN **27.h4 Ne7 28.Kf2 Nc6 29.a3 b5 30.Rc5 Rb8**

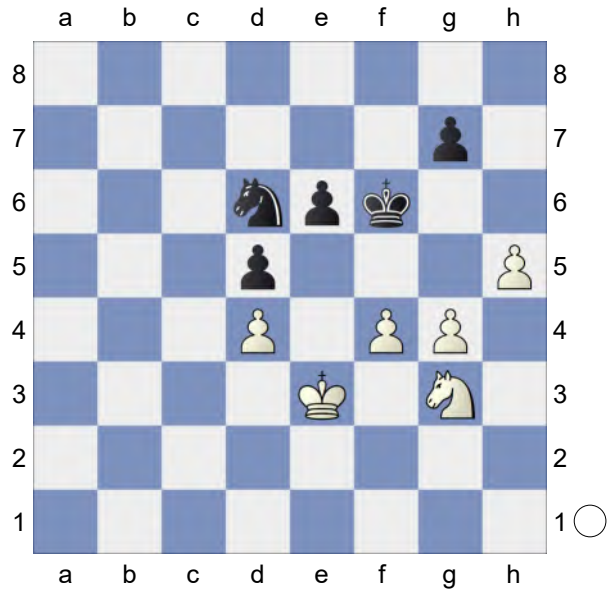


31.Ke3 a5 32.Nc3 axb4 33.axb4 Nxb4 34.Rxb5
[Don't play 34.Nxb5+ Kd7 35.Nc3 Nc2+ 36.Kd3 Nb4+ 37.Kd2 Nc6±]
34...Rxb5 35.Nxb5+ KN-KN **35...Ke7** 2.05/26
[35...Kc6± 1.41/27 was worth a try. 36.Na3 Kd6]

(Diagram)

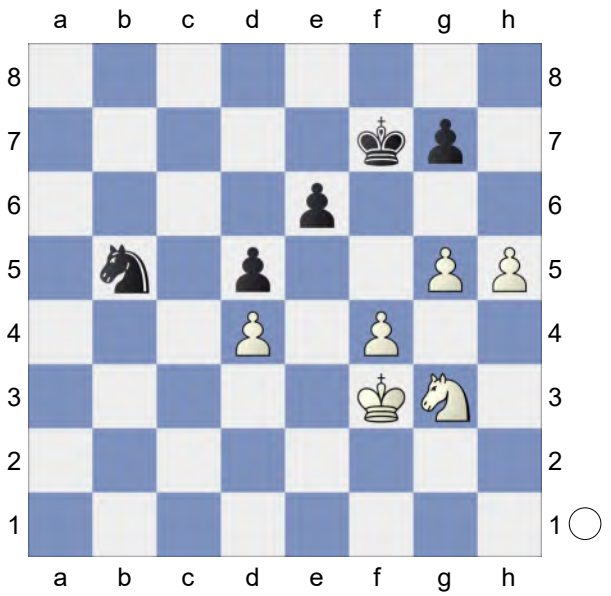


36.Nc3 Nc6 37.Ne2 Nd8 1.98/26
[37...Na5± 1.48/27 38.Ng1 Nc4+ 39.Ke2 Ke8]
38.g4+- Nf7 39.h5 1.42/27
[White should try 39.f5+- 1.96/24]
39...Nd6± 40.Ng3 Kf6

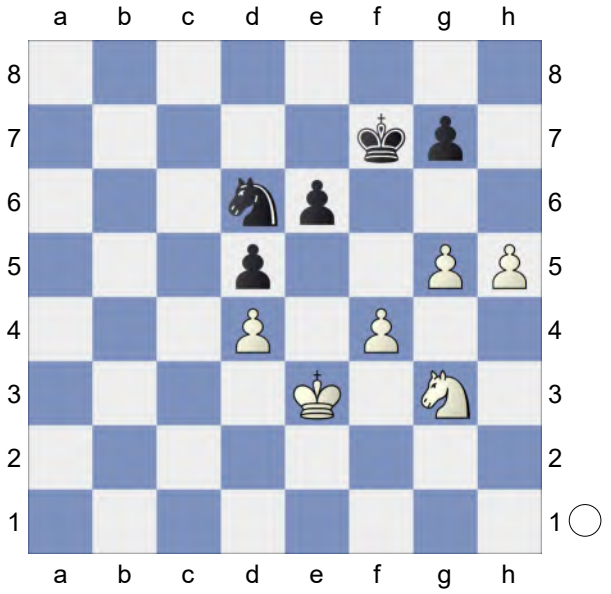


Prevents f5 **41.Kf3 Nb5 42.g5+ Kf7 43.Ne2 Nd6 44.Ng3?** 0.01/25
[44.Kf2+- 1.64/28]
44...Nb5=

(Diagram)

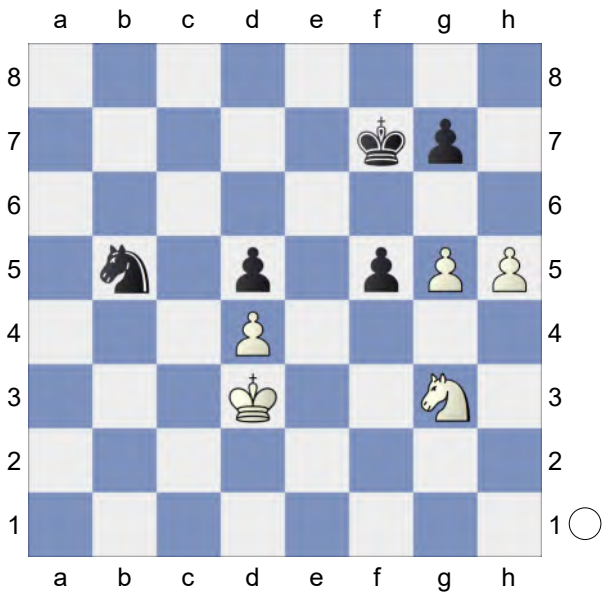


45.Ke3! Nd6

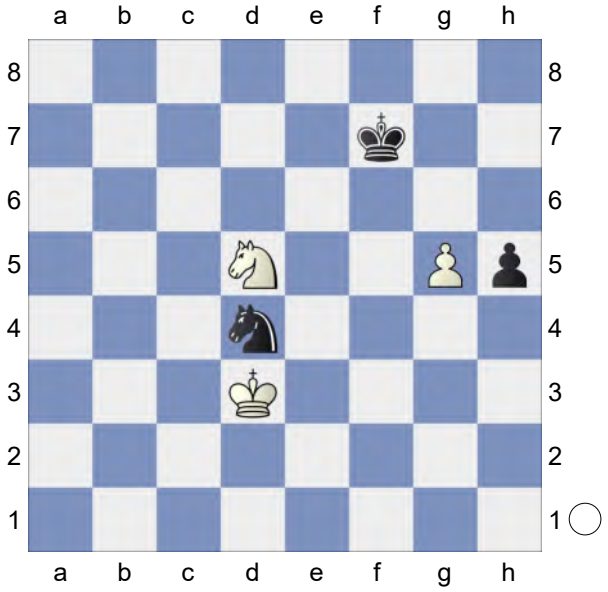


46.Kd3 Nb5 47.f5 0.74/26
[47.Ne2+- 1.90/26 is the precise move to win.]
47...exf5±

(Diagram)

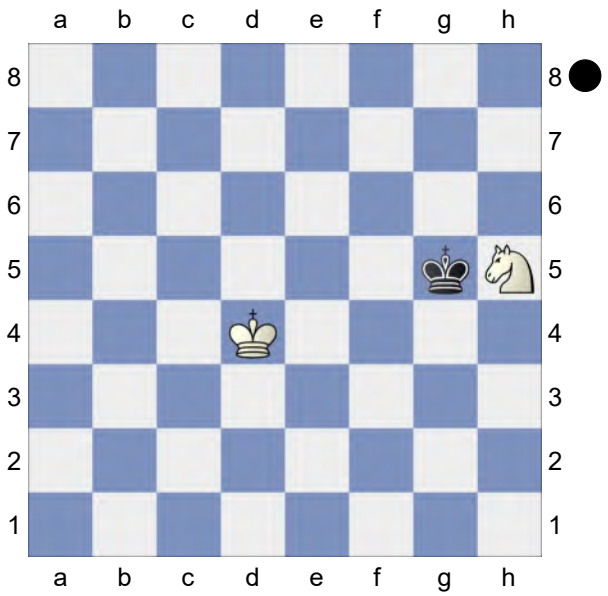


48.Nxf5 0.00/27
[Better is 48.Ne2!± 0.91/27]
48...g6= 49.Ne3 gxh5 50.Nxd5 Nf4 is the strong threat. **50...Nxd4** 0.45/34



51.Kxd4± White wants to mate with Nf4.
51...Kg6 52.Nf4+ 0.00/37
[52.Ke3± 0.59/37 Kxg5 53.Kf2]
52...Kxg5= 53.Nxh5

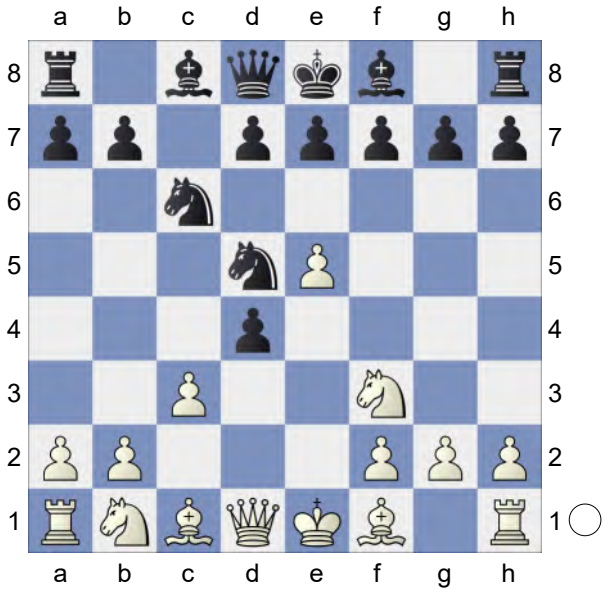
(Diagram)



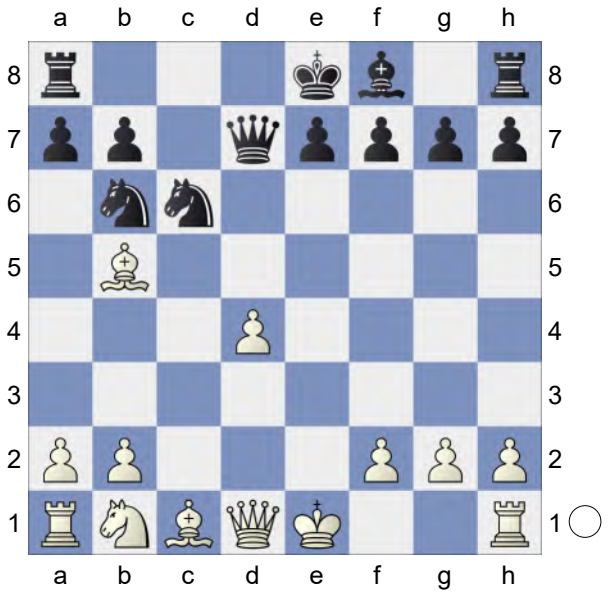
Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

29 **B22**
□ **Arasanx** **3027**
■ **Odonata** **2763**
Rapid 23.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

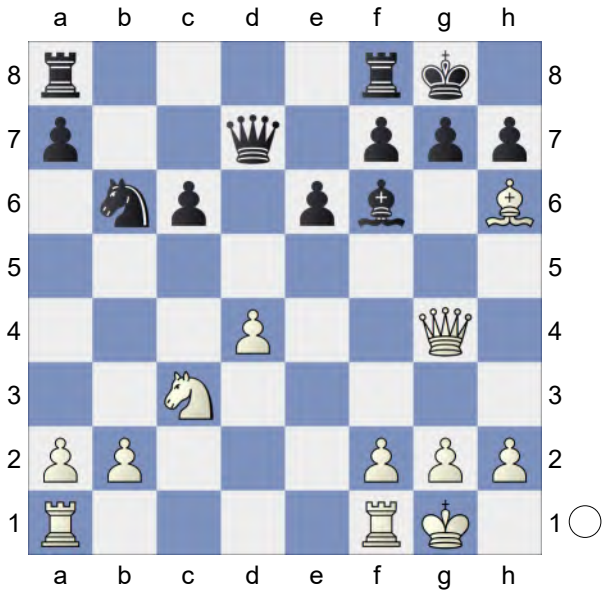
Blitz 10min+3sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7

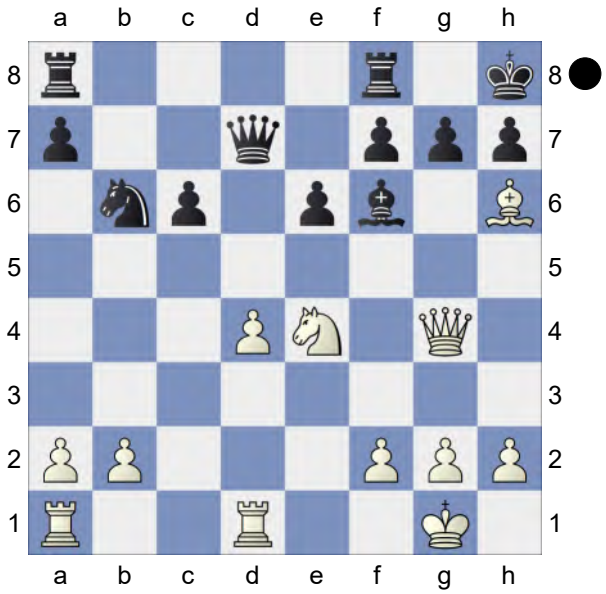


11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Qg4 0-0
14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Bh6 Bf6

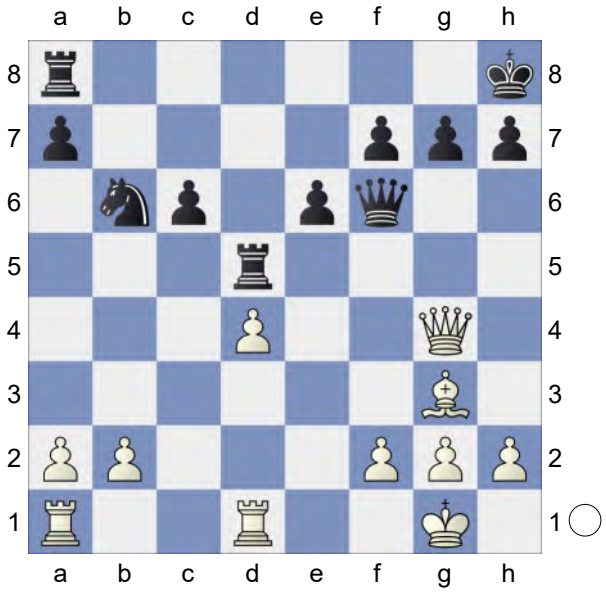


16.Rfd1 White is slightly better.
16...Kh8N
[16...Rfd8 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Rac1 Rac8 19.h4 Rd5 20.Bg5 *(20.Rc3 Nd7 21.Rg3 g6 22.Bg5 Kg7 23.Ra3 h6* "-" Lacey,P (2384)-8. ♕e2 cd4 9. ♖d1 (2526) FSIMA Nov, Budapest 1997 (2) *)* 20...Nd7 21.Rc3 Kh8 22.Rf3 Ne5 23.Bxf6 Nxf3+ 24.Qxf3 gxf6 25.Qxf6+ Qxf6 26.Nxf6 Ra5 27.a3 Rd8 28.Rc1 Rxd4 29.Rxc6 Rf5 30.Rc8+ Kg7 31.Ne8+ 0-1 (49) Eriksen (2555)-8. ♕e2 cd4 9. ♖d1 ♕e7 (2537) Marianske Lazne IM-B2 21st 2023 (3) Kg6 32.f3 h5 33.b4 Rfd5 34.Rc6 Rxh4 35.Nd6 Rd1+ 36.Kf2 Rd2+ 37.Kg3 Rh1 38.Nc4 h4+ 39.Kf4 Rxg2 40.Ne5+ Kf6 41.Rc7 Rg7 42.Rxa7 Re1 43.Ng4+ Kg6 44.Ra8 f6 45.Nf2 e5+ 46.Kg4 0-1 (49) Eriksen (2555)-8.Qe2 cd4 9. Rd1 Qe7 (2537) Marianske Lazne IM-B2 21st 2023 (3)]
17.Ne4

(Diagram)

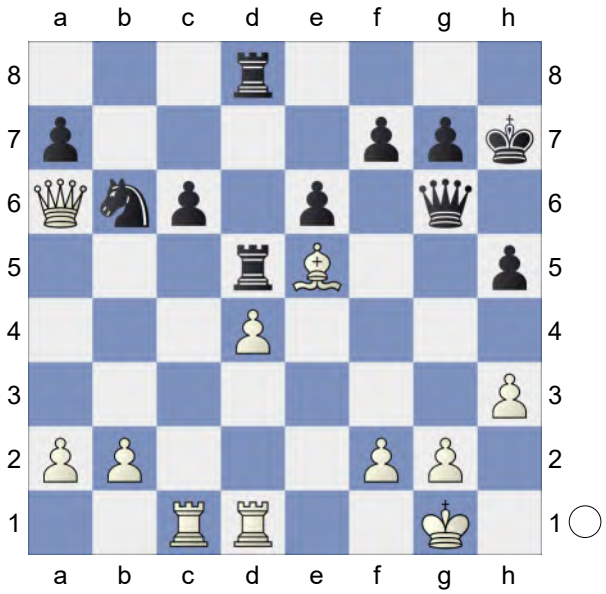


Black must now prevent Nxf6. **17...Qd8 18.Nxf6 Qxf6 19.Bf4 Rfd8 20.Bg3 Rd5**



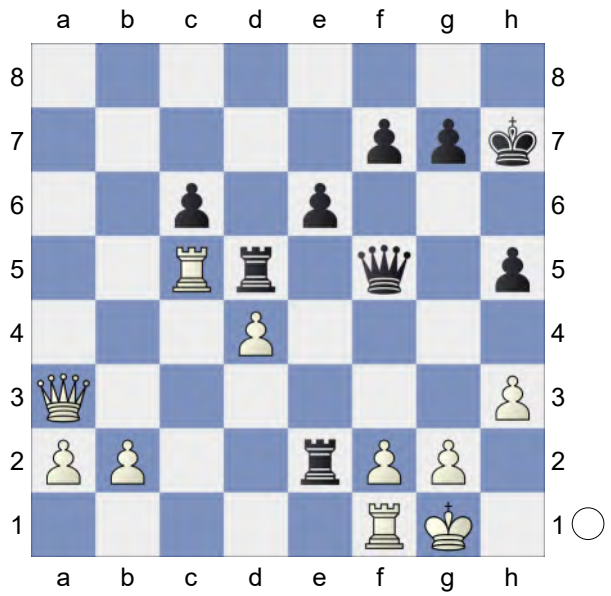
21.Rac1 Rc8 22.Be5 Qg6 23.Qe2 h5 24.h3 Kh7 25.Qa6 Rcd8

(Diagram)

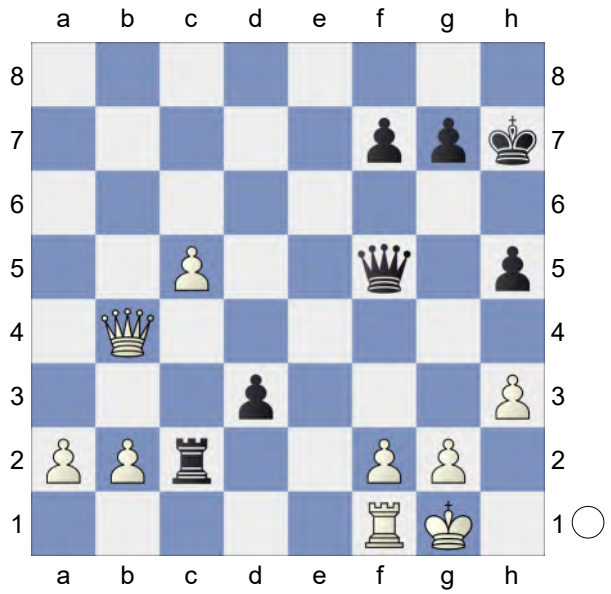


26.Qxa7
[26.Rxc6 Rxe5 27.Kh2 Rg5-+]
26...Nc4 27.Rxc4 Rxe5 28.Qa3
[28.Rxc6? too greedy. Rg5 29.g4 *(29.g3? Rxg3+* Demolition *30.fxg3 Qxg3+ 31.Kf1 Qxh3+ 32.Kf2 Qh4+ 33.Ke3 Qg3+ 34.Kd2 Qf4+ 35.Kc2 Qe4+ 36.Kc1 Qxc6+ 37.Qc5 Qf3-+)* 29...hxg4-+]
28...Qf5 0.69/22
[28...Rdd5 0.33/20 is more appropriate.]
29.Rf1 Re2 30.Rc5
[30.Rxc6 Rxd4 31.Rc3 Rxf2∓]
30...Rd5

(Diagram)

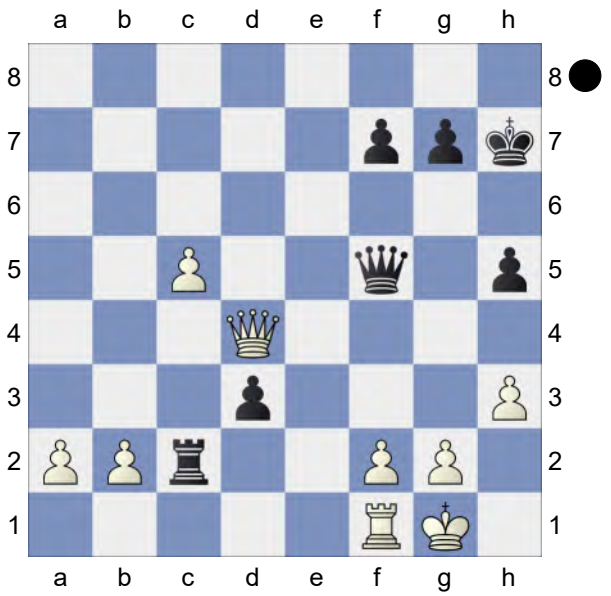


31.Rxd5 exd5± Endgame. KQR-KQR **32.Qc3 Rc2 33.Qb3 c5 34.dxc5 d4 35.Qb4 d3**



36.Qd4

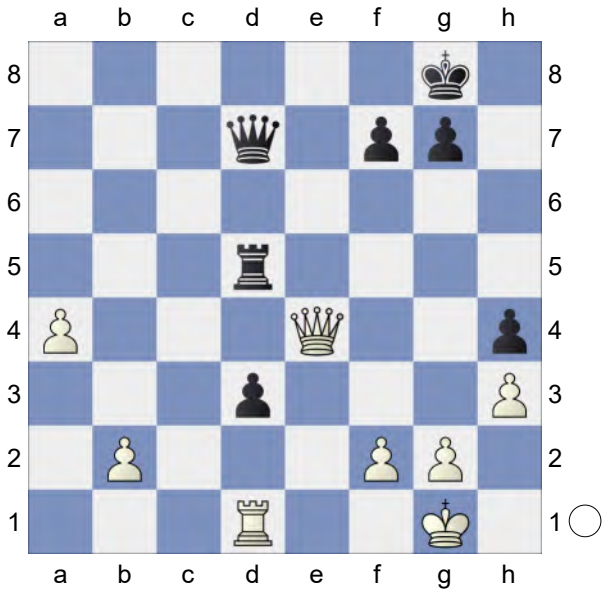
(Diagram)



Against Qe5. b4 would now be deadly.
36...Rxc5 37.Rd1 Rd5 38.Qe3 h4 39.a4 Qd7 40.Qe4+

[40.b4 simplifies Rd4 41.b5 Rxa4 42.Qxd3+ Qxd3 43.Rxd3 Rb4 44.Rd5]

40...Kg8

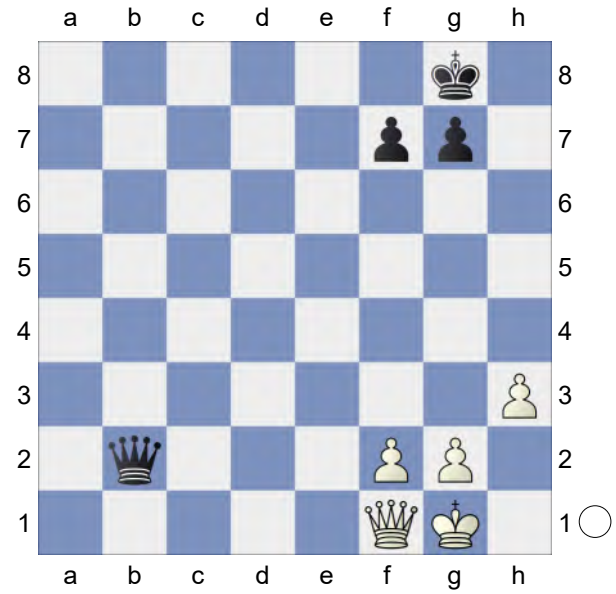


41.Qxh4

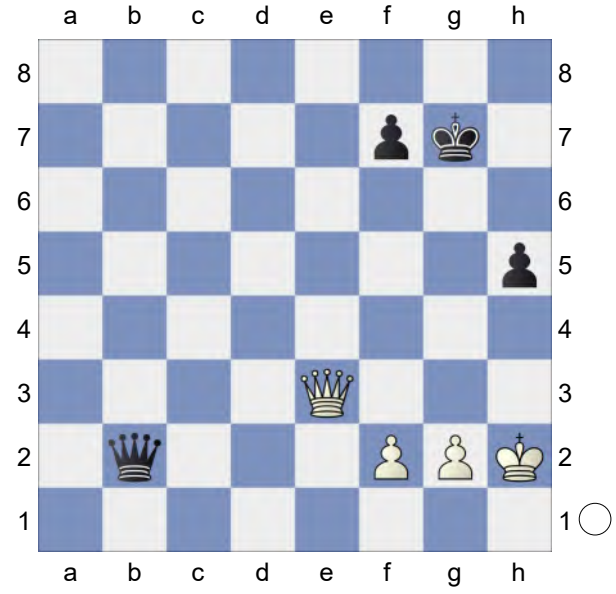
[41.a5 simplifies Rxa5 42.Qxd3 Qxd3 43.Rxd3 Ra1+ 44.Kh2]

41...Rd4 Dodges Qf4 **42.Qg3** Strongly threatening Qb8+. **42...Qxa4 43.Rxd3 Rxd3 44.Qxd3** KQ-KQ

44...Qa1+ 45.Qf1 Qxb2

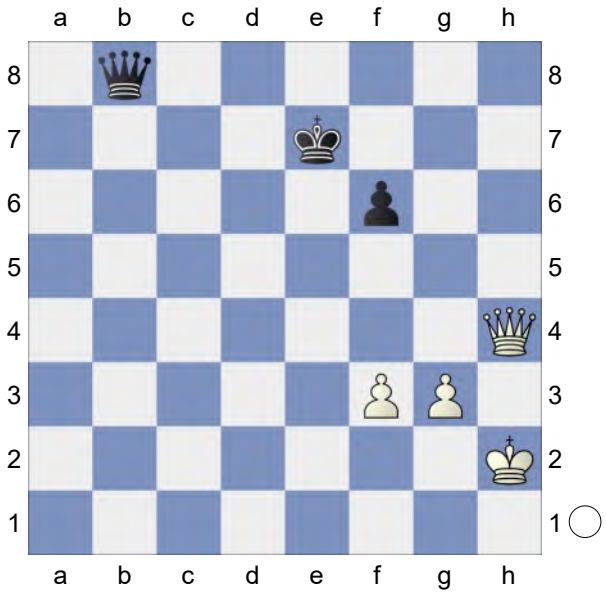


46.Qe1 aiming for Qe8+. **46...g6 47.Qe3 Kg7 48.Kh2 Kg8 49.h4 Kg7 50.h5 gxh5**

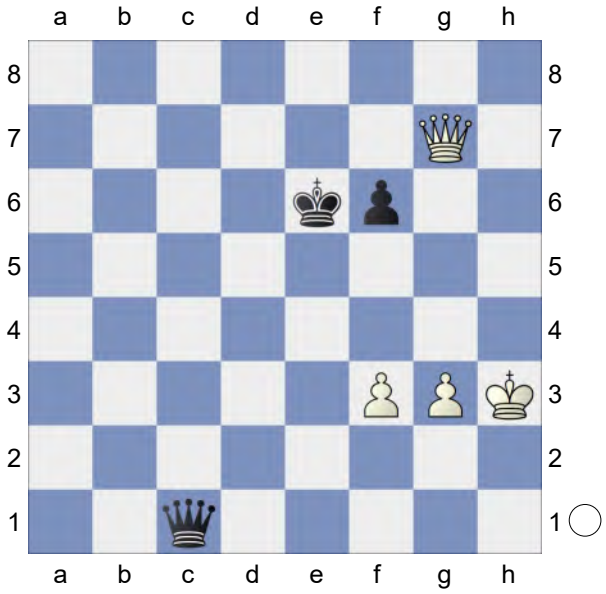


51.Qg5+ Kf8 52.f3 Qb8+ 53.g3 h4 54.Qh6+ Ke7 55.Qxh4+ f6

(Diagram)



56.Qh7+ Ke6 57.Kg2 Qb2+ 58.Kh3 Qc1 59.Qg8+ Ke7 60.Qg7+ Ke6



61.Qg8+ 0.01/24

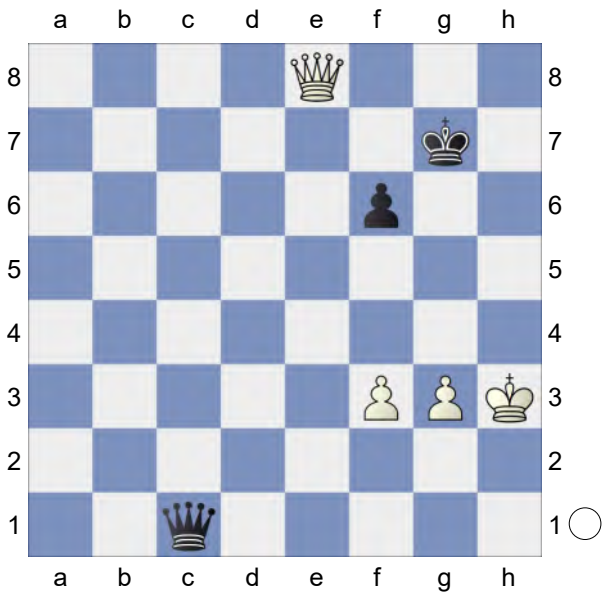
[61.Qg4+± 0.50/26 Kf7 62.Qd7+ Kf8 63.Qd8+ Kf7 64.Qd7+ Kf8 65.Qd3]

61...Ke7= 62.Qg7+ 0.01/17

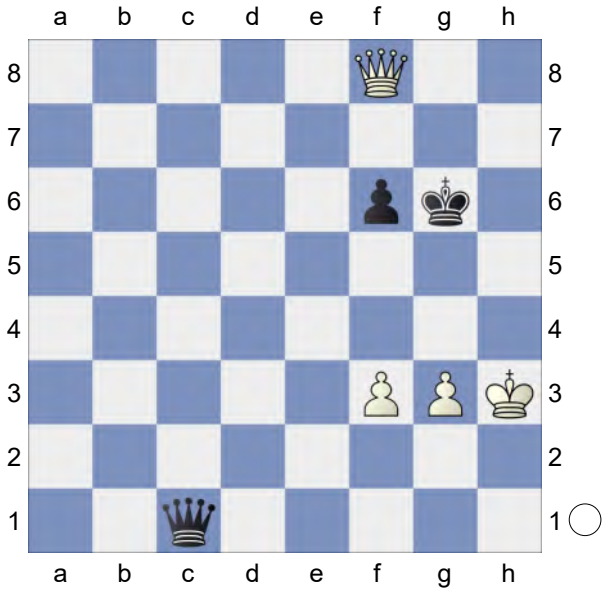
[62.Qd5± 0.49/23]

62...Ke6 63.Qg4+ Kf7 64.Qd7+ Kg6 65.Qe8+ Kg7

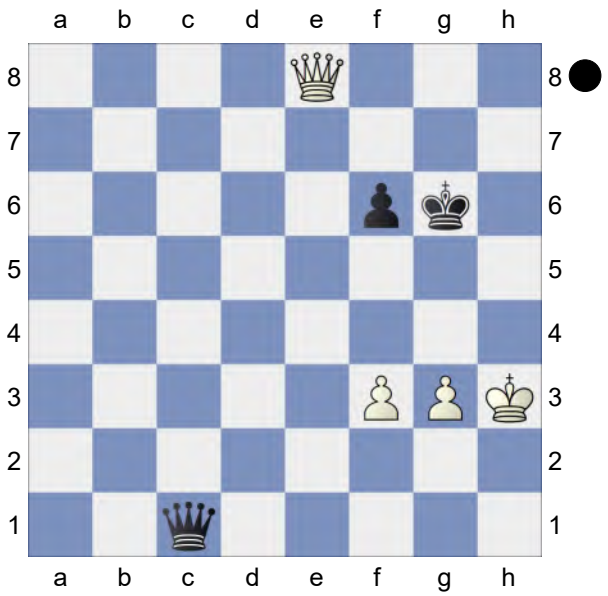
(Diagram)



66.Qe7+ Kg6 67.Qe8+ 0.01/24
[White should play 67.Kg2± 0.53/25]
67...Kh6 0.59/24
[67...Kg7= 0.01/24]
68.Qf8+ Kg6 69.Qg8+ Kh6 70.Qf8+ 0.01/22
[Better is 70.Qf7± 0.64/24 Qh1+ 71.Kg4]
70...Kg6



71.Qg8+ Kh6 72.Qh8+ 0.01/30
[72.Qf7± 0.74/22 Qc6 73.Qf8+ Kh7 74.Qe7+ Kh6 75.Qe4 Qc8+ 76.Kg2]
72...Kg6 (-> ...Qh1+) **73.Qe8+**

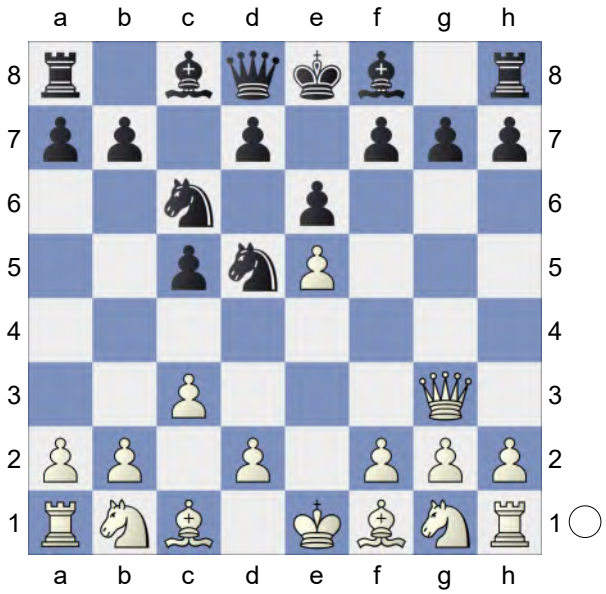


Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

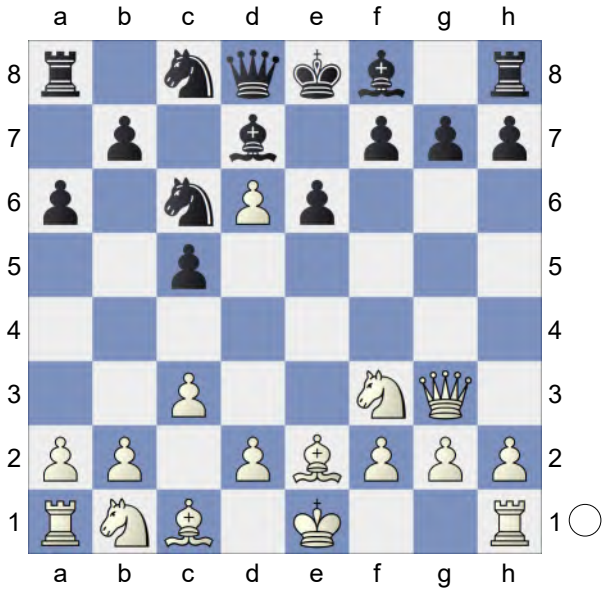
30 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3027**
■ **Oganian,Miran** **2670**
Blitz 28.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6
[2...e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Ng5 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qb3 Be6 9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.Qxb7 Rc8 11.0-0 Qd7 12.Qb5 Be7 13.Bb3 0-0 14.Qd3 Na5 15.Bd1 Rfd8 16.Bf3 dxc3 17.Nxc3 0-1 (82) Nepomniachtchi,I (2779)-Carlsen,M (2853) Global Chess League 2023]
3.e5 Nd5 4.Qf3N
[4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 b6 7.Bc4 Bb7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Bd2 d6 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.Bxc3 Nd7 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.d5 exd5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.Rxd5 dxe5 17.Rad1 Nf6 18.Bxe5 Qb7 0-1 (75) Vinter Schou,U (2317)-Krasenkow,M (2503) Wch Seniors 50 32nd 2024 (6)]
[4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.exd6 Bxd6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nc6 9.0-0 b6 10.Bxd5 exd5 11.Re1+ Ne7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Ne5 Be6 14.Bf4 Ng6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qd2 Bf5 18.Re5 Be6 1-0 (29) Kleiman,J (2399)-Biastoch,B (2232) Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Early blitz 2022 (11)]
4...e6 5.Qg3 Nc6

(Diagram)

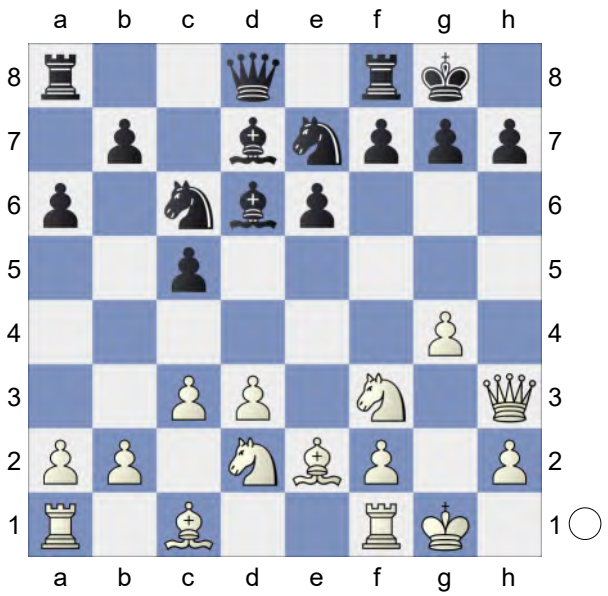


6.Nf3 d6 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.exd6
The position is equal. **8...a6 9.Bc4 Nb6 10.Be2 Nc8**

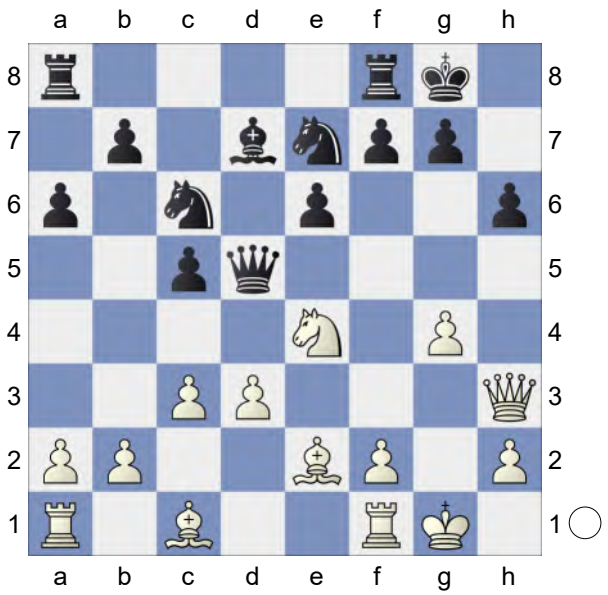


11.0-0 Nxd6 12.d3 Nf5 13.Qh3 Bd6
0.13/18
[13...e5∓ -0.43/18 14.g4 Nfe7]
14.Nbd2= 0-0 15.g4 Nfe7

(Diagram)

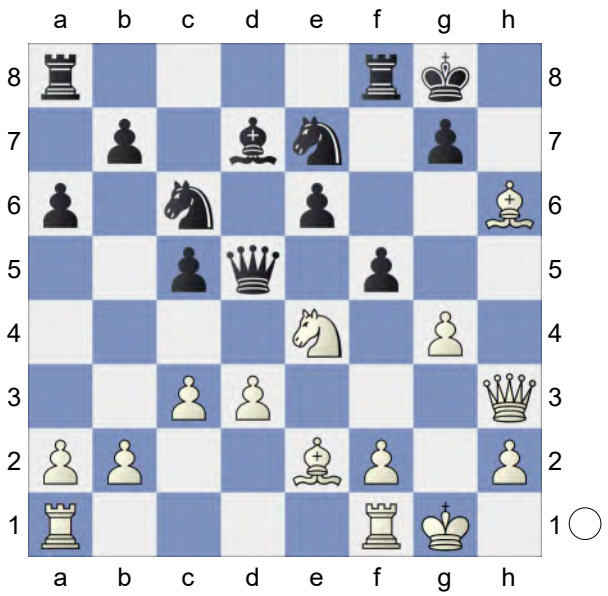


16.Ne4
[16.Ng5!? h6□ 17.Nde4±]
16...Qc7 0.75/22
[16...Bc8= 0.16/18]
17.Nfg5± h6 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Ne4
[19.Nf3 simplifies f5 20.Kh1 e5 21.gxf5 Nxf5 22.Rg1]
19...Qd5



20.Bxh6 -0.33/18 **f5!∓**

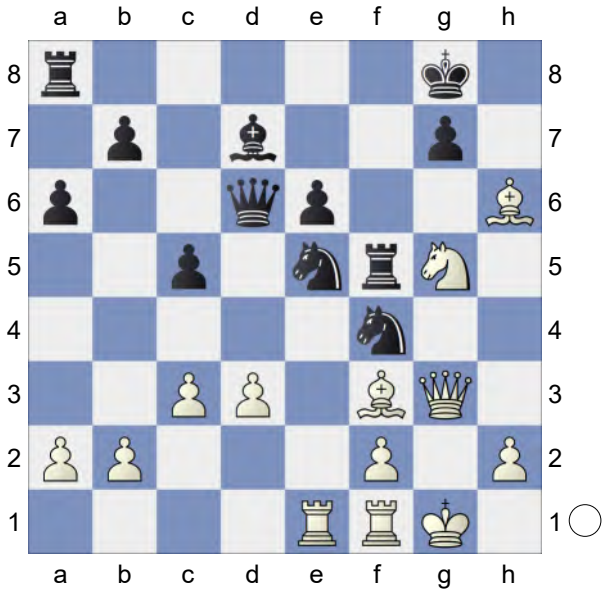
(Diagram)



21.Ng5 -0.76/20
[21.gxf5= -0.14/19 gxh6 22.Qxh6 Nxf5 *(22...Qxf5 23.Kh1=)* 23.Qg5+ Ng7 24.Qh4]
21...Ng6? 4.04/20
[21...Qe5∓ -0.76/20 ...Nd5 would now be deadly. 22.f4 *(22.Rfe1? gxh6 23.Qxh6 Qg7-+)* 22...Qf6 *(22...Qxe2? 23.Bxg7 Qxg4+ 24.Qxg4∓)*]
22.Bf3 -0.68/21
[22.Bxg7!+- 4.04/20 Kxg7 23.Qh7+ Kf6 24.f4 Nxf4 25.Ne4+ *(25.Qh6+ Ng6±)* 25...fxe4 26.Rxf4+ Ke5 27.Rxf8 *(27.dxe4 Qd6+-)* 27...Rxf8 28.Qg7+ Kd6 29.Qxf8+ Kc7 30.Qf4+ e5 31.Qxe4]
22...Qd6 White must now prevent ...Nf4.
23.Rae1 -1.11/21 **Nce5** -0.63/19
[23...gxh6? 24.Qxh6 Rf6 25.Nh7±]
[23...Nf4∓ -1.11/21 24.Qg3 *(24.Qh4? Qe7-+)* 24...e5 *(24...gxh6 25.Nxe6 Bxe6 26.Rxe6=)* 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.gxf5 Bxf5 *(26...Nxd3 27.Ne6+* Discovered Attack (Double Check), Double Attack *Kf7 28.Qg7+ Ke8 29.Bh5+)*]
24.gxf5 Nf4 0.44/24

[24...Nxf3+∓ -0.56/21 25.Nxf3 Rxf5]

25.Qg3± Rxf5



26.Ne4!→ White has strong attack. Dancing on a razor blade. **26...Nxf3+**

[26...Qxd3 27.Qxg7#]

27.Qxf3 Qxd3 3.42/24

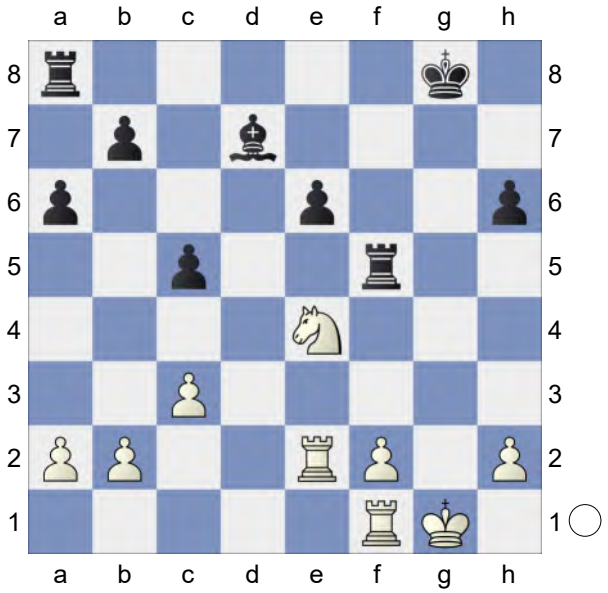
[27...Qf8± 0.75/22 28.Qg3 e5]

28.Re3? 0.01/23

[28.Bxf4? Qxf3 29.Bg3 Bb5-+]

[White must play 28.Qg4!+- 3.42/24 Nh3+ 29.Kg2 Trapped Piece]

28...Ne2+!= 29.Qxe2 Qxe2 30.Rxe2 gxh6



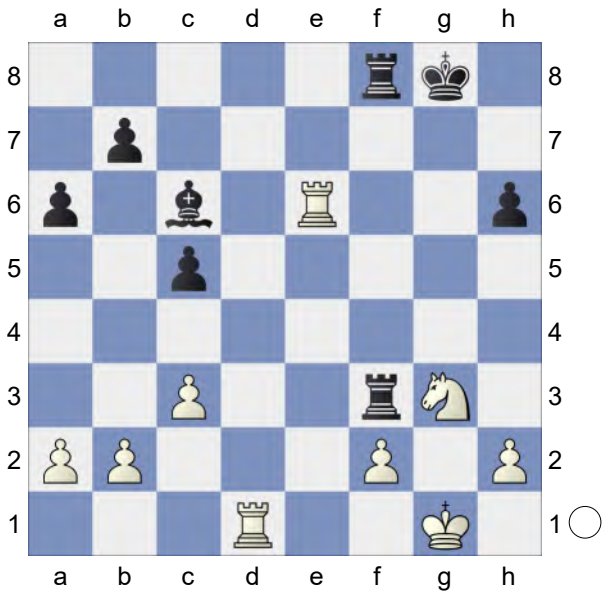
31.Ng3 Rf3 0.52/20

[Black should try 31...Rd5= -0.19/18]

32.Rd1± Bc6 1.44/20

[⌓32...Rf7 0.71/20]

33.Rxe6± Raf8



34.Rd2 0.71/20

[34.Rxh6? Rxf2 35.Rg6+ Kh7 36.Rxc6 bxc6-+]

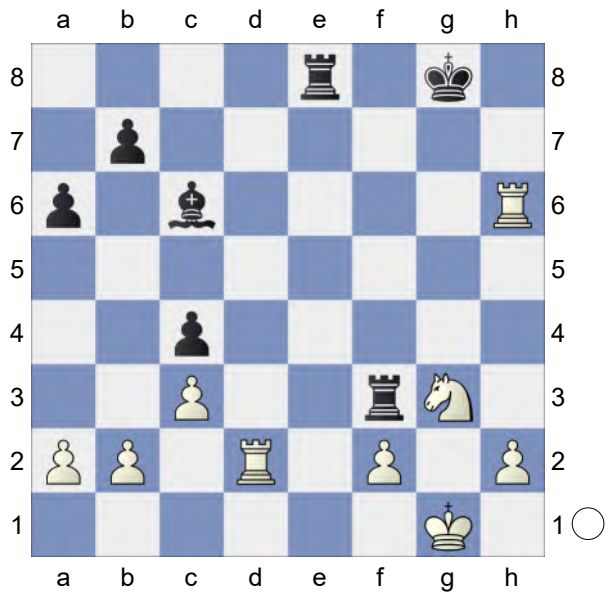
[⌓34.Rg6+! 1.54/21 Kf7 *(34...Kh7? 35.Rdd6+-)* 35.Rxh6]

34...c4 1.59/21

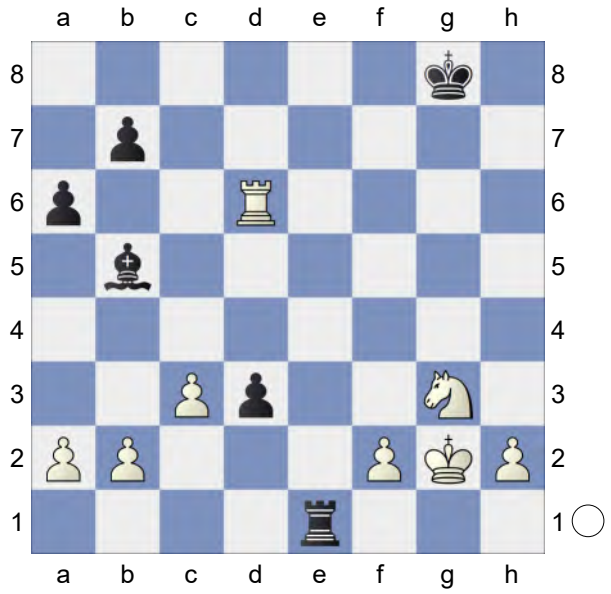
[⌓34...R3f6 0.71/20 35.Re5 Re8 36.Rxe8+ *(36.Rxc5?* is a self mate. *Re1+ 37.Nf1 Rg6+)* 36...Bxe8]

35.Rxh6 Re8

(Diagram)

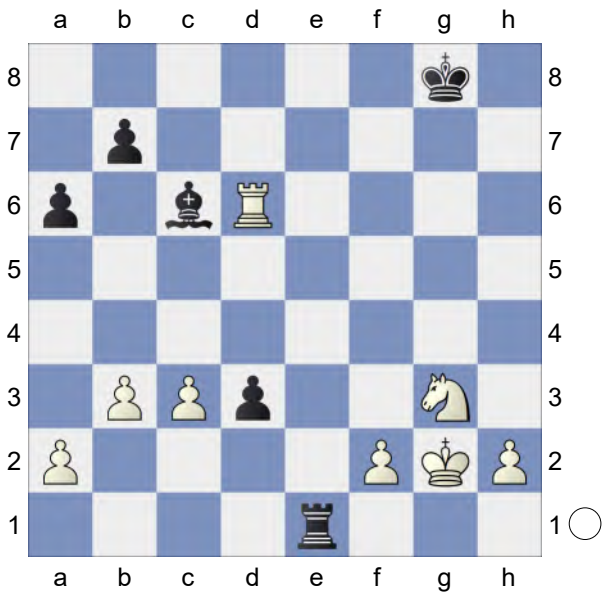


36.Kf1 Wards off Re1+ **36...Rd3** 2.20/21
[36...a5± 1.56/20 was worth a try. 37.Rh4 Re6 38.Rg4+ *(38.Rxc4 Bb5*= Pin *)* 38...Kf8]
37.Rxd3+- **cxd3** Endgame. KRB-KRN
38.Rd6 **Bb5** **39.Kg2** 1.51/21
[39.f3+- 2.82/21]
39...Re1

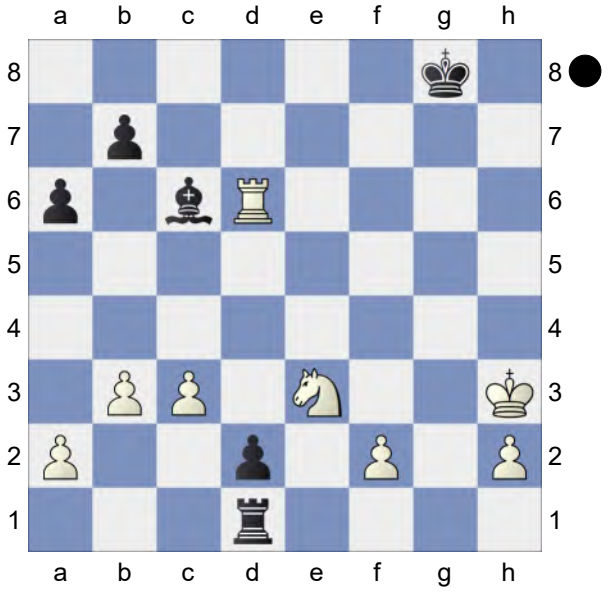


40.b3! **Bc6+**

(Diagram)



41.Kh3 **Rd1** 1.97/20
[41...Ra1± 1.48/20]
42.Nf5 **d2** 3.47/24
[⌓42...Kf7 2.01/20 43.Kg3 Rg1+ 44.Kf4 Rg2]
43.Ne3

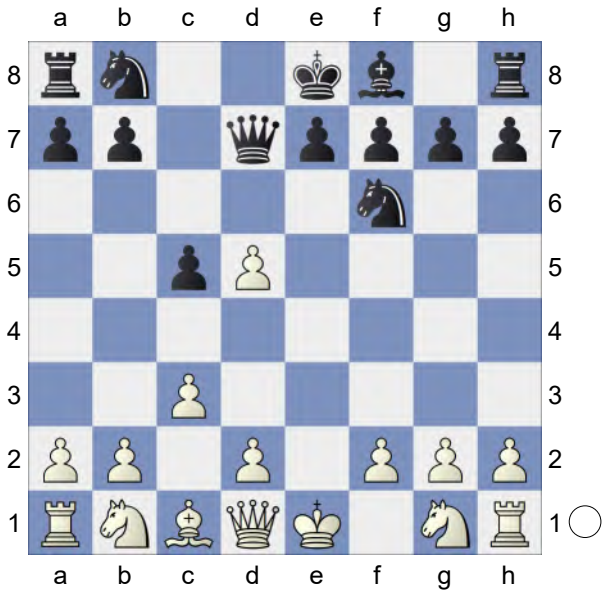


Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.56
1-0

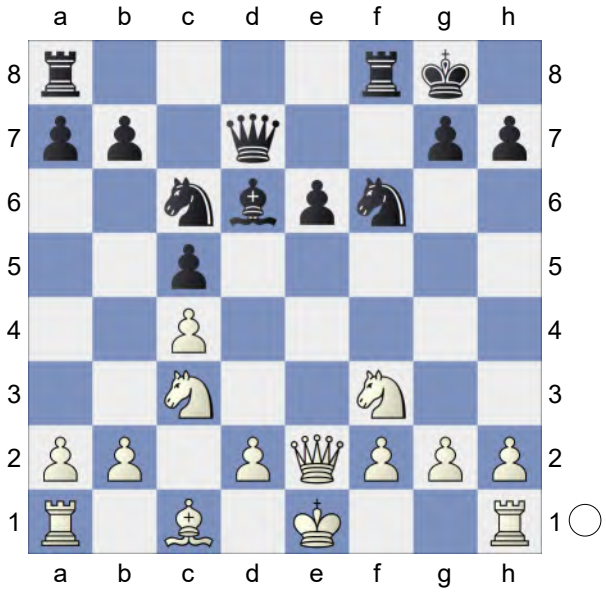
31 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3025**
■ **Tfaf2020** **2878**
Blitz 22.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Sveshnikov,E: 'Inf 61/158' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6N**
[3...Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 *(4...g6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Qb3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Kf1 e6 9.cxd4 a6 10.Bg5 Bg7 11.Nc3 Qf5 12.Re1 Nbd7 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bd3* 16) 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g-4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Nf6 #2*)* 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Bg4 6.Nbd2 e6 7.Bc4 Qd7 8.Qb3 Bd6 9.Ne5 Qc7 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Ndc4 0-0 12.Nxg4 Nxg4 13.h3 Nf6 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.dxc5 Qxc5 16.Be3 Qe5 17.0-0 Nd5 18.Bd2 Rab8 19.Rfe1 Qf5 20.Rad1* 1-0 (39) Kleiman,J (2399)-Nemeth,J (2164) Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Nov Late blitz 2022 (5)*)* 6.Na3 *(6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bd3 Qa5 10.Qc2 h6 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 b6 13.Ne5 Bb7 14.f4 Qd5 15.f5 Nbd7 16.Bc4 Qe4 17.Qxe4 Bxe4 18.Nxd7 Nxd7 19.fxe6 Nf6 20.exf7+ Kh8* 1-0 (23) With E6 (2545)-Kerkdijk,C Calcutta 2000 (3)*)* 6...Qd8 7.Nc2 Nc6 8.Bf4 cxd4 9.Ncxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Nxd4 a6 12.Be2 Bd7 13.0-0 Bc5 14.Nb3 Bb6 15.a4 0-0-0 16.Bf3 Be8 17.Be5 Rg8 18.a5 1-0 (57) Sveshnikov,E (2585)-Makarov,M (2525) Russia (ch) 61/158 1994]
4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7

(Diagram)

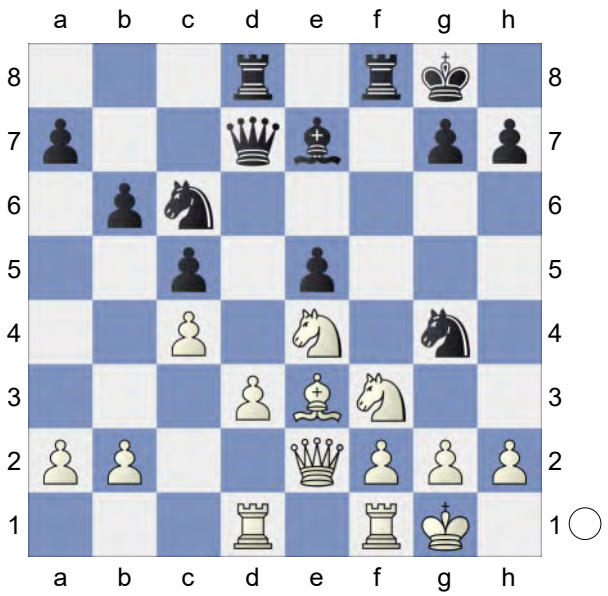


6.c4 e6 7.Qe2 Bd6 8.dxe6
White is slightly better. **8...fxe6 9.Nf3 Nc6** Inhibits d4. **10.Nc3 0-0**

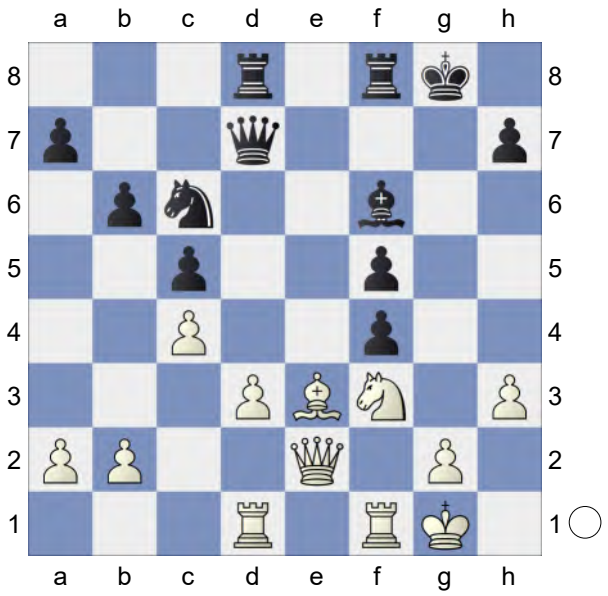


11.d3 Ng4 12.Be3 Rad8 13.Ne4 b6 14.Rd1 Be7 15.0-0 e5

(Diagram)

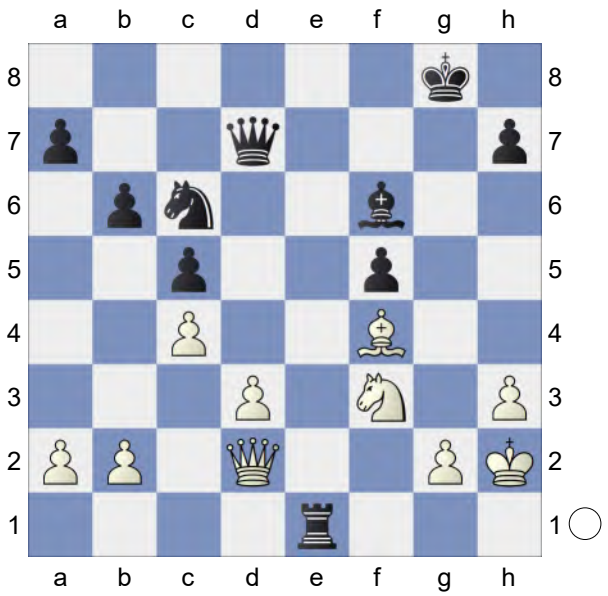


16.h3 Nf6 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Nh2 f5 19.f4 Bf6 20.Nf3 exf4



21.Bxf4 Rde8 22.Qd2 Re6 23.Rfe1 Rfe8 24.Kh2 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Rxe1

(Diagram)



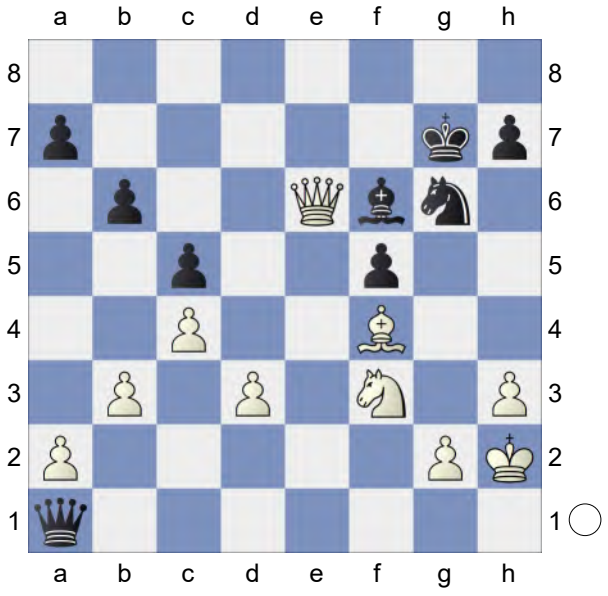
26.Nxe1 Ne5 27.b3 Qd4 28.Qe3 Qa1? 2.82/21 A mistake that costs the game.

[28...Qc3± 1.23/21 is a better defense. 29.Bg5 Bg7]

29.Nf3+- Ng6 5.83/26

[29...Nxf3+ 2.89/21 30.Qxf3 Qd4 31.Qd5+ Kg7 32.Qxf5 a6]

30.Qe6+ Kg7



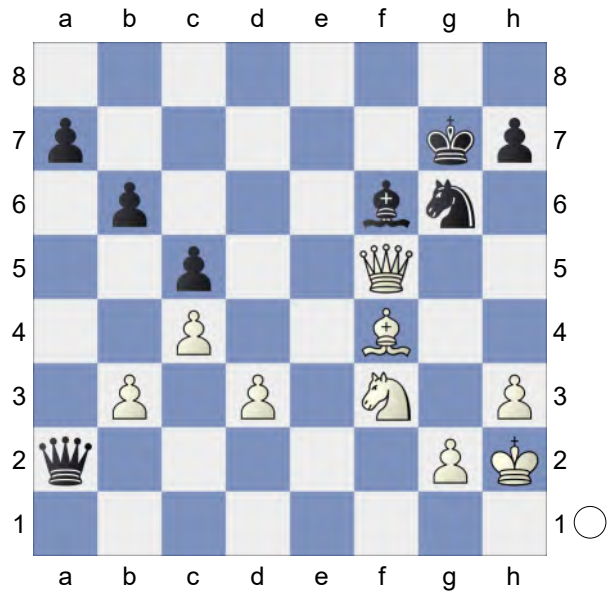
31.Qxf5 1.87/22

[31.Qd7+ 5.20/22 Kg8 32.Qd5+ *(32.Qxf5 Nxf4 33.Qxf4 Kg7+-)* 32...Kg7 33.Qb7+ *(33.Qxf5 Nxf4*

34.Qxf4 Qxa2+-) 33...Ne7 34.Qxa7]

31...Qxa2? 4.25/22

[31...Nxf4 1.87/22 was called for. 32.Qxf4 Qxa2 33.Qc7+ Kg6]



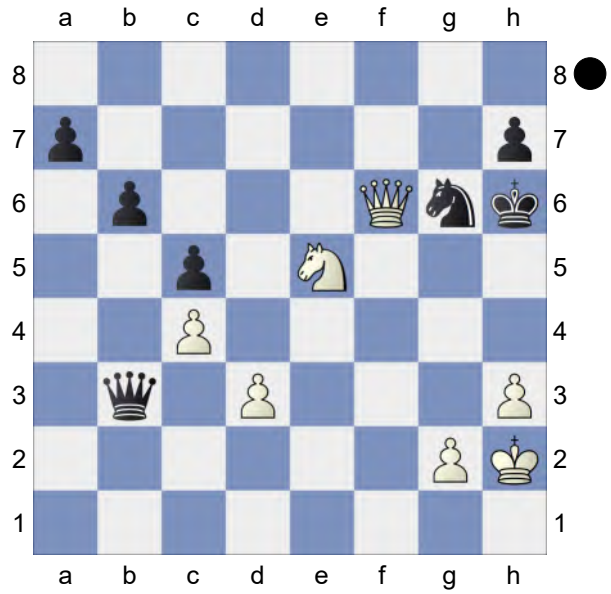
32.Bh6+! 2.36/20 **Kxh6** **33.Qxf6**

White threatens Ne5 and mate.

33...Qxb3? #4/10

[33...Qe2+- 1.94/26 34.Qd6 Qe7 35.Qxe7 Nxe7]

34.Ne5



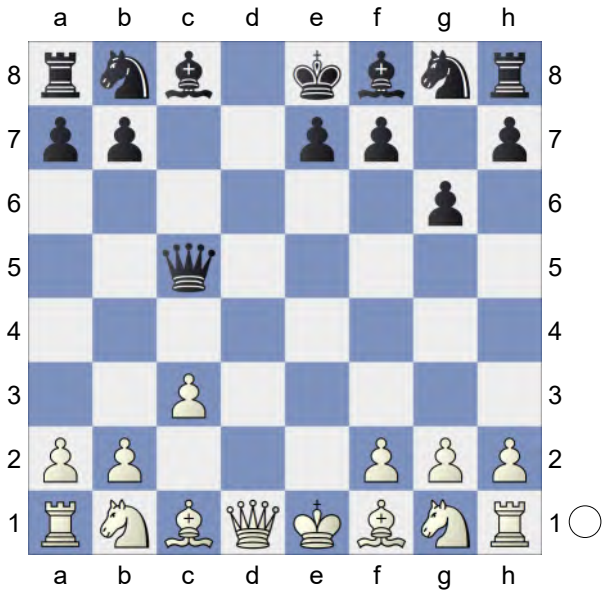
Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/Black=0.64

1-0

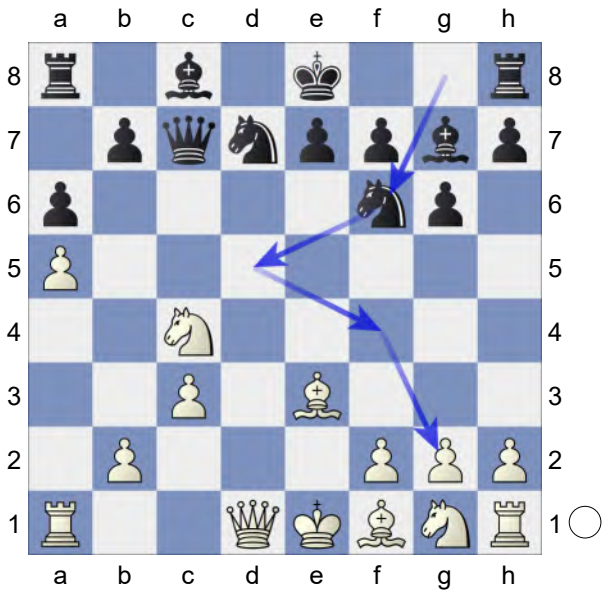
32 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3025**
■ **Halfmillion2023** **2887**
Blitz 02.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Inf 61/(157) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6N**
[4...Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.Nb5 Qd8 11.Bf4 Nd5 12.Bg3 0-0 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Nc3 Rc8 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Qb3 Qb6 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Bb5 Bf6 19.Rfe1 ½-½ (22) Stevic, H (2565)-Gajewski,G (2589) Deutschland 155/(41) 2023]
[4...Nc6 5.dxc5 Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Nf6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3+ 9.gxf3 e6 10.b4 a5 11.Bd2 axb4 12.cxb4 0-0-0 13.a3 Nd4 14.Be2 Nd5 15.Ra2 Be7 16.Ke1 Bf6 17.Nc3 Rhe8 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Bf4 "-" (39) 5. ♘f3 c6_46840 (2550)-Rhodes,J (2200) BCCA v Sunday Referee 1929 (9)]
[4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 7.Nb5 Qd8 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bf4 Nd5 11.0-0-0 Ke7 12.Bg3 a6 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Rd8 15.Be2 Bd7 16.Bf3 Ba4 17.Rd2 Rd7 18.Re1 Rad8 19.Re4 (25) Sermek,D (2515)-Magerramov,E (2580) Tilburg_170840 1994]
5.dxc5 Qxc5

(Diagram)

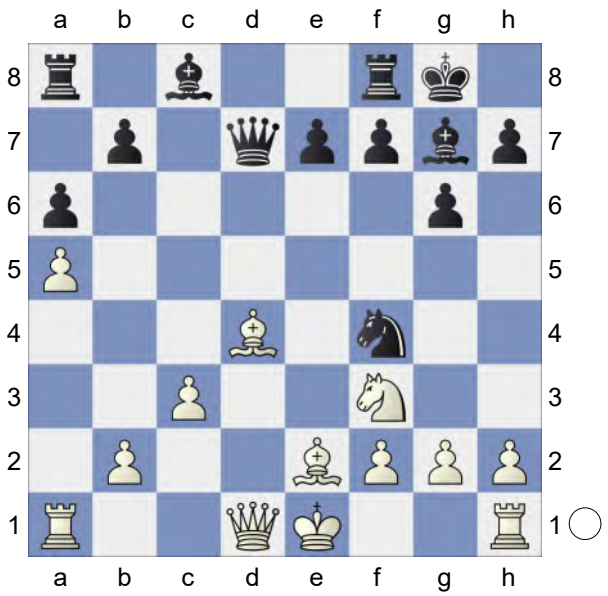


6.Be3 Qc7 7.Na3 a6 Repels Nb5 **8.Nc4 Nd7** Against Nb6 **9.a4** The position is equal. **9...Bg7 10.a5 Ngf6**

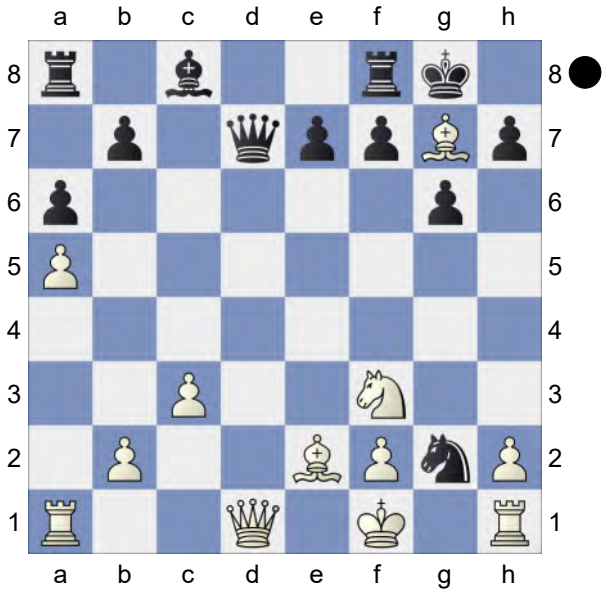


11.Nb6 Nxb6 12.Bxb6 Qd7 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Be2 -0.35/20
[14.Qxd7= 0.04/18 Bxd7 15.Ne5]
14...Nd5∓ 15.Bd4 Nf4

(Diagram)

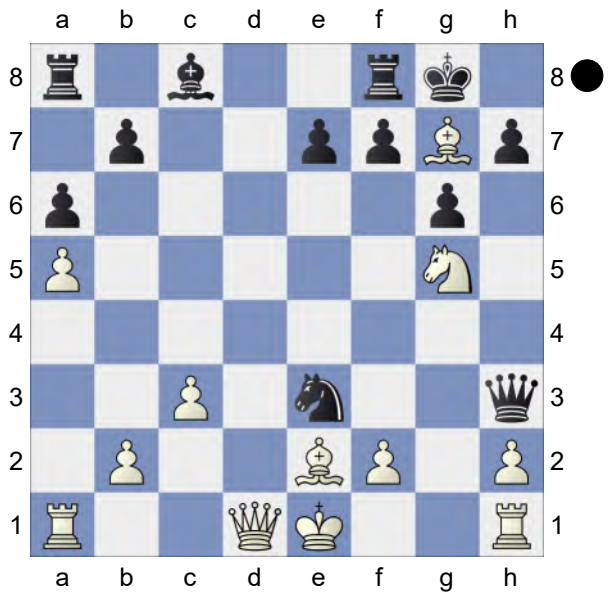


16.Bxg7 Nxg2+ 17.Kf1

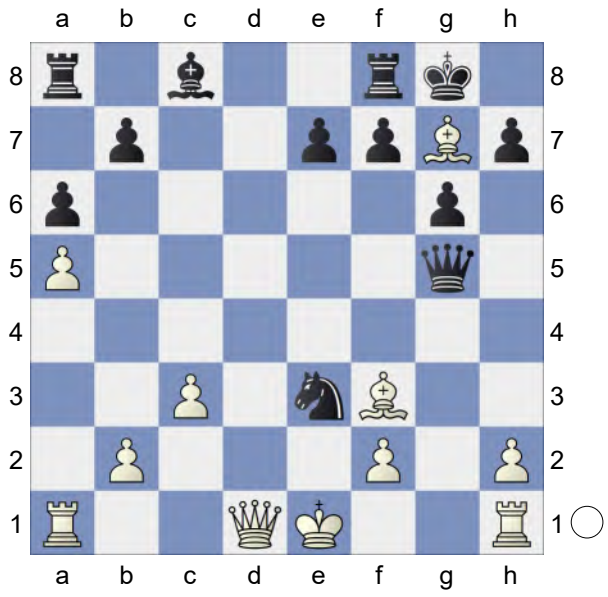


Qh3 18.Ng5 -1.69/20
[18.Ng1!∓ -0.41/23 Ne3+ Discovered Attack (Double Check), Double Attack 19.Ke1]
[18.Kg1 Nf4]
18...Ne3+-+ 19.Ke1

(Diagram)

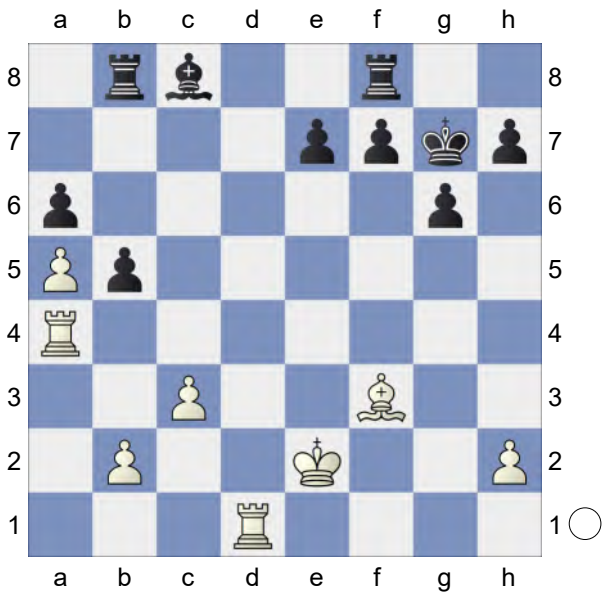


Qg2
[19...Nxd1 20.Nxh3 Kxg7 21.Ng1 Nxb2 22.Ra2±]
20.Bf3 Qxg5

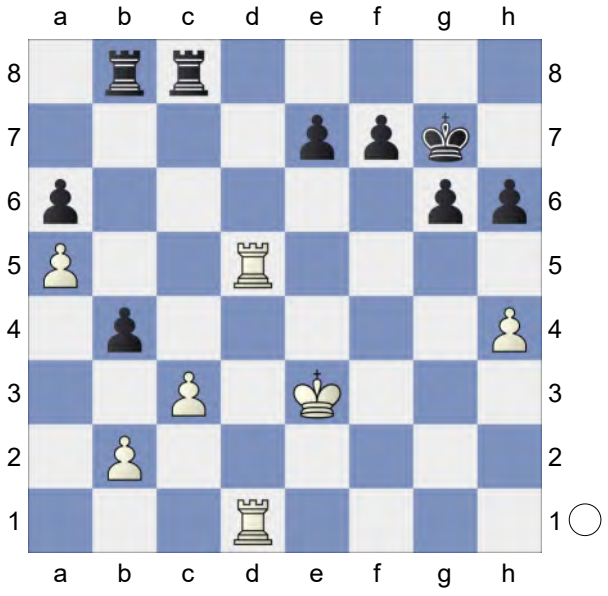


21.fxe3 -2.15/20
[21.Qc1∓ -1.42/20 might work better. Ng2+ *(21...Kxg7 22.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 23.fxe3∓)* 22.Kf1]
21...Qxe3+ 22.Qe2 Qxe2+ 23.Kxe2 Kxg7 24.Rhd1 Rb8 25.Ra4 b5

(Diagram)

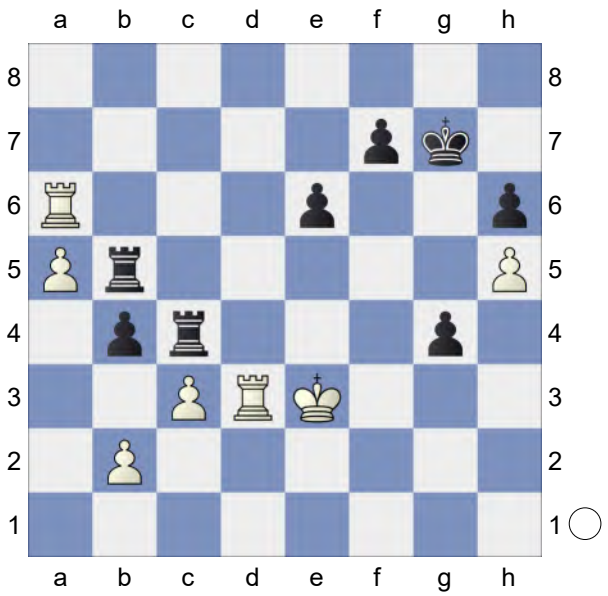


26.Rad4 Be6 27.Ke3 Rfc8 28.h4 h6? -0.68/17
[Black should try 28...f5-+ -2.52/18 White must now prevent ...Kf6. 29.Be2 h6]
29.Bd5? -2.73/21
[29.h5!∓ -0.68/17]
29...Bxd5 30.Rxd5 Endgame. KRR-KRR **30...b4**

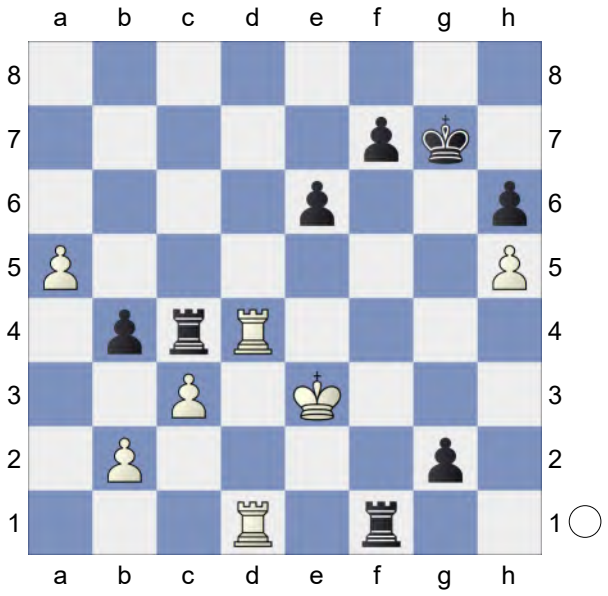


31.R1d3 Rc4 32.h5 g5 33.Rd7 e6 34.Ra7 Rb5 35.Rxa6 g4

(Diagram)



36.Ra7 Rf5 37.Rad7 -5.85/22
[⌓37.Ke2 -4.09/18]
37...g3 Black is clearly winning.
[Not 37...Rxh5 38.R7d4 Rxd4 39.Rxd4 Rh3+ *(39...Rxa5 40.Rxg4+ Kf6 41.Rxb4∓)* 40.Kf2 bxc3 41.Rxg4+ Kf6 42.bxc3-+]
38.R7d4 -24.85/22
[⌓38.Rd1 -4.63/21 bxc3 *(38...Rxa5? 39.Rf1-+)* 39.bxc3 Rxc3+ *(39...Rxa5? 40.Rc1-+)* 40.Kd4]
38...g2 39.Rd1 Rf1

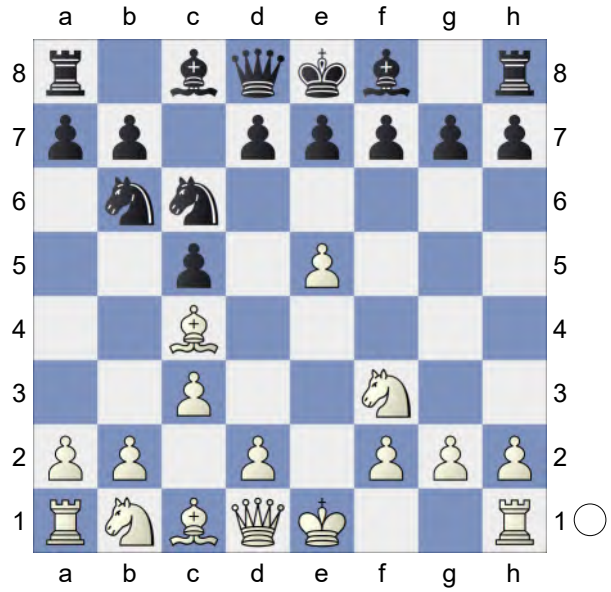


Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/

Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

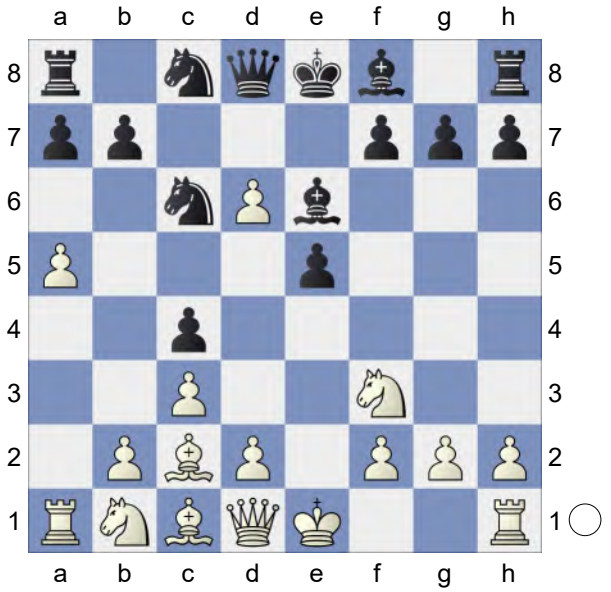
33 **B22**
□ **Torombot** **3023**
■ **Bot64Jaques** **2503**
Blitz 29.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
I followed this game live and it wasn't a fun experience! **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6**

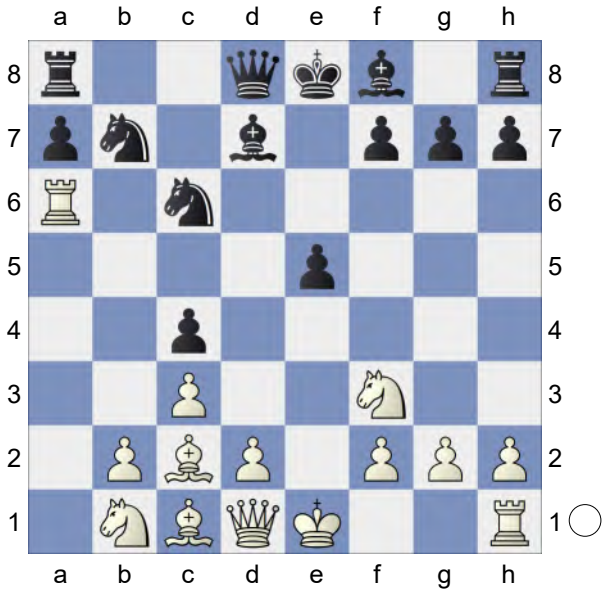


6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d5 8.exd6 e5
[8...Qxd6 9.0-0 *(9.b3 g6 10.Qe2 cxb3 11.axb3 Bg7 12.h3 0-0 13.0-0 Re8 14.d4 Bd7 15.Rd1 Nd5 16.Be4 Nf6 17.Bc2 b5 18.Ne5 a6 19.Bf4 Nd5 20.Bg3 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Qe6 22.Be4 Bc6 23.Bf3 h5* ½-½ (47) Gutierrez Espinosa,K (1425)-Link,P (1743) Russian Team Ch 2002 (10)) 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Re1 0-0-0 12.Be4 e6 13.b3 f5 14.Bc2 g6 15.bxc4 e5 16.d4 exd4 17.Bg5 Bg7 18.Bxd8 Rxd8 19.Qd3 Qf4 20.Qd2 Qxd2 21.Nbxd2 dxc3 22.Nb3 Bxf3 23.gxf3 0-1 (40) Jones,G (2640)-Anand,V (2767) 80th Tata Steel GpA 2018 (10.5)]

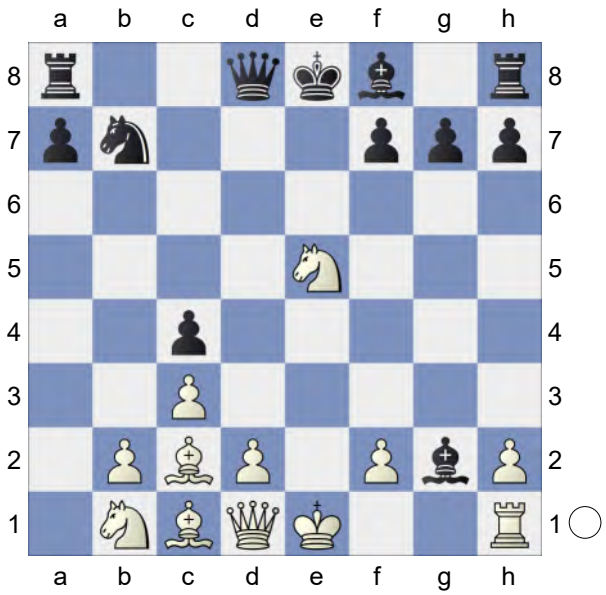
9.a4N
[9.0-0 Be6 10.a4 Bxd6 11.a5 Nd7 12.d4 cxd3 13.Qxd3 Be7 14.a6 b6 15.Re1 Rc8 16.Na3 Bxa3 17.Rxa3 f6 18.Be3 Kf7 19.Raa1 Qc7 20.Rad1 Nb4 21.Qe2 Nxc2 22.Qxc2 Nb8 23.Qa4 Rhd8 (39) Model Games-Howell,D]
9...Be6 0.52/17
[9...Bxd6= 0.02/17 10.0-0 f5]
10.a5± Nc8



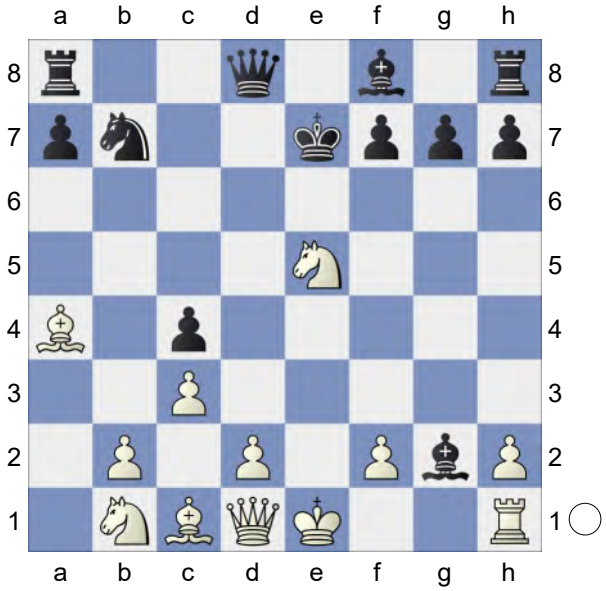
White is slightly better. **11.a6 Nxd6 12.axb7 Nxb7 13.Ra6 Bd7**



14.Rxc6 Bxc6 15.Nxe5 Bxg2 1.63/21
[15...Na5± 1.11/18]

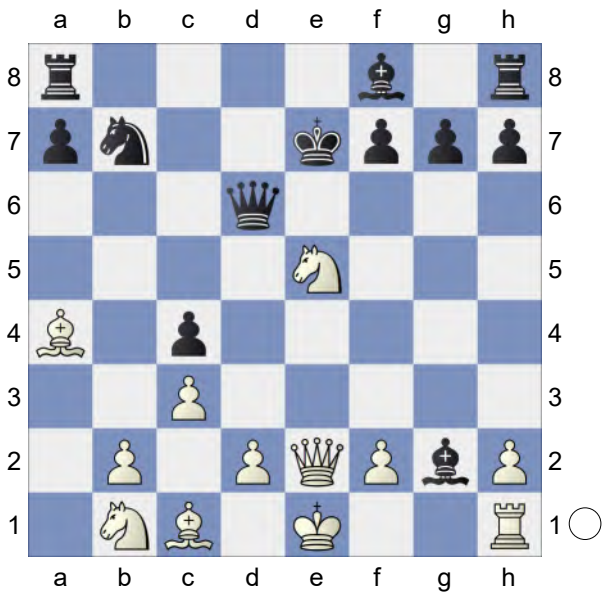


16.Ba4++- Ke7



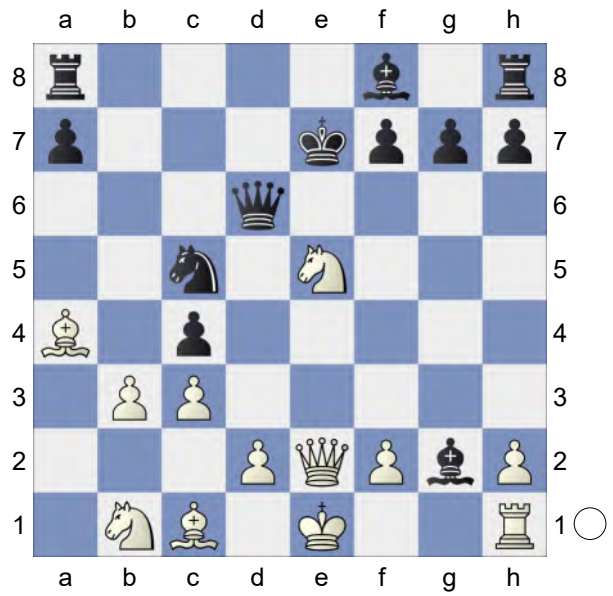
17.Qe2! Threatening mate with Ng4+. White has strong compensation.
17...Qd6
[17...Bxh1 18.Nd7+ *(18.Nxc4+ Kf6+-; 18.Nxc4+ Kf6+-)*]

(Diagram)



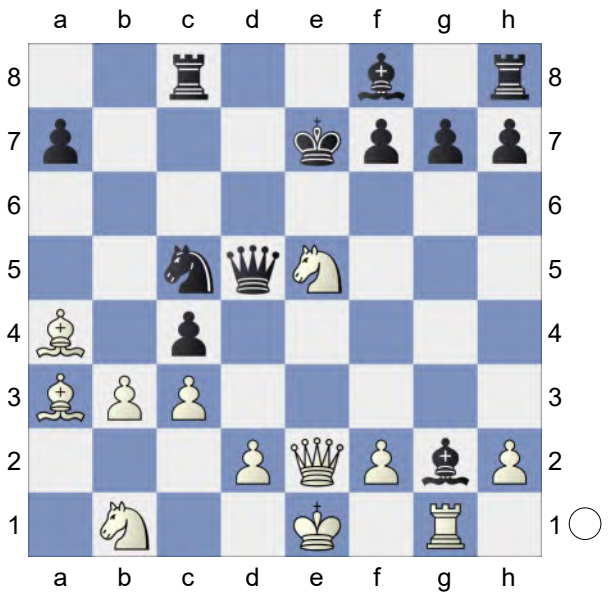
18.b3!
[18.Nxc4+ Qe6 19.Rg1 Nc5∓]
18...Nc5 2.28/19
[18...Bxh1 19.Ba3 Kf6 *(19...Nc5? 20.Bxc5* Remove Defender, Overworked Piece *Qxc5 21.Nd7+ Kd8 22.Nxc5+-)* 20.Ng4+ *(20.Bxd6 Bxd6 21.Ng4+ Kg6+-)* 20...Kg6 21.Bxd6 Nxd6 22.Ne5+ *(22.bxc4 Nf5+-)* 22...Kf5 23.bxc4+- *(23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Qxc4 Be7+-; 23.Qh5+ Ke6+-)*]
[18...Qe6± 1.54/18 19.Rg1 Kd8]

(Diagram)

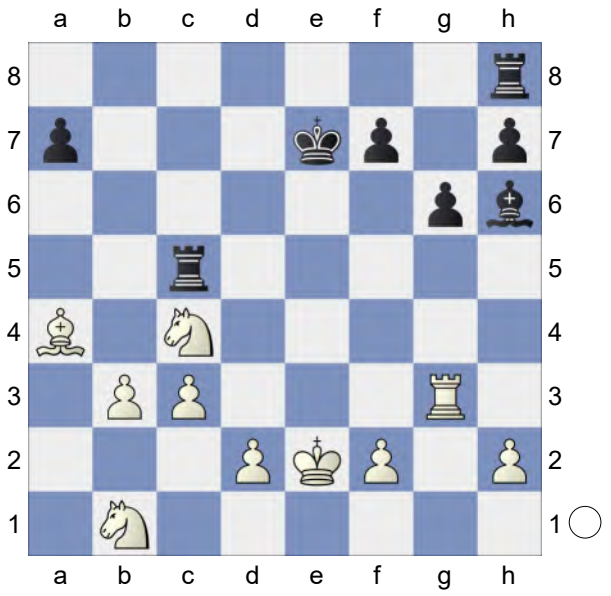


19.Ba3! Black must now prevent Bxc5.
19...Rc8
[19...Bxh1? 20.Bxc5 *(20.Nxc4+ Qe6∓)* 20...Qxc5 21.Nd7+ *(21.Nxc4+? Kf6-+)* 21...Kd8 22.Nxc5 Bxc5 23.Qh5+- *(23.Qxc4 Rc8+-; 23.bxc4 Rb8+-)*]
20.Rg1 Qd5 3.51/21
[Reject 20...Be4 21.Bxc5 *(21.Nxc4 Qd3∓)* 21...Rxc5 22.Nc6+ *(22.Qxe4?* perishes. *Rxe5-+* Pin *)* 22...Kf6 23.Qxe4+-]
[⌓20...Bd5 2.18/19]

(Diagram)

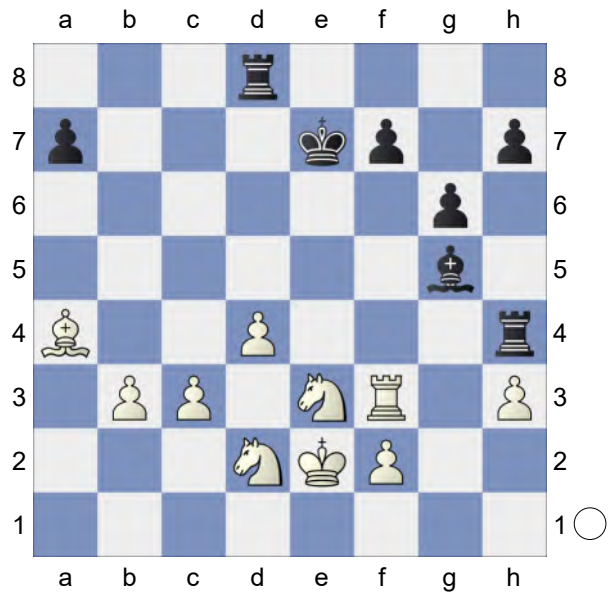


21.Bxc5+ Rxc5 22.Nxc4+ Qe4 23.Rxg2 Qxe2+ 24.Kxe2 g6 25.Rg3 Bh6

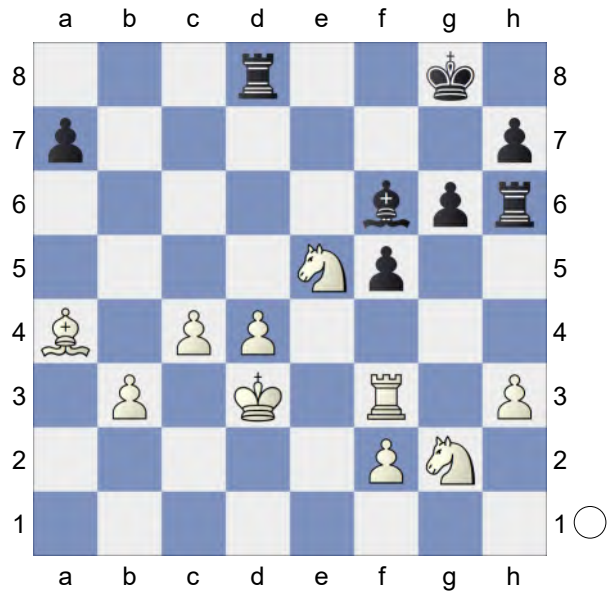


26.d4 Rh5 27.h3 Bf4 28.Rf3 Rh4 29.Ne3 Bg5 30.Nd2 Rd8

(Diagram)

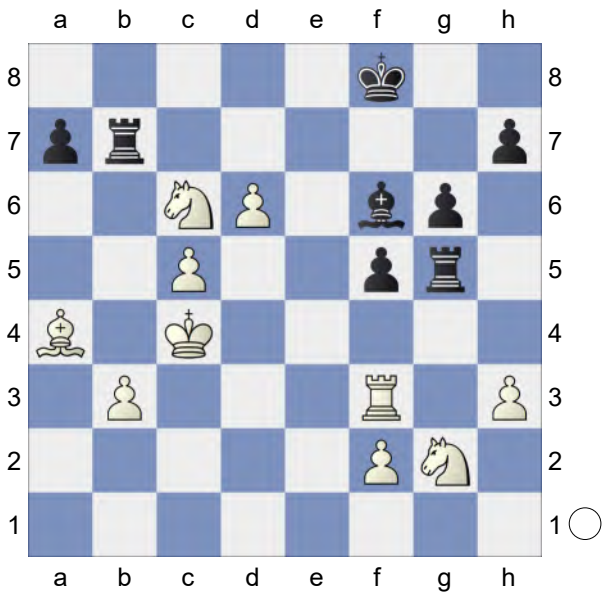


31.Ng2 Rh6 32.Nc4 Kf8 33.Ne5 f5 34.Kd3 Kg8 35.c4 Bf6

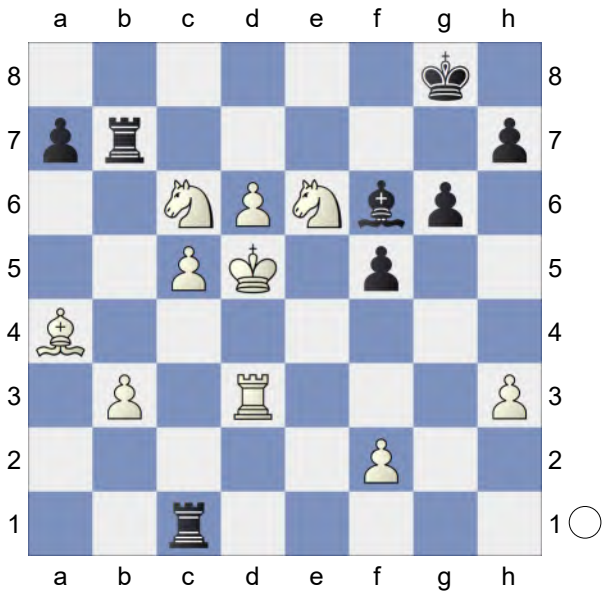


36.Nc6 Rd7 37.c5 Rh5 38.Kc4 Rb7 39.d5 Kf8 40.d6 Rg5

(Diagram)

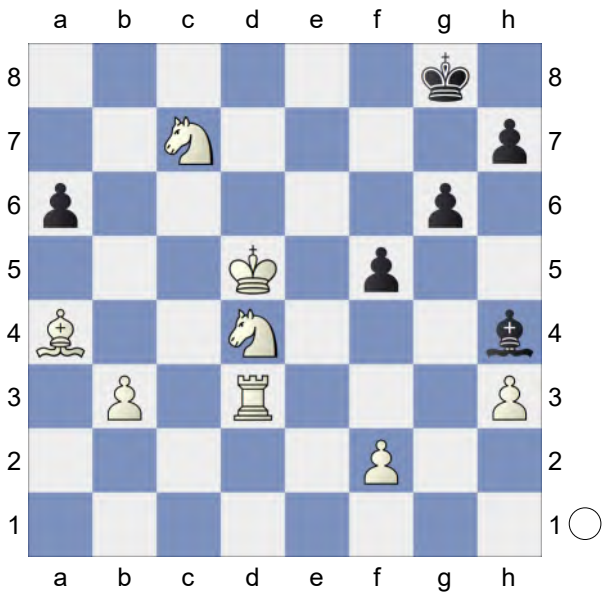


41.Nf4 Rg1 42.Kd5 Re1 43.Re3 Rd1+ 44.Rd3 Rc1 45.Ne6+ Kg8

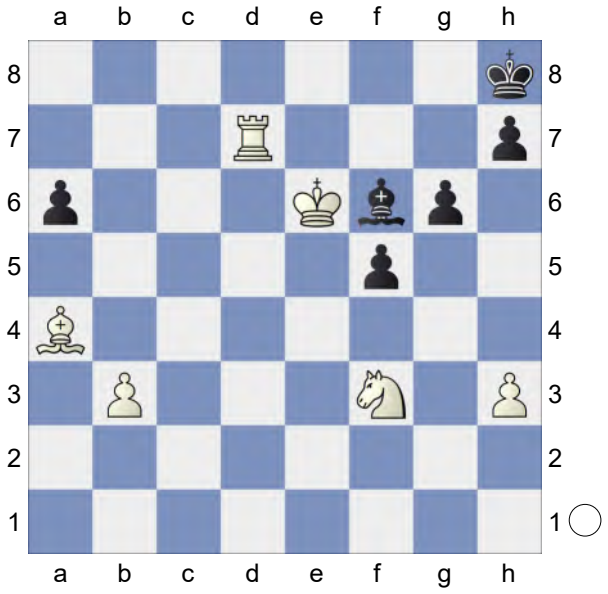


46.Ncd4 Rf7 47.c6 a6 48.c7 Rfxc7 49.dxc7 Rxc7 50.Nxc7 Bh4

(Diagram)

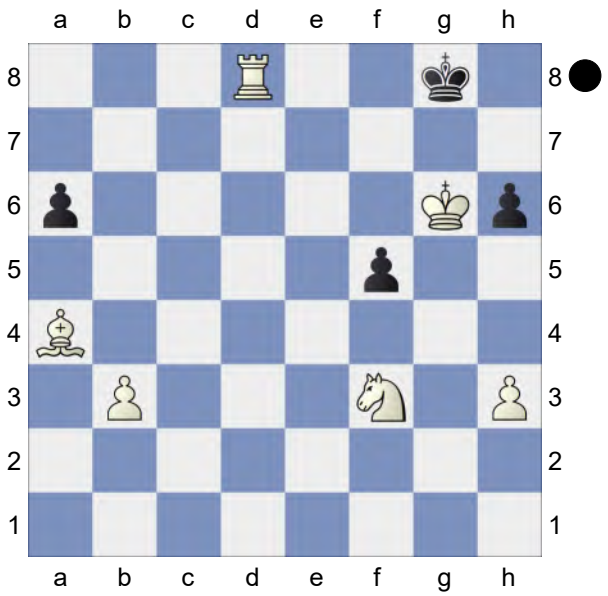


51.Ke6 White mates. **51...Bxf2 52.Nf3 Bc5 53.Ne8 Kh8 54.Nf6 Be7 55.Rd7 Bxf6**



56.Kxf6 h6 57.Kxg6 Kg8 58.Rd8#

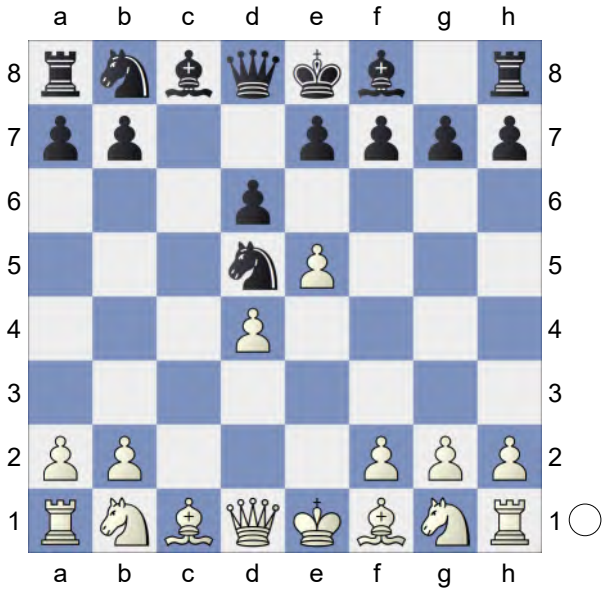
(Diagram)



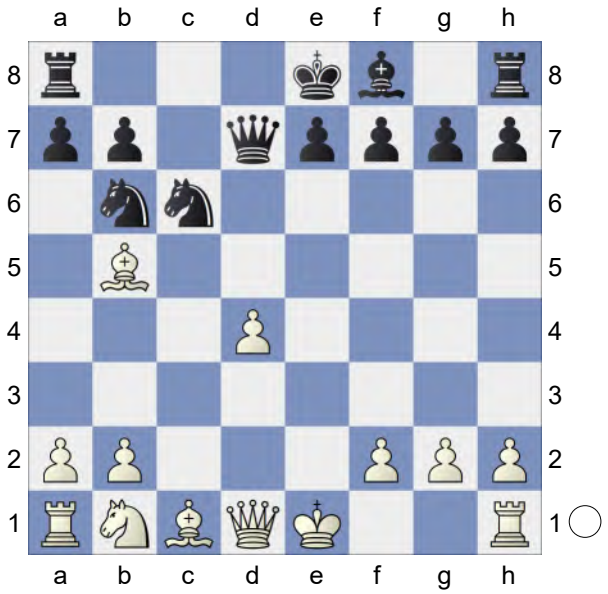
Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.42
1-0

34 **B22**
□ **Torombot** **3023**
■ **Nikitosikbot V2** **3023**
Blitz 26.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6

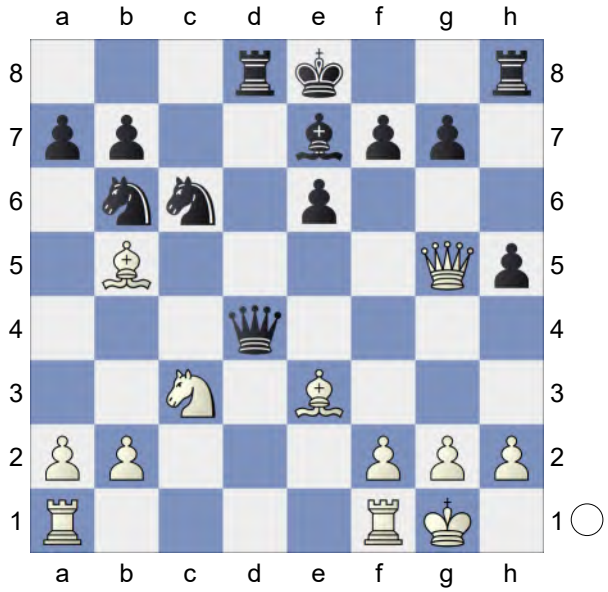


6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



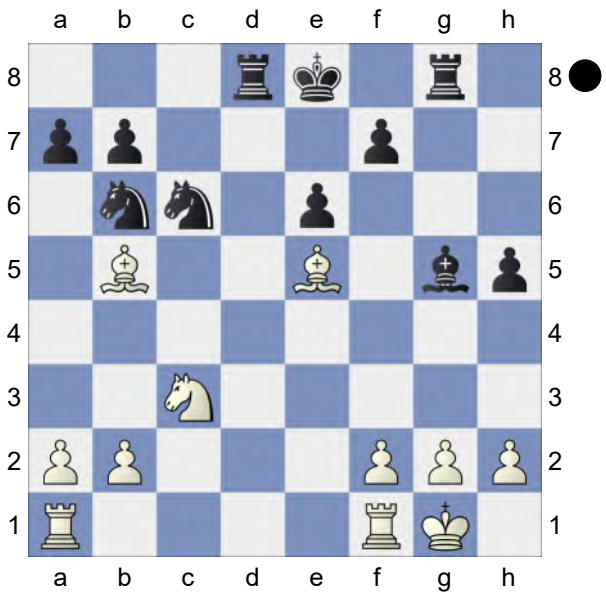
11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Qg4 h5

14.Qg5N
[14.Qf3 simplifies a6 15.Bxc6 Qxc6 16.Qxc6+ bxc6 17.Be3]
[14.Qg3 h4 15.Qf3 a6 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Qxc6+ bxc6 18.Be3 h3 19.g3 Nc4 20.Na4 Nxe3 21.fxe3 e5 22.dxe5 Rh5 23.Nb6 Rxe5 24.Nc4 Red5 25.Kf2 Ke7 26.Kf3 f5 27.g4 Ke6 28.gxf5+ Rxf5+ 1-0 (45) 5 a4 (2367)-Dellis (2422) ISR-chT Israel 2011 (4)]
14...Qxd4 15.Be3 Be7

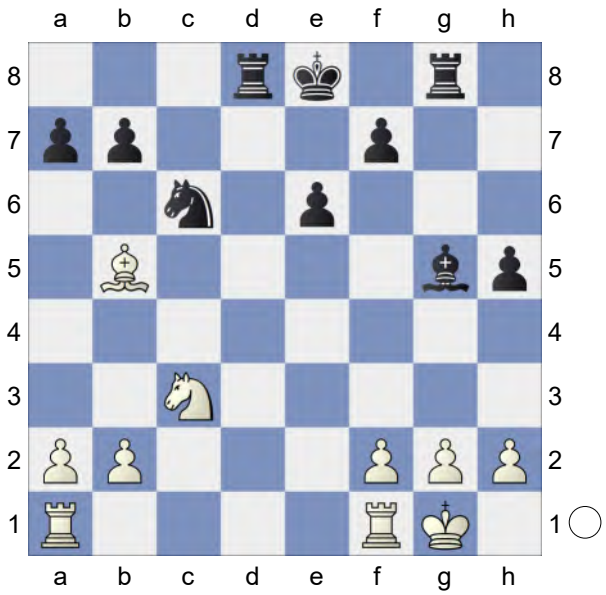


16.Bxd4 This pair of bishops is nice.
[16.Qg3!? Qh4 17.Qxg7=]
16...Bxg5 17.Bxg7 Rg8G Black puts up resistance **18.Be5**

(Diagram)

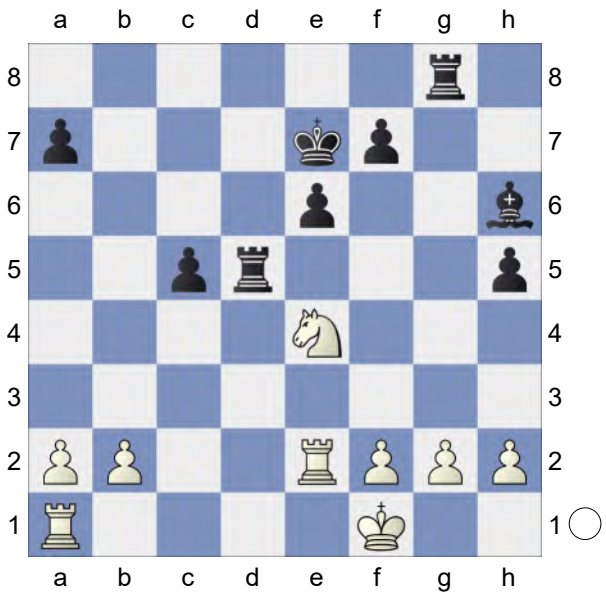


Nc4! 19.Bxc4 aiming for Bb5. **19...Nxe5 20.Bb5+ Nc6**

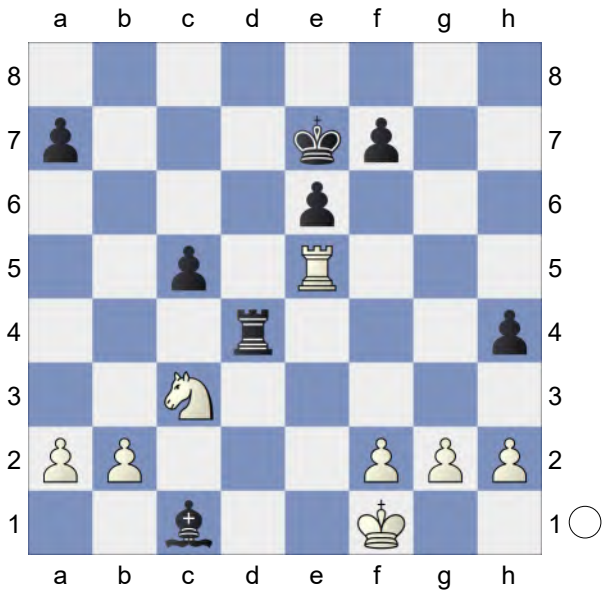


21.Ne4 Ke7 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rfe1 Bh6 24.Re2 Rd5 25.Kf1 c5

(Diagram)

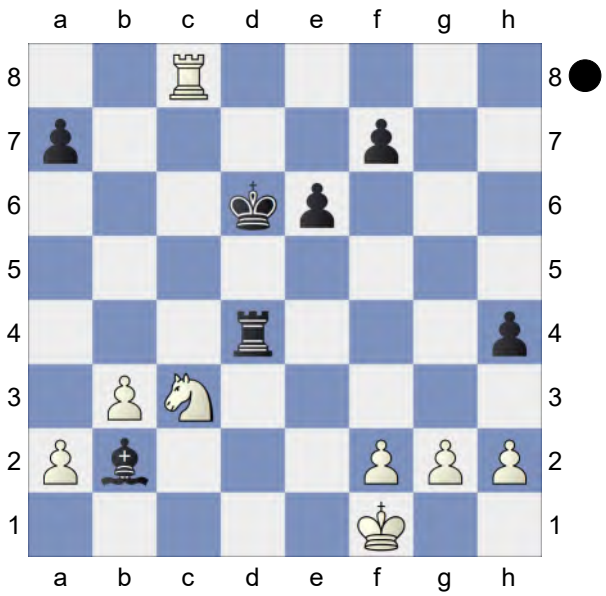


26.Nc3 The position is equal. **26...Rd4 27.Re5 Rg5 28.Rae1 h4 29.Rxg5 Bxg5=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **30.Re5 Bc1**

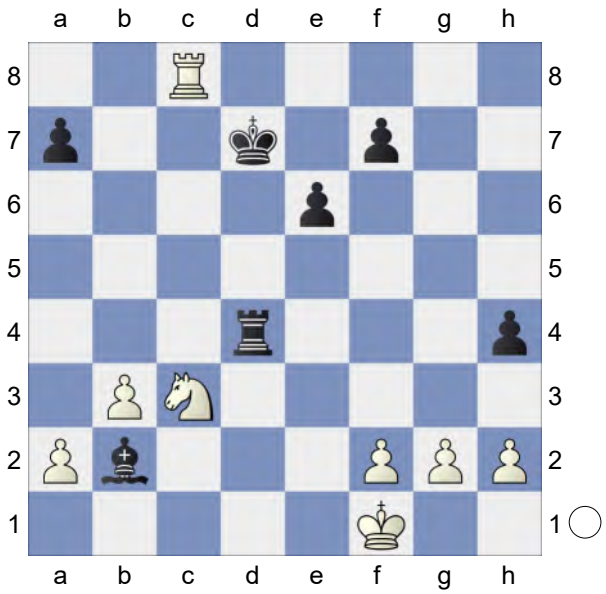


31.b3 Bb2 32.Rxc5 Kd6 33.Rc8

(Diagram)

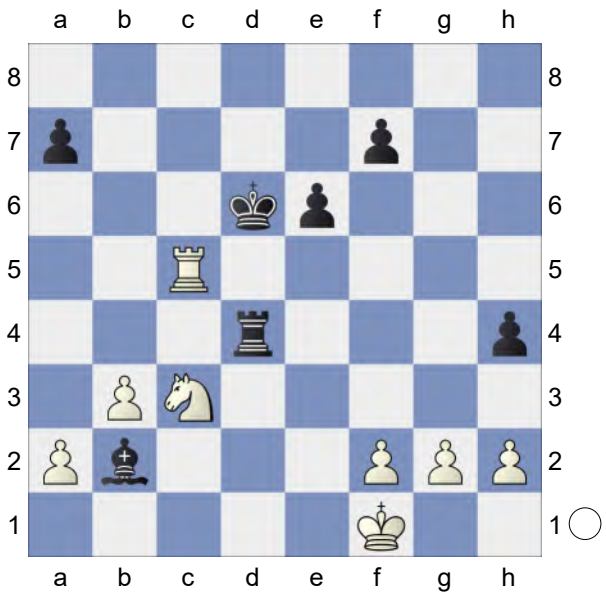


And now Nb5+ would win. **33...Kd7** **34.Rc5** **Kd6** **35.Rc8** Nb5+ is the strong threat. **35...Kd7**



36.Rc5 White wants to play Nb5.
36...Kd6

(Diagram)

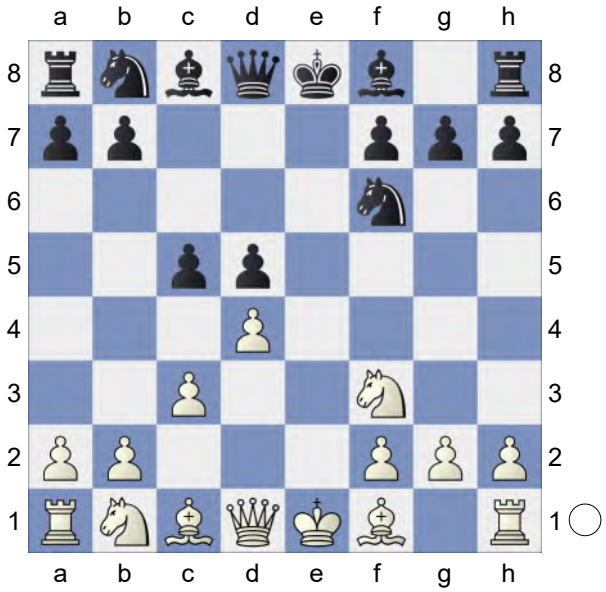


An interesting draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

35 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3018**
■ **Violet Pride** **2719**
Blitz 23.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6



6.Bb5+ Bd7

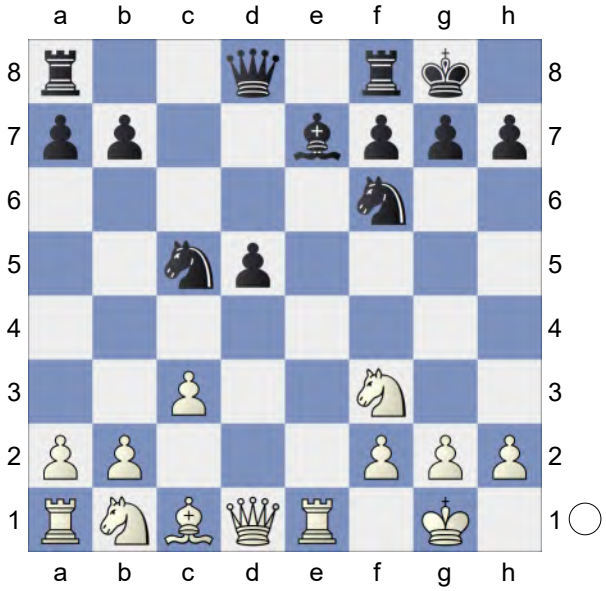
[6...Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Re1+ Be6 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Rxe3 0-0 12.Nbd2 Qb6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Nb3 c5 15.Qc2 Rab8 16.Re2 a5 17.Rae1 h6 18.h3 a4 19.Nc1 Qa6 20.Ne5 d4 21.cxd4 ½-½ (30) Naroditsky,D (2619)-Carlsen,M (2835) Bullet Chess Losers blitz 2023 (5.17)]

7.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1N

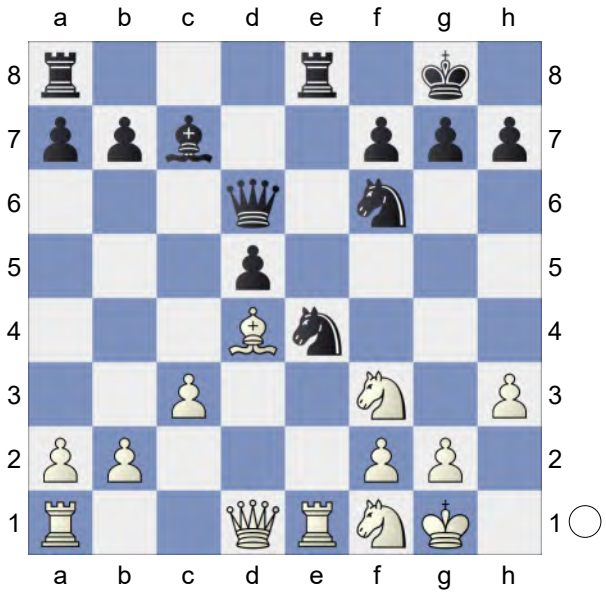
[9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Be3 *(10.Nd4 0-0 11.Nf5 Re8 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Be3 a6* Chess Informant Eco-N,N Chess Informant ECO B4 2002*)* 10...0-0 11.Bxc5 Bxc5 12.Nbd2 Qd6 13.Nb3 Bb6 14.Qd3 Rad8 15.Rad1 Rfe8 16.Rfe1 Ne4 17.Re2 Re6 18.Nbd4 Rf6 19.Nb5 Nxf2 20.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Qxh2 22.Nxa7 g5 23.Qe3 h6 0-1 (28) Alexopoulos,G (2255)-Weeramantry,S (2300) Nassau CC-ch 1994]

[9.Nh4 0-0 10.Nf5 cxd4 11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.Qxd4 Rfe8 13.Be3 Ne5 14.Na3 5) 2...e6 3.d4 d5 Sidelines-3. d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd]

9...0-0 10.dxc5 Nxc5

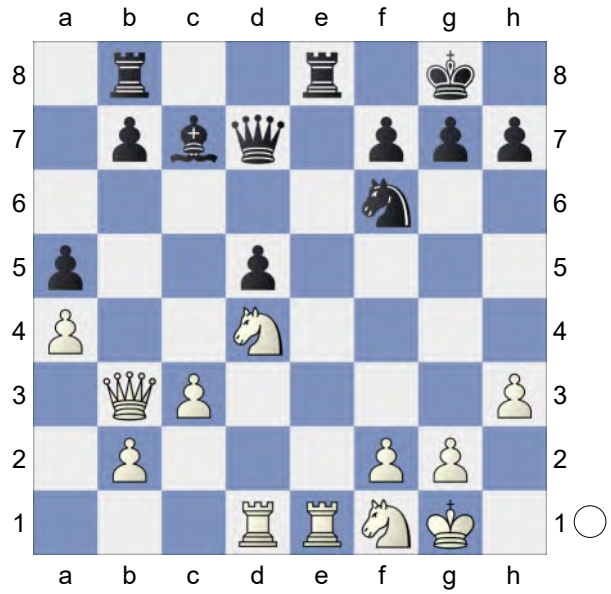


The position is equal. **11.Be3 Nce4 12.Nbd2 Re8 13.h3 Bd6 14.Bd4 Bc7 15.Nf1 Qd6**

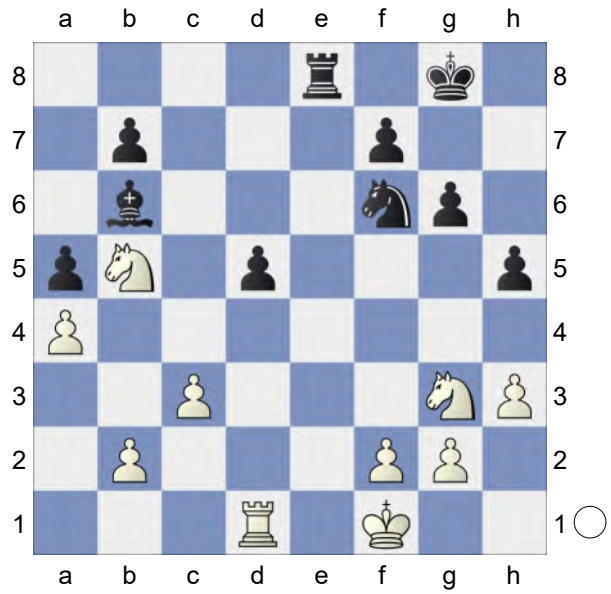


16.Qb3 Qc6 17.Rad1 a5 18.a4 Rab8

19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Nd4 Qd7



21.Qb5 Qxb5 22.Nxb5 Excellent horsemanship. **22...Bb6 23.Ng3 g6 24.Kf1 h5 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8**



26.Ne2 Ne4 27.f3 Nc5 28.Rd4 -0.15/19

[28.Nf4 0.25/23 should be considered.]

28...Re5 0.52/22

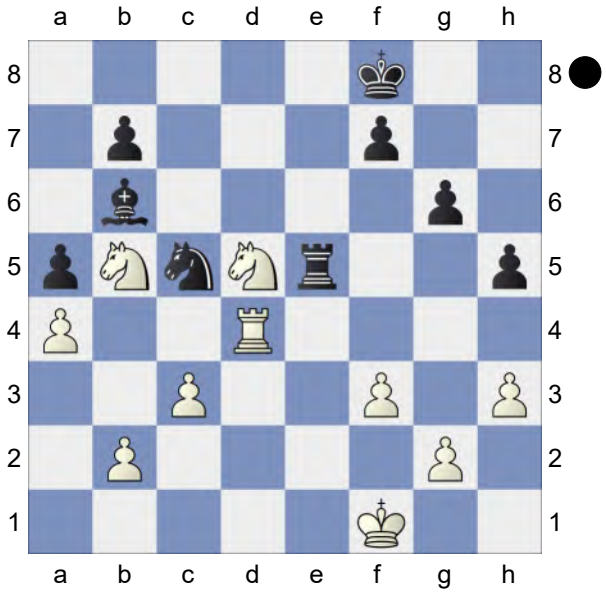
[Black should try 28...Rd8= -0.15/19]

29.Nf4± Kf8 1.24/25

[⌓29...Bd8 0.88/22]

30.Nxd5 0.01/22

[30.Rxd5± 1.24/25 Rxd5 31.Nxd5]



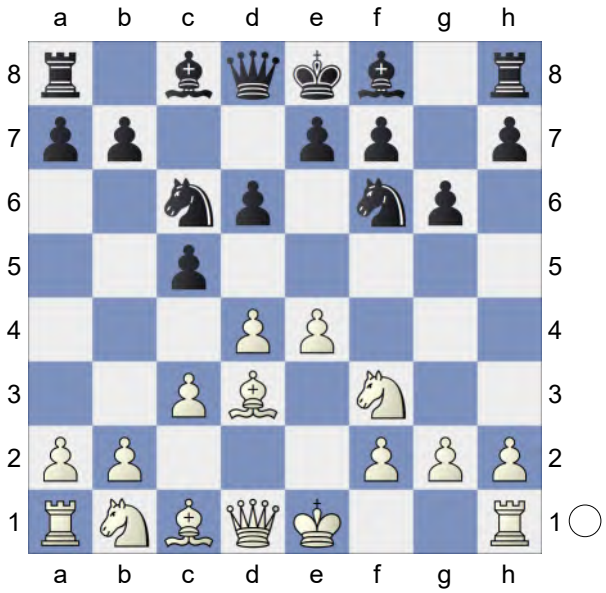
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

36 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3018**
■ **Kacparov** **2854**
Blitz 27.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems
Movsesian,S: 'Inf 79/81' ChessCalisthenics: 'B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems' Sveshnikov,E: 'Inf 61/105' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6**

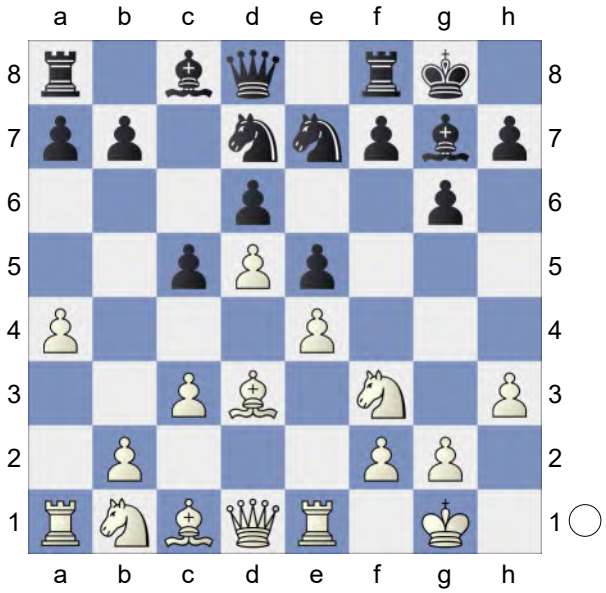
[5...e5 6.d5 Ne7 7.0-0 g6 8.Nfd2 Bg7 9.Nc4 b5 10.Ncd2 a6 11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5 axb5 13.Na3 Bd7 14.c4 b4 15.Nb5 Nc8 16.Ra6 0-0 17.Nb3 Ne8 18.Be3 f5 19.f3 Bf6 20.Qe2 ½-½ (47) Pavasovic,D (2523)-Movsesian,S (2666) Bosna i Hercegovina 79/81 2000]



6.h3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1N

[8.d5 Na5 9.c4 a6 10.Nc3 *(10.a4 e5 11.Nc3 Nh5 12.Re1 Bd7 13.Be3 b6)* 10...Rb8 11.a4 Bd7 12.Qc2 b5 13.cxb5 c4 14.Be2 axb5 15.axb5 Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Rxb5 17.Nd4 Rb7 18.Nc6 Nxc6 19.dxc6 Rb6 20.Bxc4 Qc7 21.Ra6 Rc8 22.Be3 Rxc6 "-" (44) Wittram,T (2585)-10. ♘f3 b5 11. ♗ f6 (2495) Austrian Team Championship 2004 23.Rxc6 Qxc6 24.Rc1 e6 25.Bd3 Qxc2 26.Rxc2 Rxc2 27.Bxc2 d5 28.f3 dxe4 29.fxe4 Bf8 30.Kf2 Bd6 31.Bd4 e5 32.Bc3 Kf8 33.Ke3 Ke7 34.g4 h5 35.g5 Nh7 36.h4 f6 37.gxf6+ Kxf6 ½-½ (44) Sveshnikov,E (2585)-Tregubov,P (2495) 61/105 Ljubljana 1994]

8...e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.a4 Nd7

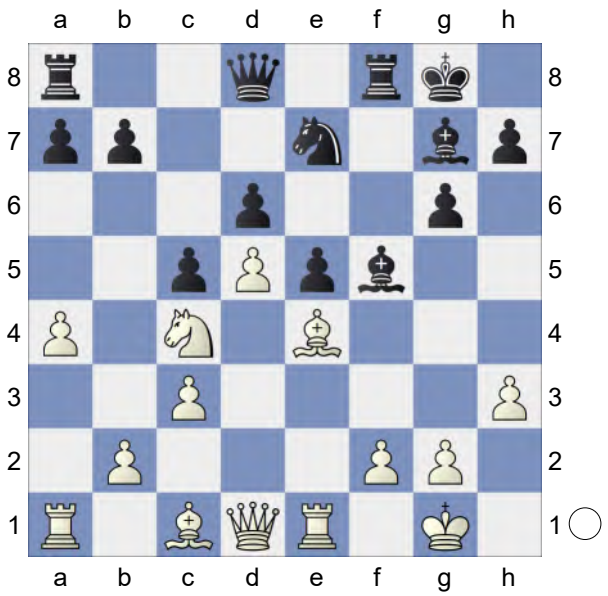


White is slightly better. **11.Na3 f5 12.Ng5** aiming for Ne6. **12...Nf6 13.Nc4 fxe4** 0.64/21

[13...h6= 0.10/22]

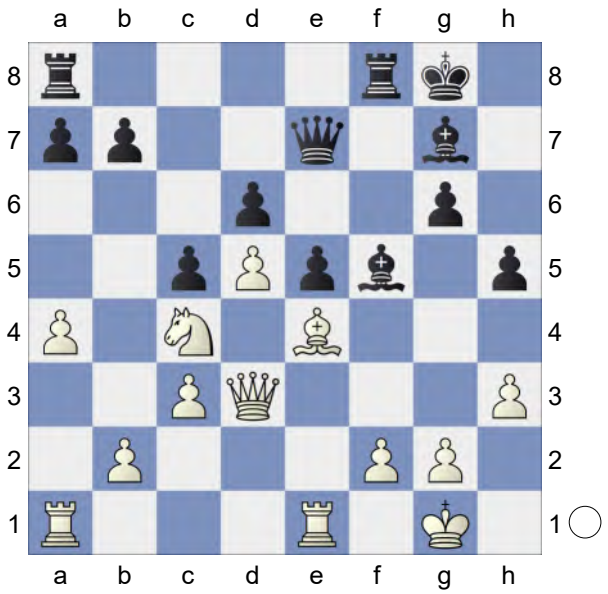
14.Nxe4± Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bf5

(Diagram)



16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qd3 h5 1.01/21

[Better is 18...Qf6± 0.49/19]



19.a5 0.44/20

[19.f4!± 1.01/21]

19...Rad8 1.03/21

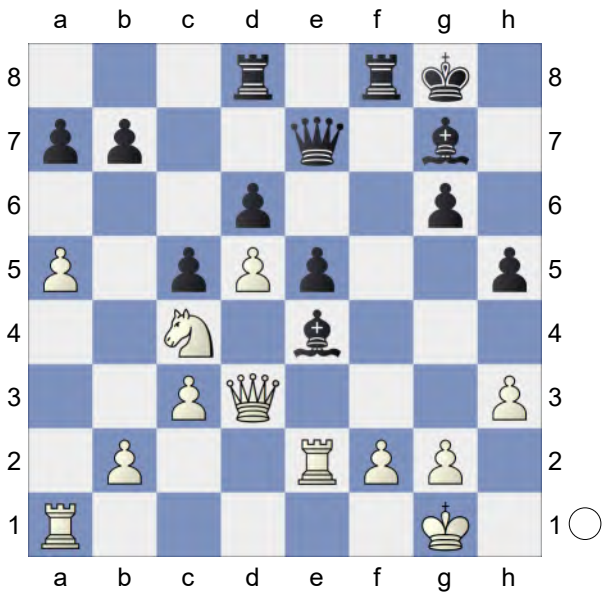
[19...Qf6± 0.44/20]

20.Re2 0.40/19

[White should try 20.f4± 1.03/21]

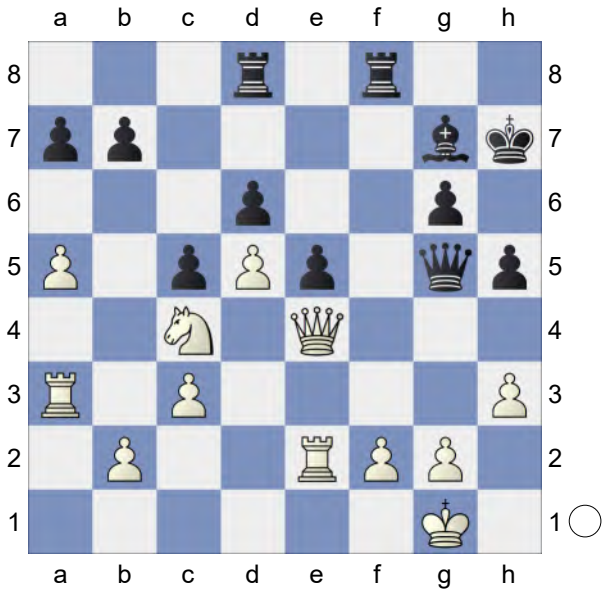
20...Bxe4

(Diagram)



21.Rxe4 Kh7 22.Ra3 Qf7 23.Re2 Active counter play! **23...Qf5 24.Qe4 Qg5** 1.00/20

[24...Qd7= 0.30/19 remains equal.]

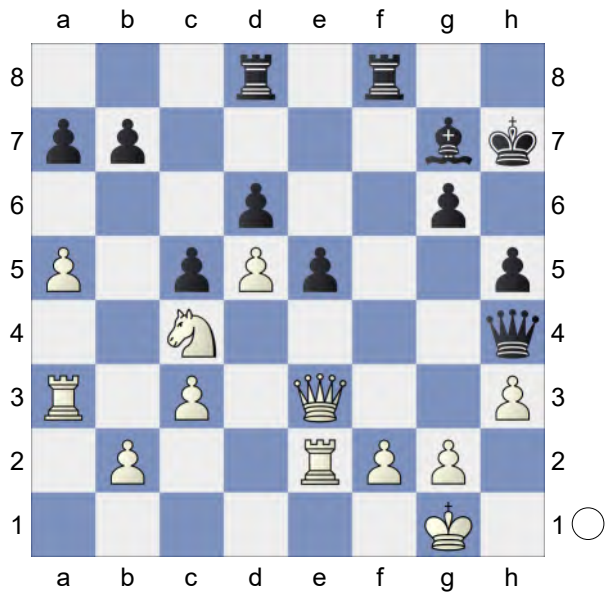


25.Qe3 0.38/20

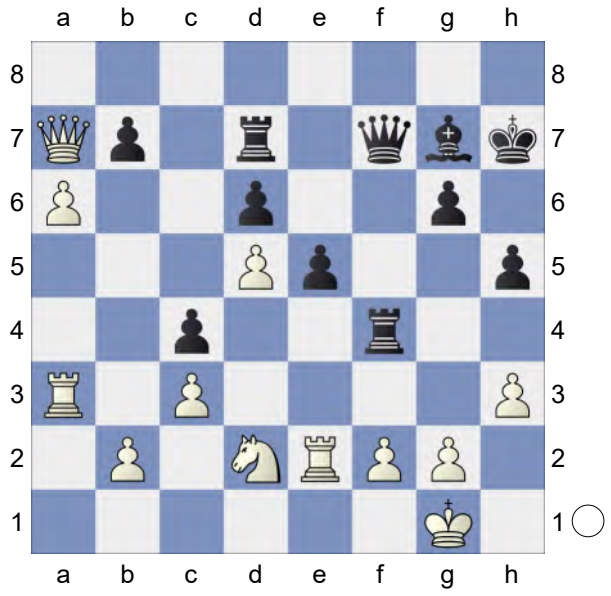
[25.Nd2!± 1.00/20]

25...Qh4

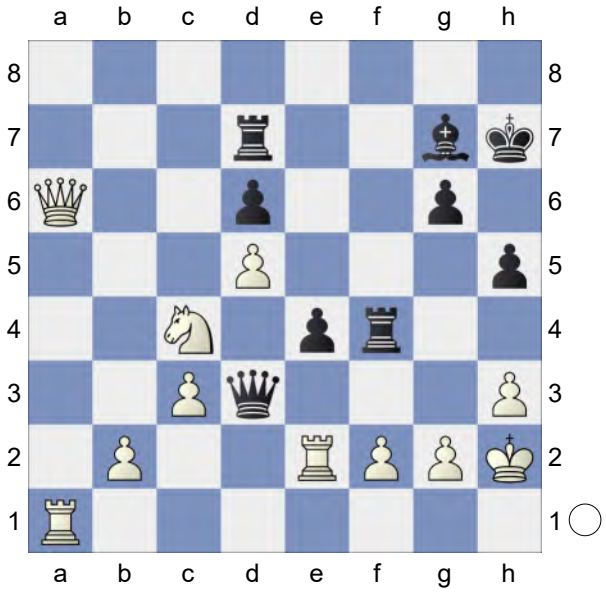
(Diagram)



26.Qd3 Rf4 1.12/20
[26...Bh6± 0.55/19]
27.Nd2± c4 2.31/21
[27...Rc8± 1.06/18 was necessary. 28.Ne4 Qe7]
28.Qe3+- Qf6 29.Qxa7 Qf7 30.a6 Black must now prevent g3. **30...Rd7**

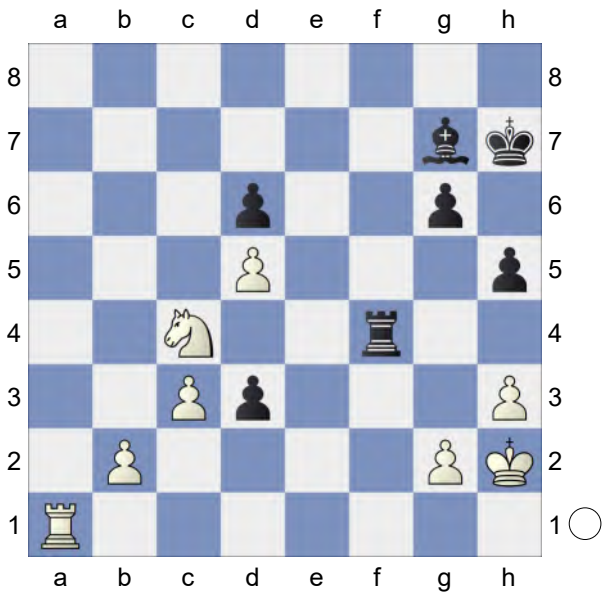


31.Ra5 bxa6 32.Qxa6 Qf5 Hoping for ...Qd3. **33.Nxc4 Qb1+** 2.82/22
[33...Rf7 1.98/21 was called for. 34.Ne3 *(34.Nxd6 Qb1+ 35.Kh2 R4f6±)* 34...Qf6]
34.Kh2 e4? 6.65/22
[34...Rff7 2.84/21 35.Ra1 *(35.Nxd6 Rf6=)* 35...Qd3]
35.Ra1
[35.Nxd6 Rf6 36.Ra1 *(36.Rxe4? Rxf2 37.Ra1 Qc2-+)* 36...Qd3 *(36...Rdxd6 37.Rxb1 Rxa6 38.b4=; 36...Rfxd6? 37.Qxd6 Rxd6 38.Rxb1+-)* 37.Rxe4 *(37.Qxd3 exd3 38.Ne4 dxe2∓)* 37...Qxd5-+]
35...Qd3

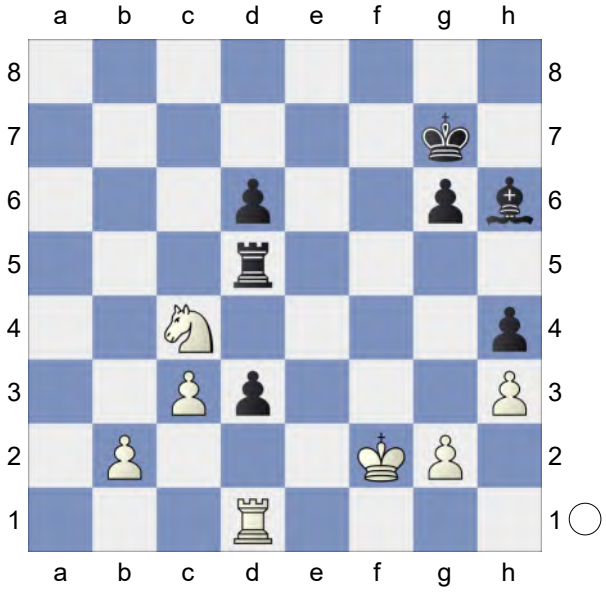


36.Nb6? 0.01/24
[36.Nxd6 Rf6 37.Rxe4 *(37.Qxd3 exd3 38.Ne8 dxe2∓)* 37...Qxd5-+]
[36.Rd2+- 6.45/23]
36...Rdf7
[36...Ra7!? 37.Qxd3 exd3 38.Rxa7 *(38.Re4? Rxa1 39.Rxf4 d2-+)* 38...dxe2=]
37.Qxd3 -0.01/22
[37.f3± 0.36/23 Be5 38.Qxd3 exd3 39.Rxe5 dxe5 40.d6]
37...exd3= 38.Rd2 Rxf2 39.Rxf2 Rxf2 E n d g a m e . K R B - K R N **40.Nc4** And now Rd1! would win. **40...Rf4**

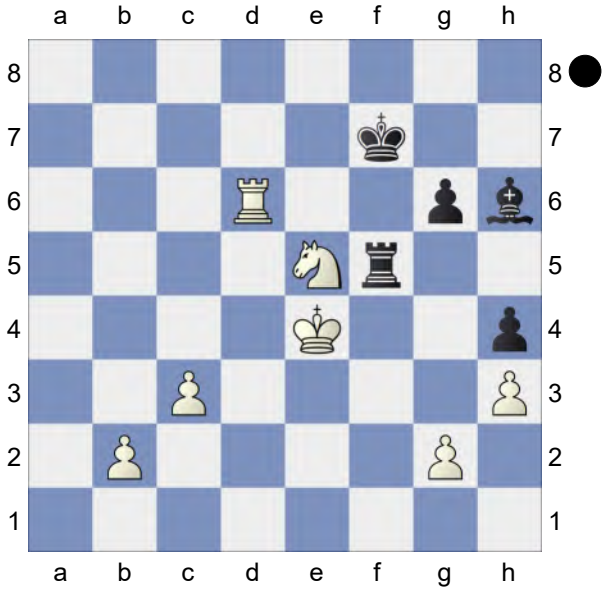
(Diagram)



41.Nd2 Rf5 42.Rd1 Rxd5 43.Kg1 Bh6 44.Nc4 Kg7 45.Kf2 h4 1.02/20
[45...Rf5+= -0.04/22 keeps the balance. 46.Ke1 d5]



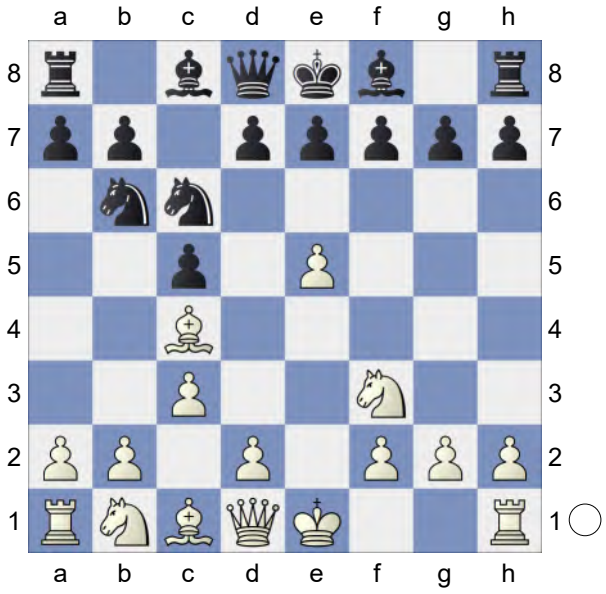
46.Kf3? -2.77/23
[46.Ne3± 1.02/20 keeps the pressure on. Bxe3+ 47.Kxe3]
46...Kf6? 1.39/24
[46...Rf5+-+ -2.77/23 47.Ke4 d5+ 48.Kxd3 dxc4+ 49.Kxc4 Rf2]
47.Ke4!± Rf5 1.82/24
[47...Rc5± 1.35/23 48.Nxd6 *(48.Kxd3 Ke7±)* 48...Rg5]
48.Rxd3+-
[Don't play 48.Kxd3 Rf2]
48...Ke6 6.17/22
[48...Bf8 1.92/22 49.Nxd6 Rg5 50.Rf3+ Ke7]
49.Rxd6+ Kf7 50.Ne5+



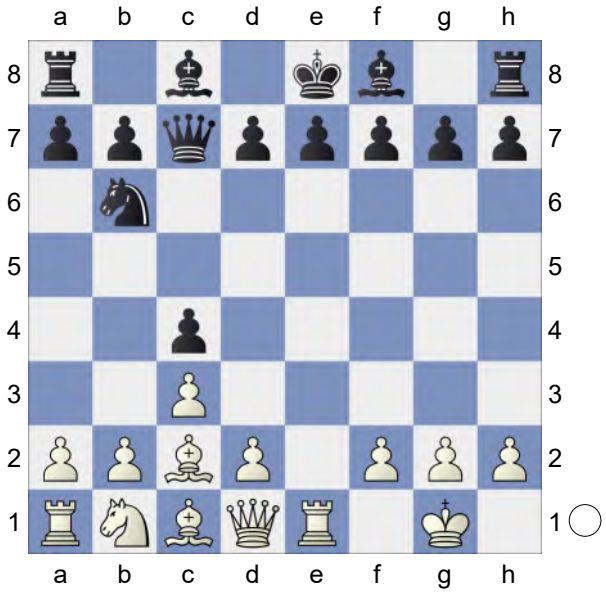
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.69
1-0

37 **B22**
□ **Torombot** **3014**
■ **Caissa,X** **3002**
Blitz 17.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

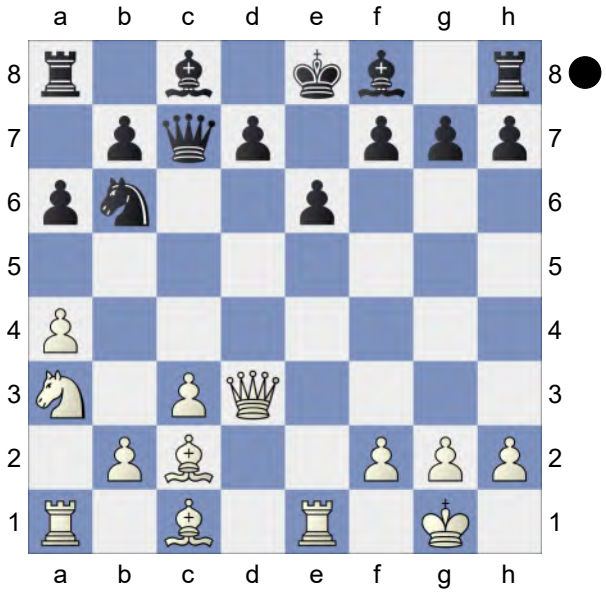
Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 Qc7 8.0-0 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Qxe5 White is slightly better.
10.Re1 Wards off d5 **10...Qc7**



11.a4 e6 12.d3 a6 13.Na3 cxd3 14.Qxd3

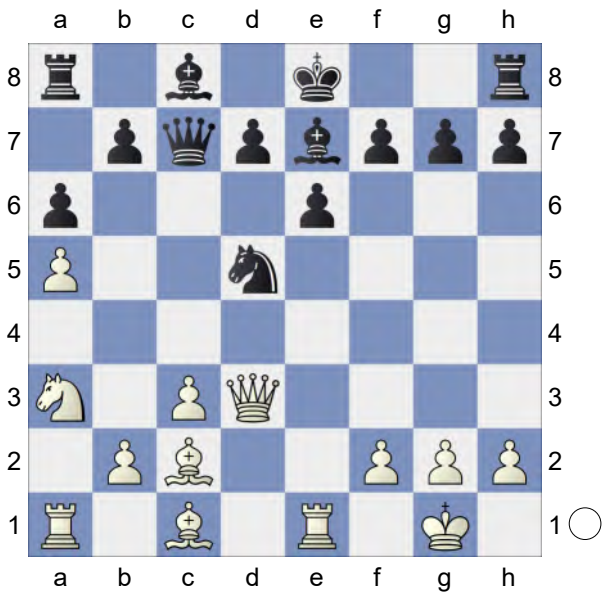


Threatens to win with a5. **14...Be7 15.a5N**

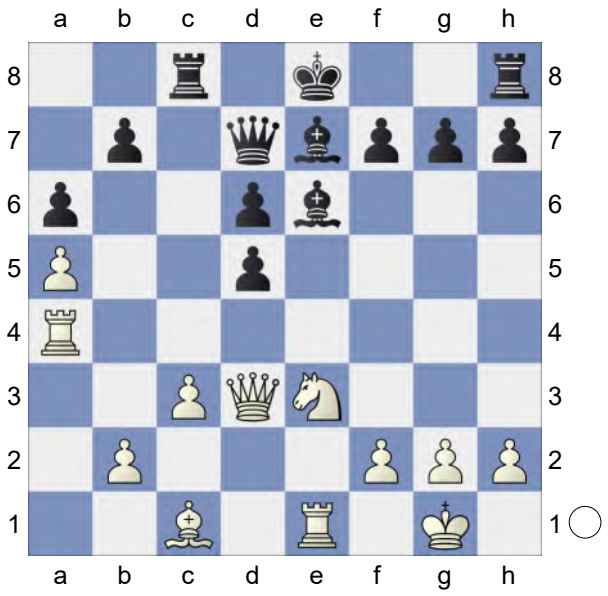
[15.Qd4 0-0 16.Qd3 f5 17.Bb3 d5 18.Nc2 Bd6 19.Nd4 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Be5 21.Qe2 Bxd4 22.cxd4 Bd7 23.g3 Nc4 24.Bf4 Qb6 25.Bxc4 dxc4 26.Qxc4 Rac8 27.Qe2 Qxd4 28.Kg1 Qc4 29.Qxc4 Rxc4 0-1 (53) Ragger,M (2631)-Sunilduth Lyna,N (2657) FRA-chT Top 16 Gp Haute 2023 (2.1)]

15...Nd5

(Diagram)



16.Bb3 d6 17.Bxd5 exd5 18.Nc2 Be6 19.Ne3 Repels Qc4 **19...Rc8 20.Ra4** White is more active. **20...Qd7**

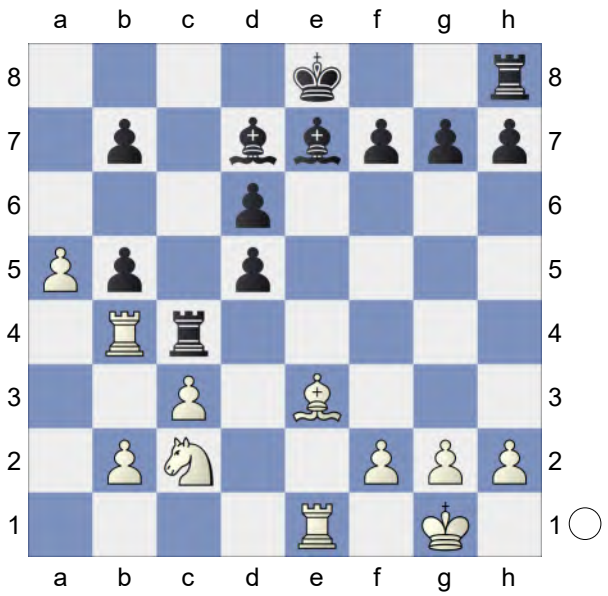


21.Rd4 Qb5 22.Qxb5+

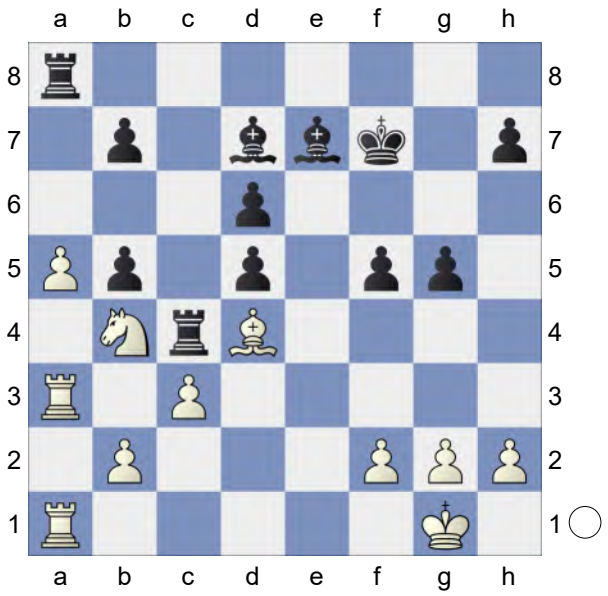
[Don't play 22.Nxd5 Qxd3 23.Rxd3 Rc5 24.Nxe7 Kxe7=]

22...axb5 23.Rb4 Rc5 24.Nc2 White has compensation. **24...Bd7 25.Be3 Rc4**

(Diagram)

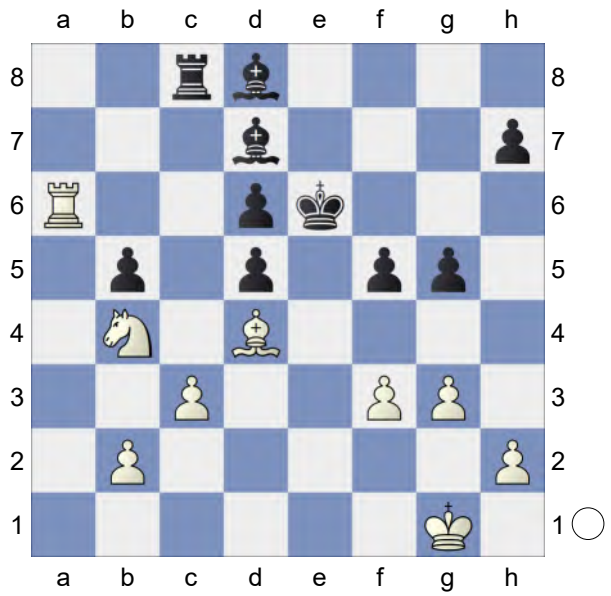


26.Bd4 f6 27.Ra1 Kf7 28.Rb3 Ra8 29.Nb4 g5 30.Rba3 f5

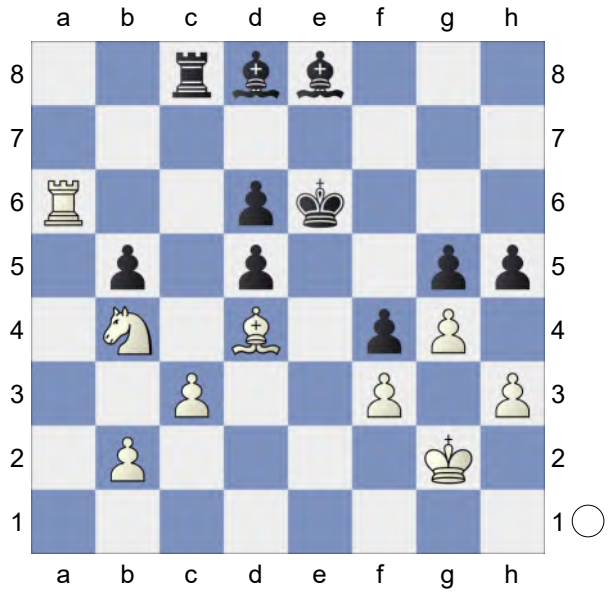


31.f3 Bd8 32.a6 bxa6 33.Rxa6 Rxa6 34.Rxa6 Ke6 35.g3 Rc8

(Diagram)

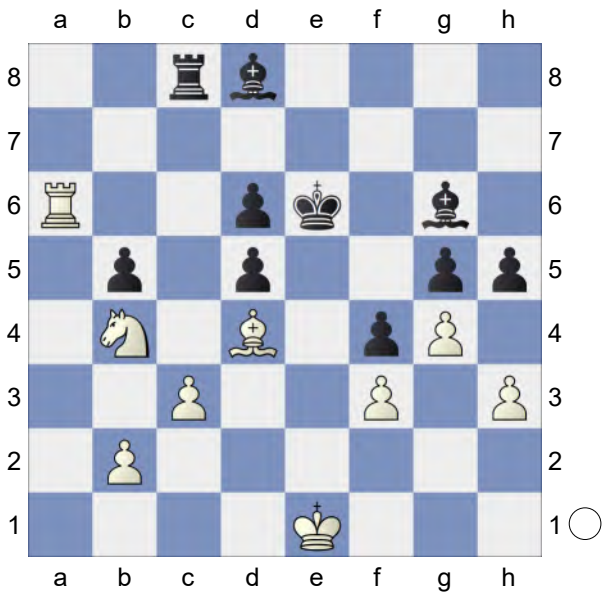


36.Kg2 f4 0.57/22
[Better is 36...Rc4= 0.06/20]
37.g4 0.01/22
[37.gxf4!± 0.57/22 gxf4 38.Nd3]
37...Be8 38.Nd3 Kd7 39.Nb4 h5 40.h3 Ke6

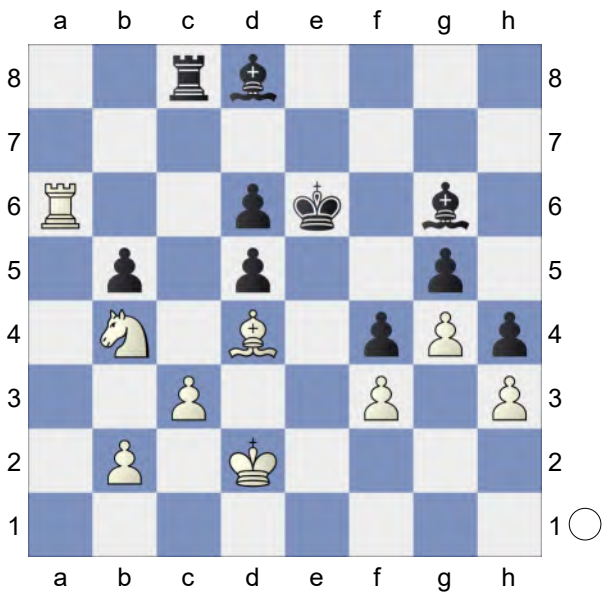


41.Nd3 Ke7 42.Kf1 Bg6 43.Nb4 Ke6 44.Ke2 Be8 45.Ke1 Bg6

(Diagram)

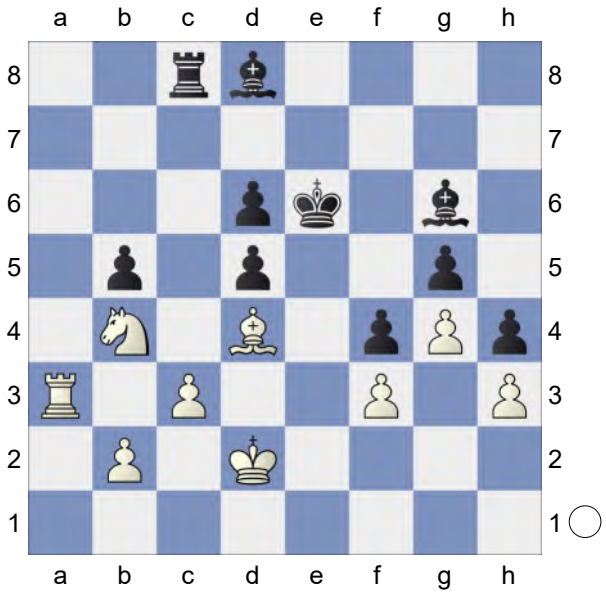


46.Kd2 Bf7 47.Nc6 Be8 48.Nb4 h4 49.Ra7 Bf7 50.Ra6 Bg6
[50...Be8!?]

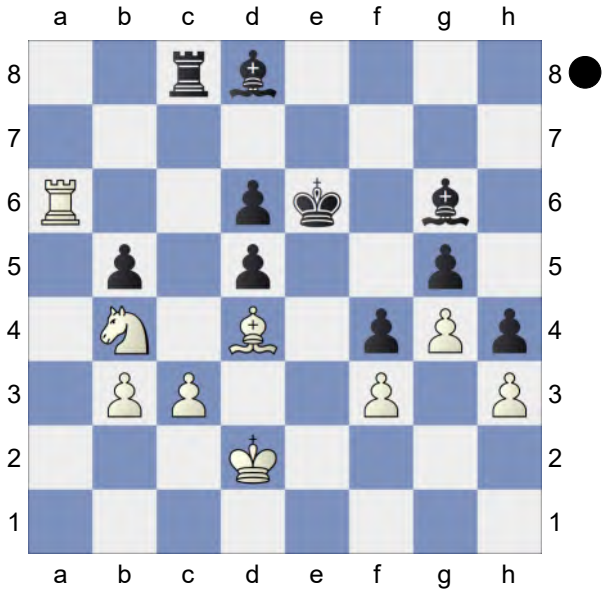


51.Nc6 Be8 52.Nb4 Bg6 53.Ra7 Bf7! 54.Ra1 Be8 55.Ra3 Bg6

(Diagram)



56.Ra6 Be8! 57.b3 Bf7 58.Nc2 Bg6 59.Nb4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

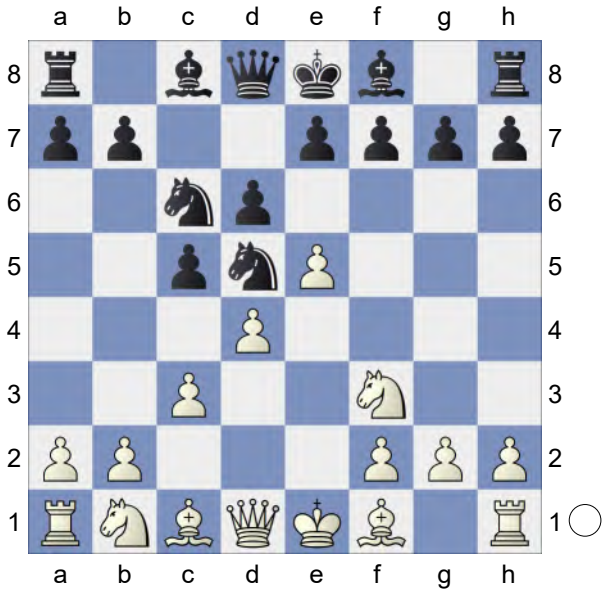
½-½

38 **B22**
□ **Raspfish** **3007**
■ **Torombot** **3046**
Blitz 22.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
In this game MVL introduced an interesting opening idea, that brought him a nice edge, which he converted with superb technique.

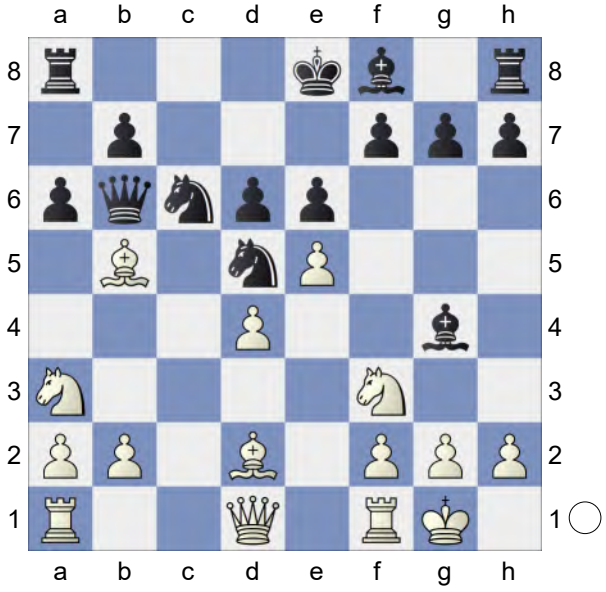
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 Nc6N

[5...cxd4 6.cxd4 *(6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 Nc6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 dxc3 11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.axb3 e5 14.Nbd4 f6 15.bxc3 Kf7 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Qe4 Qd6 18.Be3 Nd5 19.c4 Nb4 20.Bxa7 Qd3* 1-0 (41) Vachier Lagrave,M (2723)-Aronian,L (2780) Norway Chess 3rd 2015 (1)*; 6.Qxd4 e6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 Nc6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Nce5 f6 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe4 0-0 16.Bd2 Rad8 17.Rfe1 e5 18.Rad1 Ne7 19.Qe2 Rd7 20.Be3 Bxe3* 0-1 (68) Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2660)-Grankin,F (2693) 329 Linz 2012 (4) *)* 6...Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 8.dxe5 Ndb4 9.Qb3 *(9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Na3 Bg4 11.Nd4 Rc8 12.Bd2 e6 13.Rc1 Ndc6 14.Nxc6 Nxc6 15.Bb5 Bxa3 16.bxa3 0-0 17.Bxc6 Rxc6 18.Rxc6 bxc6 19.Bb4 c5 20.Bxc5 Rc8 21.Be3 Rc3 22.0-0 Rxa3 23.Rb1 h6* ½-½ (30) Mccoy,T (1883)-Righi,E (1909) Olympiad-45 Budapest 2024 (5.83) *)* 9...e6 10.0-0 Na5 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Qa4 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ Nac6 14.Nc3 a6 15.Qc4 Qd3 16.Qg4 Qf5 17.Qxf5 exf5 18.Rd1 Bc5 19.Bf4 0-0 20.Rd7 ½-½ (43) Skripchenko,A (2460)-Cmilyte,V (2514) Wch (Women) Antakya 2010 (3.3)]



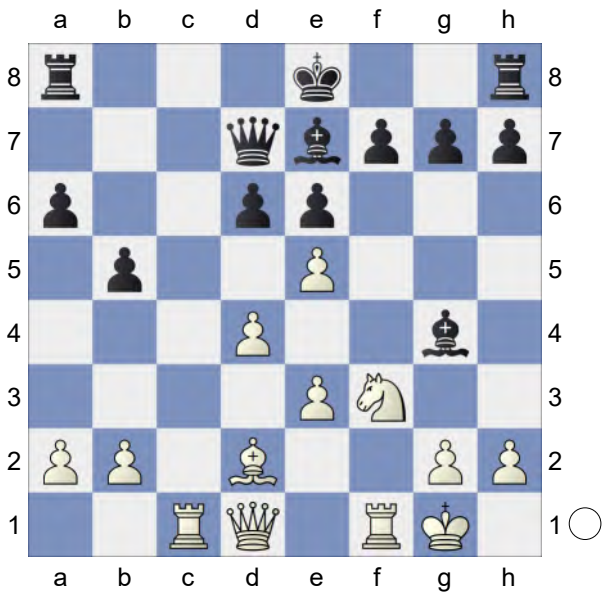
6.Bb5 cxd4 7.0-0 Bg4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Na3 e6 10.Bd2 a6

[Don't blunder 10...dxe5? 11.Qa4 Bxf3 12.Ba5+-]



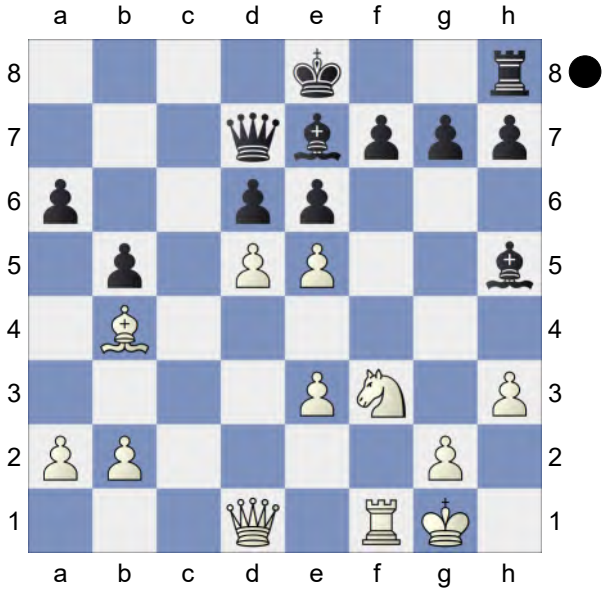
11.Bxc6+ Qxc6 12.Rc1 Qd7 13.Nc4 b5 14.Ne3 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Be7

(Diagram)



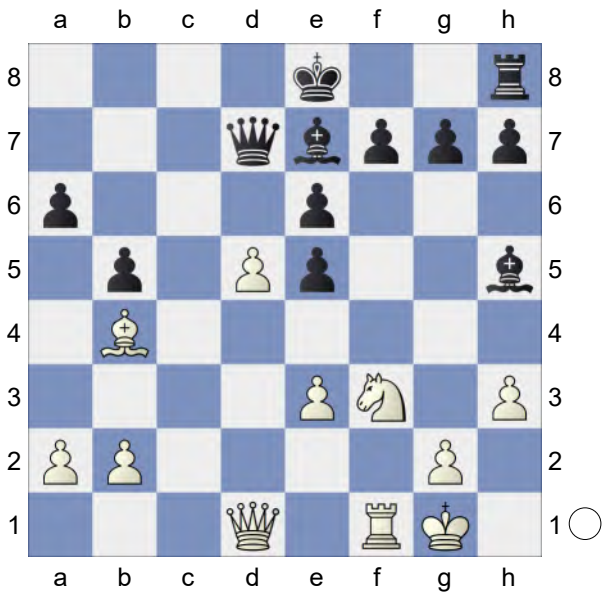
Black is weak on the dark squares **16.h3 Bh5 17.Ba5 Rc8** Inhibits Rc7. **18.Rxc8+ Qxc8 19.d5 Qd7 20.Bb4**

[20.g4!? Bg6□ 21.Bb4 exd5 22.Qxd5 dxe5 23.Qa8+ *(23.Qxe5 f6=)* 23...Qd8 24.Qc6+ *(24.Qxa6 0-0=)* 24...Qd7 25.Qa8+ Qd8 26.Qc6+ *(26.Qxa6 0-0=)* 26...Qd7 27.Qa8+=]



aiming for exd6. **20...dxe5**

(Diagram)



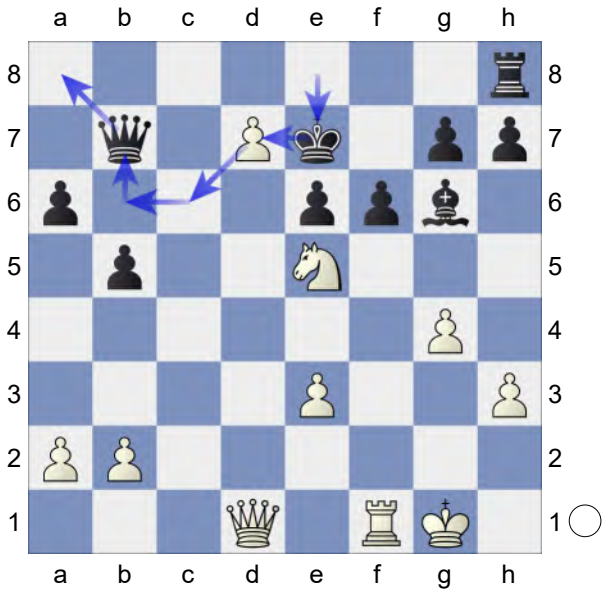
21.Bxe7 Qxe7

[21...Kxe7 looks sharper. 22.Nxe5 Bxd1 23.Rxf7+ Kd6]

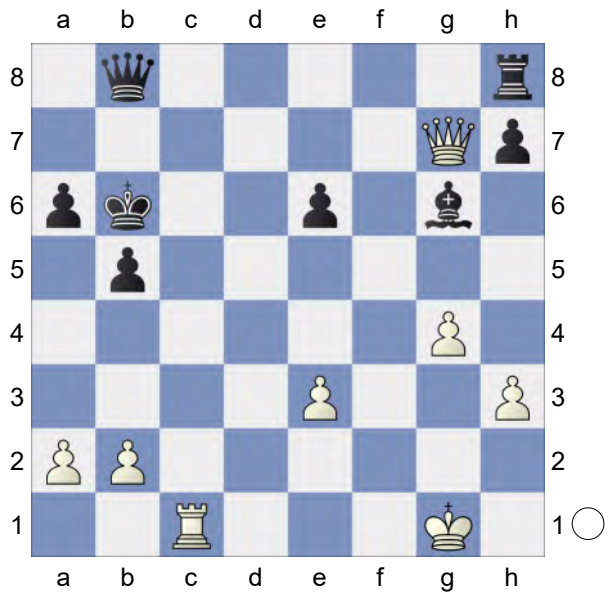
22.d6

[22.g4!? Bg6□ 23.d6=]

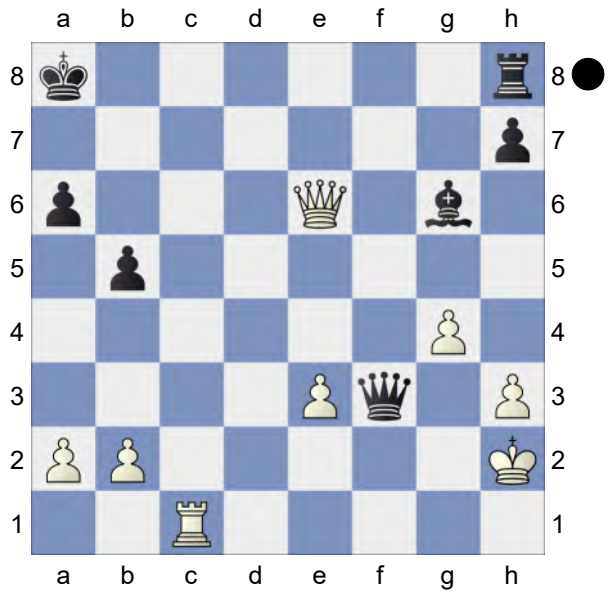
22...Qb7 23.g4 Bg6 Strongly threatening ...f6. **24.Nxe5 f6 25.d7+ Ke7G**



Black is fighting back **26.Qc1!** Qc5+ would now be deadly. Chess con chili. **26...fxe5 27.Qc5+! Kxd7 28.Qxe5 Qb8 29.Qxg7+ Kc6 30.Rc1+ Kb6**



31.Qd4+ Kb7! 32.Qd7+ Ka8
(-> ...Qg3+) **33.Qxe6 Qg3+**
[33...Qb7!? 34.Rc6□ Ka7=]
34.Kh1 Qf3+ 35.Kh2

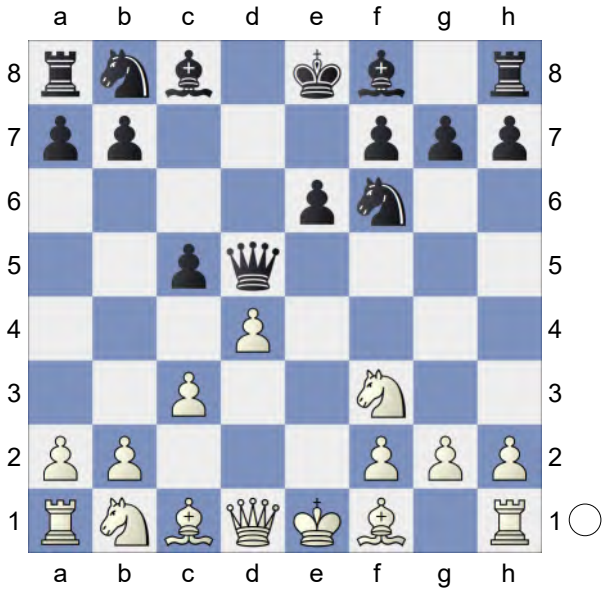


Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)
½-½

39 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3007**
■ **Chess Network** **2719**
Blitz 18.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
No account of early 2017 in the chess world would be complete without mentioning Adhiban's remarkable debut in Tata Steel, where he finished third and could have done even better. His opening choices were the source of much comment (not many people get a winning position against Carlsen on the black side of a Scandinavian), and he got a great position with the c3-Sicilian against Van Wely in round 1. Adhiban, Baskaran: 'Sam Collins: 'No account of early 2017 in the chess world would be complete without mentioning Adhiban's remarkable debut in Tata Steel, where he finished third and could have done even better. His opening choices were the source of much comment (not many people get a winning position against Carlsen on the black side of a Scandinavian), and he got a great position with the c3-Sicilian against Van Wely in round 1.'' No account of early 2017 in the chess world would be complete without mentioning Adhiban's remarkable debut in Tata Steel, where he finished third and could have done even better. His opening choices were the source of much comment (not many people get a winning position against Carlsen on the black side of a Scandinavian), and he got a great position with the c3-Sicilian against Van Wely in round 1.Adhiban,B: 'My first super tournament! I had a mix of emotions running through and as Kasparov famously said before his first super tournament, "The point between rage and serenity" Ah, I am wrong :), this is from the movie X-men First Class. The real quote of Kasparov, "I had to strike a balance between awe and respect!"

' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nf6**



6.Na3 Nbd7N

[6...Qd8 7.Bf4 *(7.Nc4 Be7 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bf4 b6 11.Nd6 Nh5 12.Be5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bxd6 14.exd6 Bb7 15.Re1 Nf6 16.Ne5 g6 17.Bb5 Qc8 18.Qa4 a6 19.Bf1 b5 20.Qh4 Qd8 21.Rad1 Kg7* ½-½ (61) Adhiban,B (2653)-Van Wely, L (2695) Tata Steel-A 79th 2017 (1)*; 7.Nc2 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Qc7 9.0-0 b6 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.Na3 a6 12.Nc4 Be7 13.Bg5 Bb7 14.Bh4 0-0 15.Bg3 Qc6 16.Rfe1 Nh5 17.Qc2 Nxg3 18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.hxg3 cxd4 20.Nce5 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 f5* Friberger,T (2415)-Hoeksema,H (2534) 83/(75) Göteborg 2002 *)* 7...a6 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Rxd1 Bxc5 10.Nc4

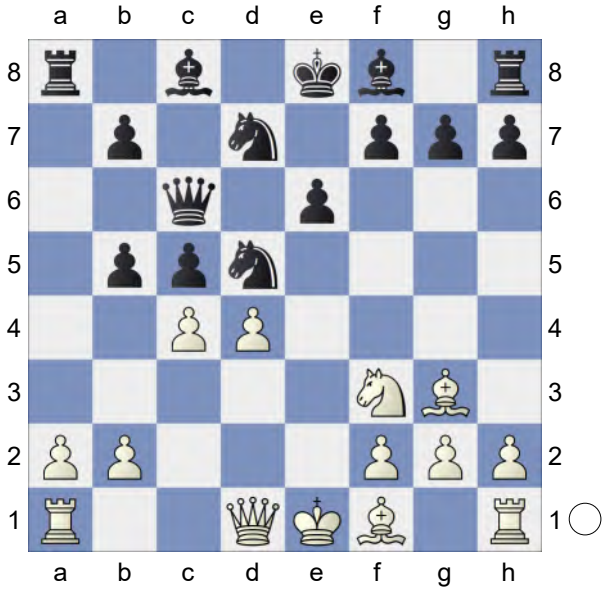
Nd5 11.Nd6+ Ke7 12.Nf5+ Kf8 13.Bc4 exf5 14.Bxd5 Ke7 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Bg5+ Kd7 17.Bxf7+ Kc7 18.Bf4+ Kb6 19.Rfe1 h6 20.b4 Be7 21.Ne5 1-0 (29) Chapter Iii (2405)-Ilic, Z (2335) 56/407 Russia 1992]

[6...a6 7.Nc4 Nbd7 8.Be2 b5 9.Nfd2 Ra7 10.Bf3 Qf5 11.Ne3 Qf4 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Nb3 Qc7 14.0-0 Be7 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.a4 0-0 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa7 Qxa7 19.Nc2 Bb7 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Be3 0-1 (32) Hernandez Sanchez,E (2241)-Hernandez,C (2372) Barcelona Sants op 24th 2023 (8)]

7.Nb5 Qc6 Prevents Nc7+ **8.Bf4** -0.16/21

[8.Ne5± 0.43/19 Nxe5 9.dxe5]

8...Nd5!= The position is equal. **9.Bg3 a6** Prevents c4 **10.c4 axb5**

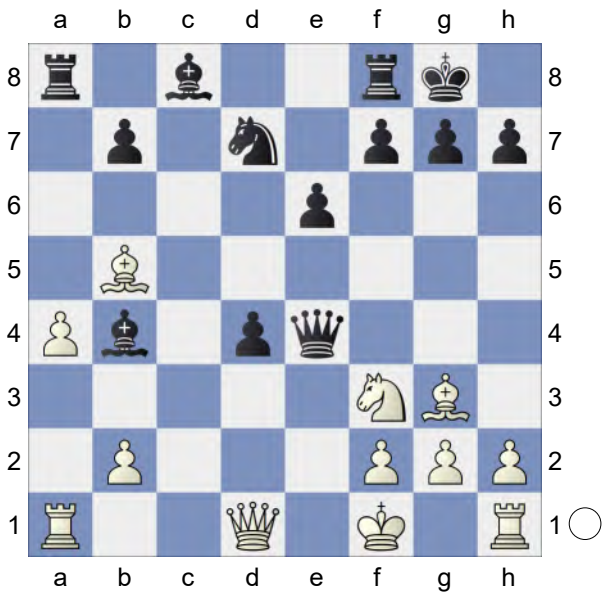


11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxb5 cxd4

[12...Rxa2? is the wrong capture. 13.Rxa2 Qxa2 14.0-0+-]

13.a4 Bb4+ 14.Ke2 Qe4+ 15.Kf1 0-0

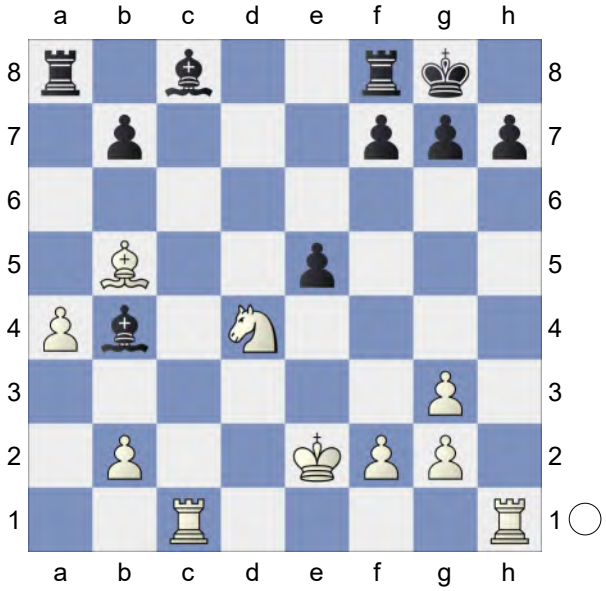
(Diagram)



16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Nxd4 Nf6 18.Ke2 Ne4 19.Rac1 Nxg3+

[19...Rd8 is interesting. 20.Rhd1 Nxg3+ 21.hxg3 e5]

20.hxg3 e5



21.Nf3 e4 0.45/22

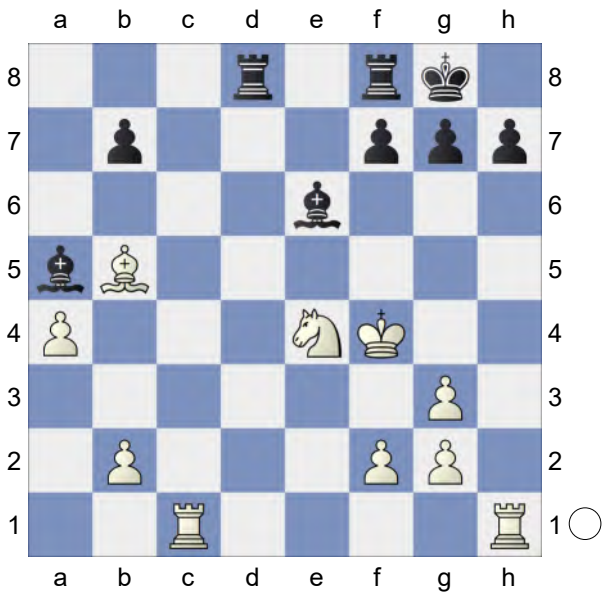
[21...Rd8!= 0.01/20]

22.Ng5!± Bg4+ 23.Ke3 Rad8 24.Nxe4 Ba5 25.Kf4 0.23/20

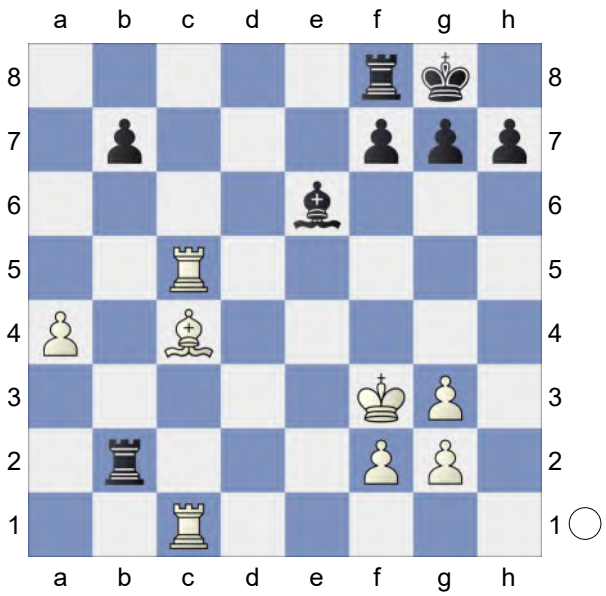
[White should try 25.f3± 0.71/21 Be6 26.Rh4]

25...Be6

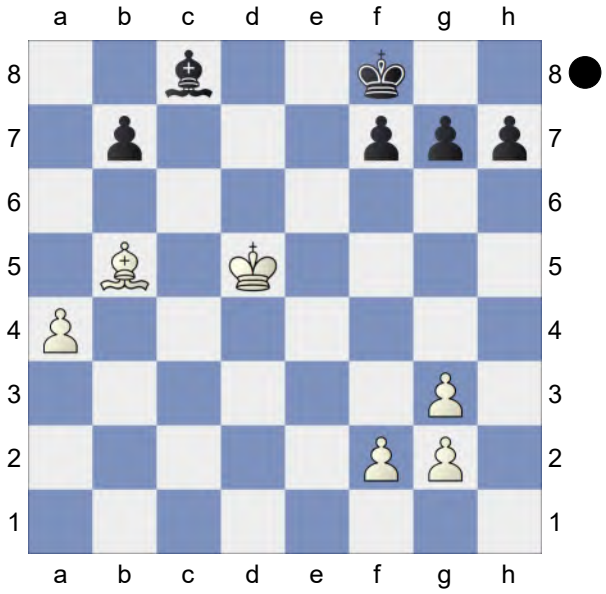
(Diagram)



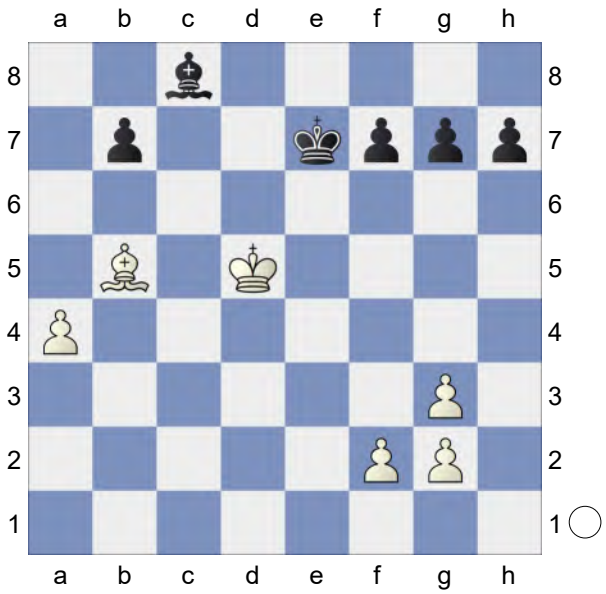
26.Bc4 -0.20/21
[26.Rhd1!± 0.50/19]
26...Bc8 0.74/19
[26...Bd2+= -0.20/21 keeps the balance. 27.Nxd2 Rxd2]
27.Rh5 0.22/22 White is more active.
[27.Rhd1± 0.74/19]
27...Bd2+!= 28.Nxd2 Rxd2 29.Kf3↑ White is more active. **29...Rxb2 30.Rc5** 0.01/21
[30.Rb5± 0.46/22 Rxb5 31.Bxb5]
30...Be6



31.Rb5 Rxb5 32.Bxb5 Rc8? 1.67/22
[32...Ra8= 0.03/20]
33.Rxc8++- Bxc8 Endgame. KB-KB
34.Ke4 Kf8 35.Kd5

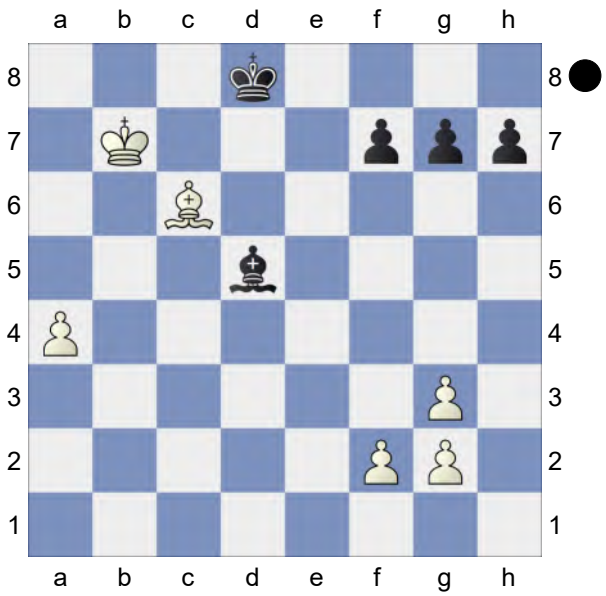


Kd6 would now be deadly. **35...Ke7**



36.Kc5 Black must now prevent Bc4.
36...Kd8? 4.67/24
[36...Be6 1.75/24 37.f3 Kd8]
37.Kb6 White is clearly winning.
37...Be6 38.Kxb7 Bd5+ 39.Bc6

(Diagram)



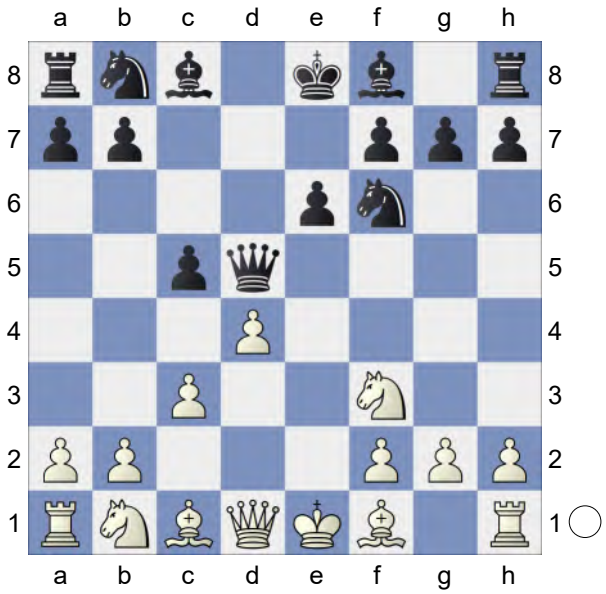
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.33

1-0

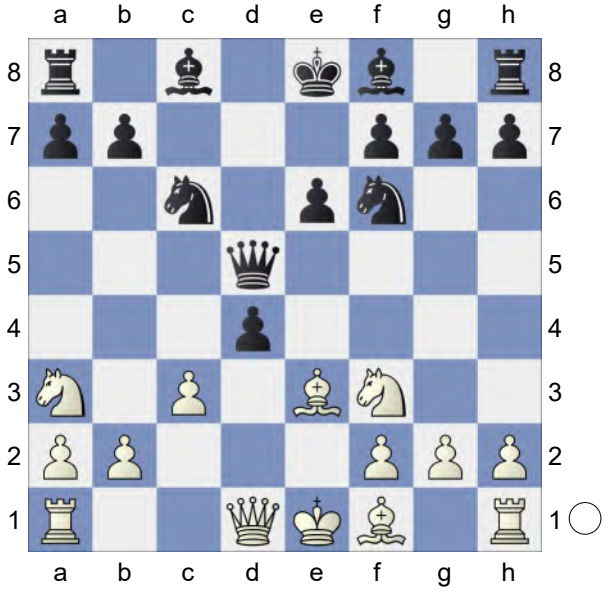
40 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **3003**
■ **HowardXue** **2921**
Blitz 12.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship. This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship.Tiviakov: 'This game from the last round of the European Championship was extremely important. Only this victory allowed me to win the tournament alone, without any tie. There were 8 players in the lead before the start of the last round and I was the only one to win (the other 3 games were quick draws). Emil also offered me a draw in the evening before this game. But being White in the last round and also having a big positive score against Emil I saw no single reason to accept it.
' Tiviakov: 'Diese Partie aus der letzten Runde der Europameisterschaft war extrem wichtig. Nur durch diesen Erfolg war es mir möglich, alleiniger, ungeteilter Turniersieger zu werden. Vor dem Start der letzten Runde führten 8 Spieler punktgleich, und ich war der Einzige, der gewann. Emil hatte mir am Vorabend der Partie ebenfalls Remis angeboten. Aber da ich Weiß hatte und dazu ein kräftiges Plusergebnis gegen Emil habe, sah ich keinerlei Grund anzunehmen.' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6**

(Diagram)

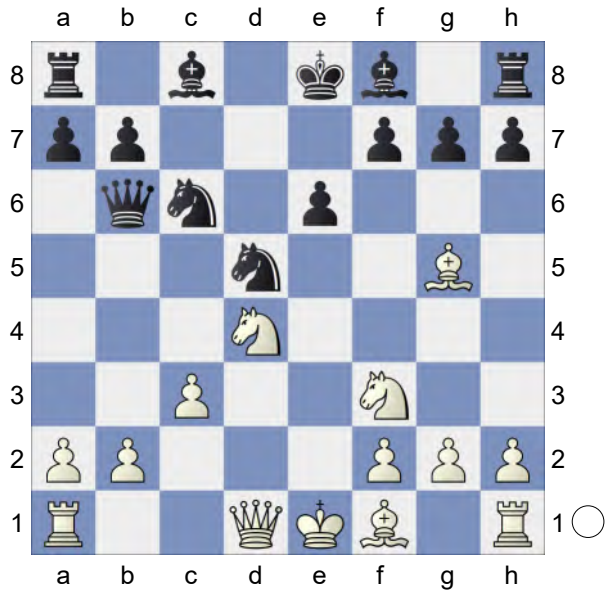


6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! Qd8 Prevents Nc7+.
[8...Qd7 9.Nbxd4]
9.Nbxd4 Nd5 The position is equal.
10.Bg5
[10.Nxc6 simplifies bxc6 11.Bd2 Rb8 12.b3]
10...Qb6
[10...f6 11.Nxc6 *(11.Bh4 e5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bc4 Qd6 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bg3 Qd7 16.Re1 Bd6 17.Bb3 Bf7 18.c4 Nb6 19.c5 Bxc5 20.Nxe5 fxe5 21.Rxe5+ Be7 22.Bh4*

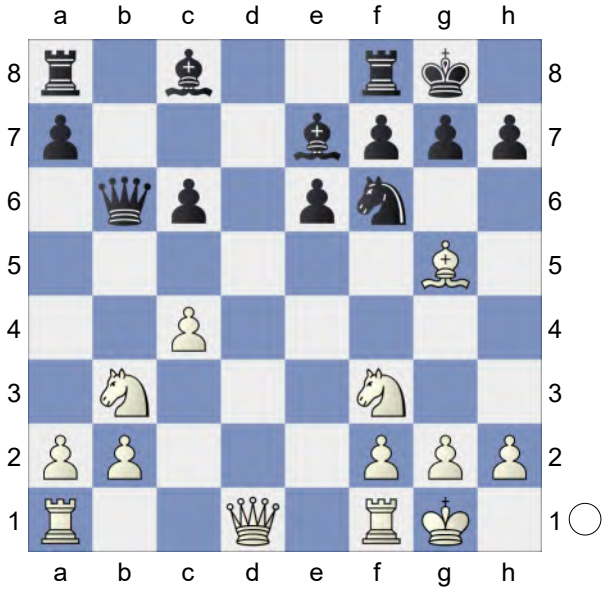
Qxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Nc8 24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.Rde1 0-0 1-0 (76) Panin,M (2150)-Prokhorov,A (1839) Cheliabinsk Panchenko Memorial op-A 2023 (9)*)* 11...bxc6 12.Bd2 e5 13.Qc2 Be6 14.Bd3 g6 15.h4 Qd7 16.0-0-0 Bc5 17.c4 Bxf2 18.Kb1 Rb8 19.h5 Ne7 20.Bc3 Bf5 21.g4 Bxd3 22.Rxd3 Qxg4 23.Qxf2 Qxc4 24.Rhd1 0-0 25.Qxa7 ½-½ (39) Fridman,D (2667)-Adams,M (2725) Grenke Chess Classic 1st 2013 (8)]



11.Bb5N

[11.Bc4 Nxd4 *(11...h6 12.Bh4 Bc5 13.Nb3 0-0 14.0-0 Be7 15.Bg3 Rd8 16.Qc2 Nf6 17.h3 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Rxd6 19.Rad1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Bd7 21.Qe2 Rd8 22.Bd3 Be8 23.Rd2 Nb8 24.Nbd4 Nc6 25.Nb3 Nb8 26.Nbd4* 0-1 Chumpitaz Carbajal,A (2222)-Padmini,R (2338) Olympiad Women-43 2018 (10.4)*)* 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxd5 Bxd4 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Bc8 20.Rg3 Bd6 21.Qg4 g6 22.Bxh6 Bxg3 23.Qxg3 Qc5 24.Bxf8 Kxf8 25.Bb3 Kg7 1-0 (59) Tiviakov,S (2635)-Sutovsky,E (2630) IX EICC Plovdiv BUL 2008 (11)]

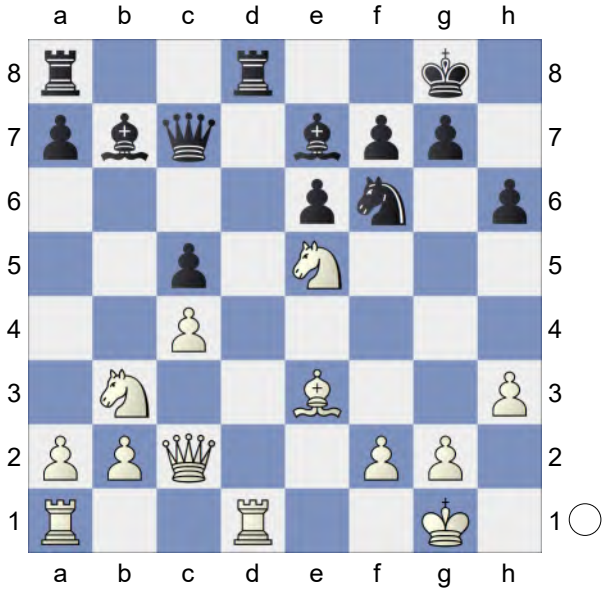
11...Bc5 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.c4 Nf6 ...Rd8 is the strong threat. **15.Nb3 Be7**



16.Qc2 c5 17.Rfd1 Bb7 18.Ne5 Rfd8 19.h3 h6 20.Be3 -0.54/20

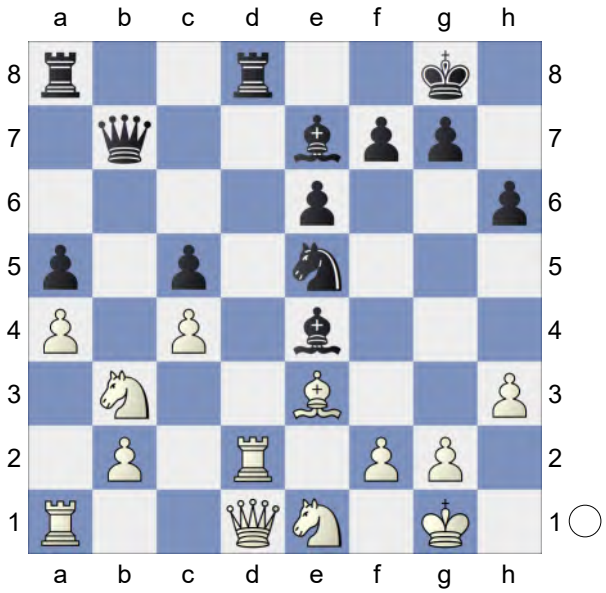
[20.Rxd8+= -0.07/18 feels stronger. Rxd8 21.Bd2]

20...Qc7

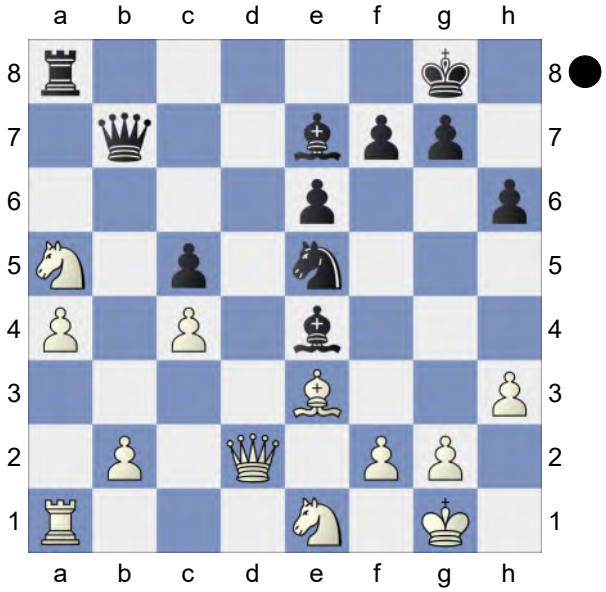


21.Nd3 Nd7 22.Rd2 a5→ Black has strong attack. **23.a4 Be4 24.Qd1 Qb7**

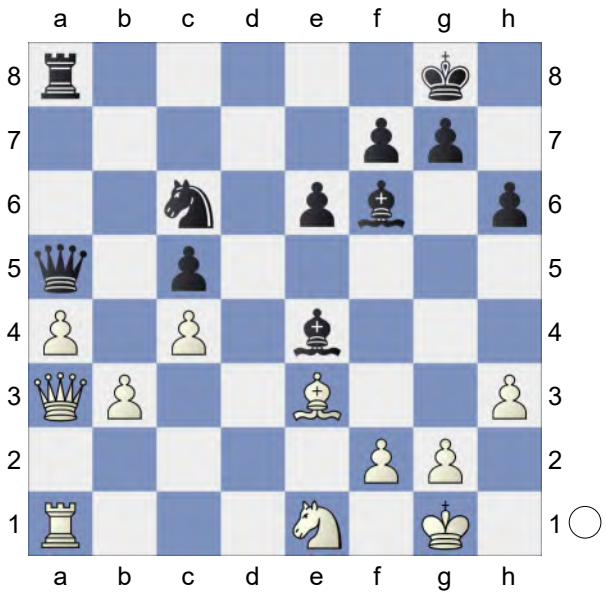
0.08/24
[24...Rab8∓ -0.78/18]
25.Ne1 -0.84/19
[25.Ndxc5= 0.08/24 remains equal. Nxc5 26.Nxc5 Rxd2 27.Nxb7 *(27.Qxd2 Bxc5 28.Bxc5 Bxg2=)* 27...Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Bxb7 29.Rd7]
25...Ne5



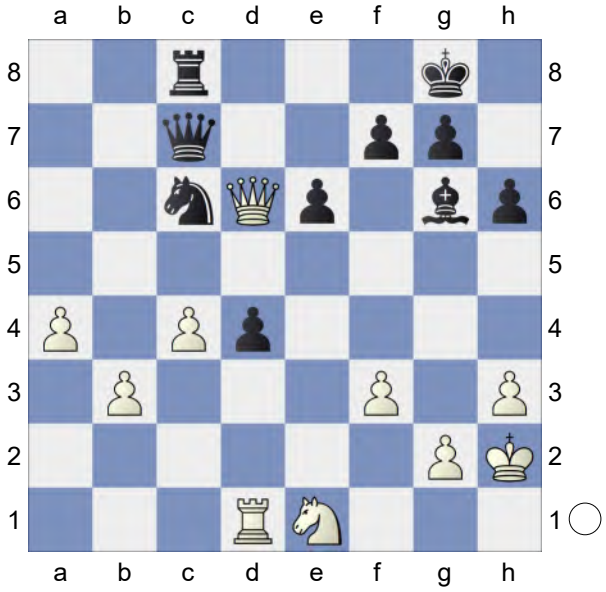
26.Nxa5 -1.46/21 White is weak on the light squares **26...Rxd2∓ 27.Qxd2**



Qb6 28.Qc3 -4.19/21
[28.Qe2 -1.64/22 Rxa5 *(28...Qxa5 29.Bd2±)* 29.Bd2 Qxb2 30.Qxe4]
28...Bf6-+ A strong pair of Bishops.
29.Qa3 Black is clearly winning.
[Not 29.Nb3? Nf3+ 30.gxf3 Bxc3 31.bxc3 Qxb3]
29...Qxa5 30.b3 Nc6

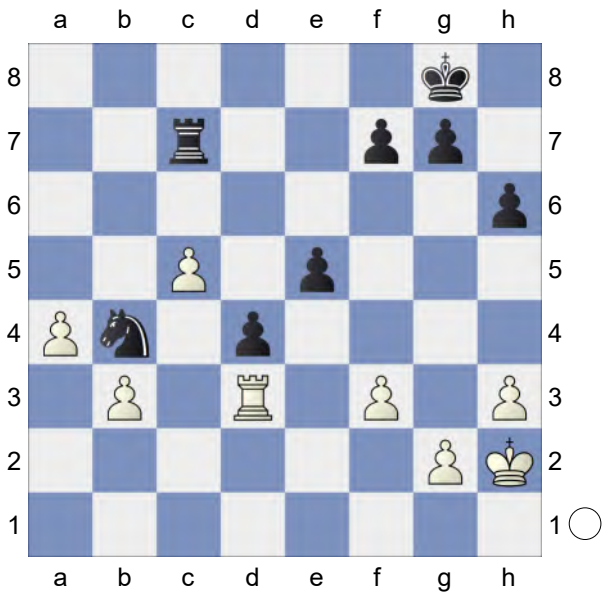


31.Rd1 Bd4 32.Bxd4 cxd4 33.f3 Bg6 34.Qd6 Rc8 35.Kh2 Qc7



36.Qxc7 Rxc7 37.Nd3 Bxd3 38.Rxd3 e5 39.c5 Nb4

(Diagram)



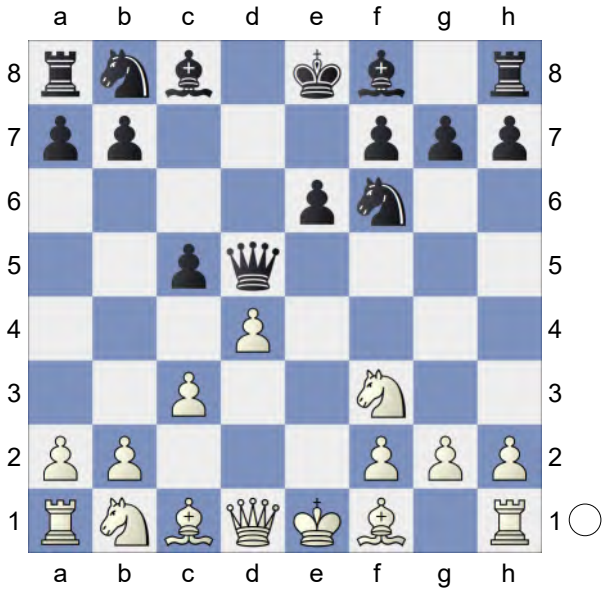
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.08 (flawless)

0-1

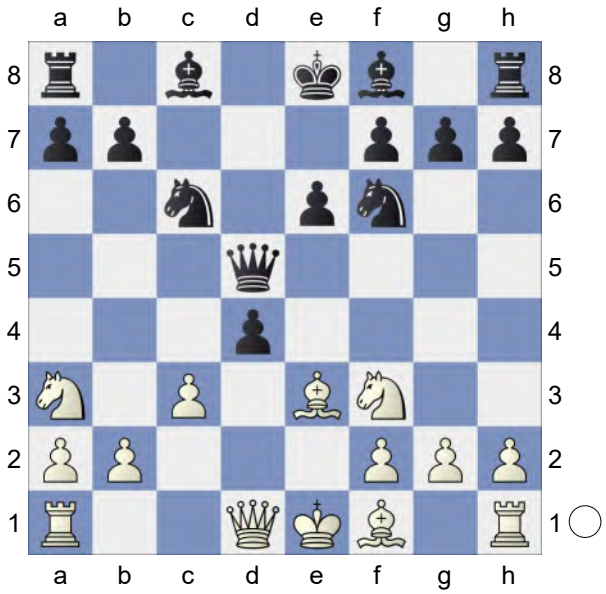
41 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **2962**
■ **Konevlad** **3059**
Blitz 24.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6

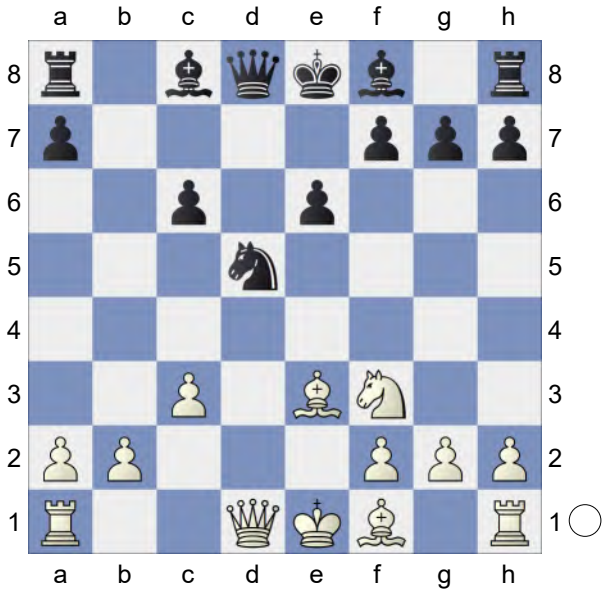


6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! Qd8 Against Nc7+
[8...Qd7 9.Nbxd4]

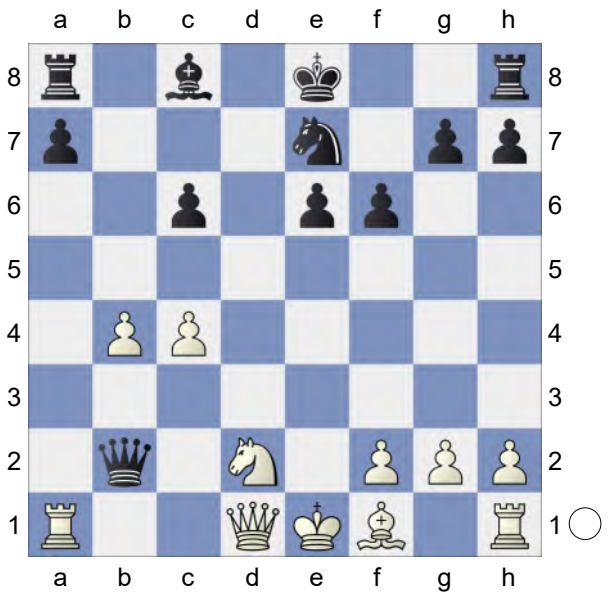
9.Nbxd4 Nd5 The position is equal.
10.Nxc6 bxc6



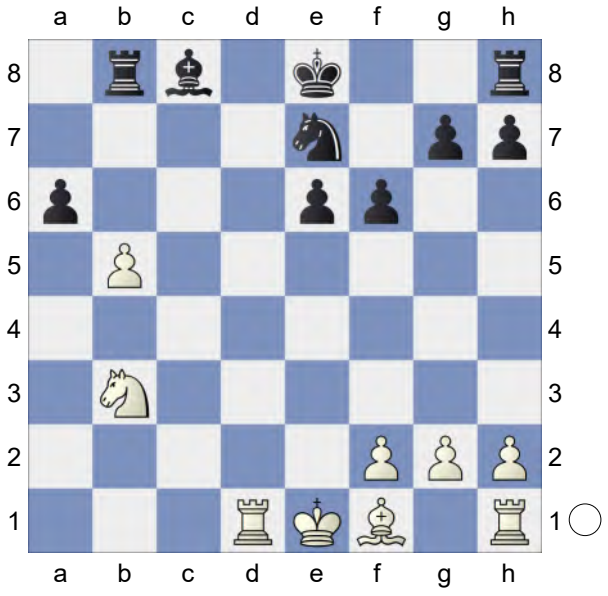
11.Bd4N
[11.Bd2 Be7 *(11...Bb7 12.Qc2 Be7 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.0-0-0 Nf4 15.Bc4 c5 16.Qa4+ Kf8 17.Ba6 c4 18.Qxc4 Qxc4 19.Bxc4 Nxg2 20.Nd4 Bf6 21.Rhg1 Rc8 22.b3 Ke7 23.Kc2 Rhd8 24.Bc1 Be5 25.h3 h6 26.Ba3+* 0-1 (47) Jerez Perez,A (2332)-Kaustuv,K (2403) Creon op 28th 2024 (9)*)* 12.c4 Nf6 13.Qc2 0-0 *(13...c5 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Bd3 Qc7 16.Rde1 0-0-0 17.Ne5 Rhf8 18.Bc3 g6 19.Qa4 Ng4 20.Qc2 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Qa5 22.Kb1 Bxg2 23.Rhg1 Bc6 24.Be4 Rd2 25.Qb3 Bxe4+ 26.Rxe4 Qb6 27.Qa4 f6 28.Bc3* (47) Model Games-Christiansen,J*)* 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.0-0 Qc7 16.Bc3 c5 17.Ne5 N,N-8. Nb5 Qd8 9. Nbxd4 Nd5 #1]

11...f6 Repels Be5 **12.c4 Bb4+ 13.Nd2 Ne7 14.a3**
[14.Bc5!? Qa5 15.Bxb4 Qxb4 16.Qc2∓]

14...Qxd4 15.axb4 Qxb2
(Diagram)

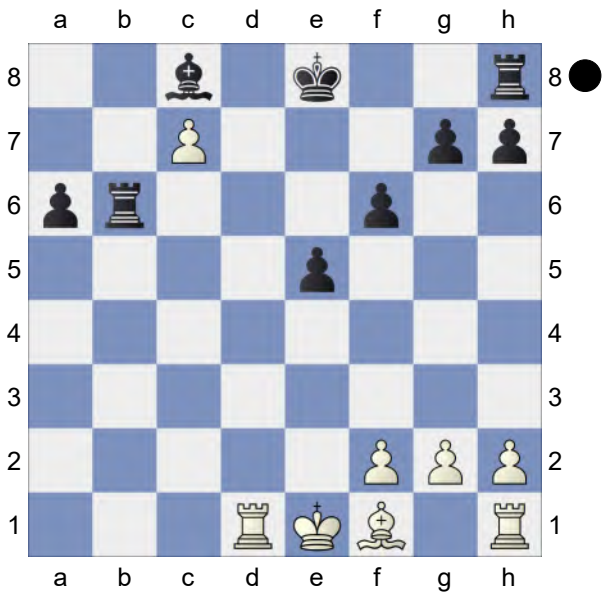


16.Rb1 Qd4 17.Nb3 Qxd1+
[17...Qe4+ is interesting. 18.Be2 Qxg2 19.Bh5+ g6]
18.Rxd1 -0.72/20
[18.Kxd1= -0.26/22 might be stronger. Rb8 19.Na5]
18...Rb8∓ 19.b5 -1.24/23
[White should play 19.Kd2 -0.85/20]
19...cxb5 20.cxb5 a6

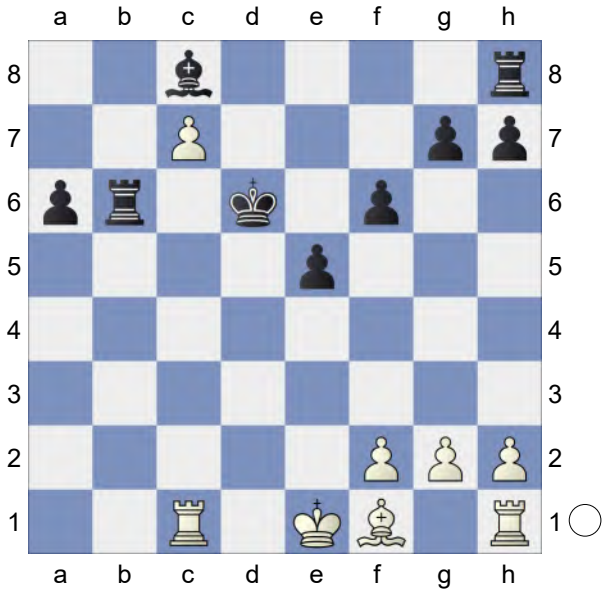


21.Nd4 e5 22.Nc6 Nxc6 23.bxc6 Rb6 24.c7

(Diagram)

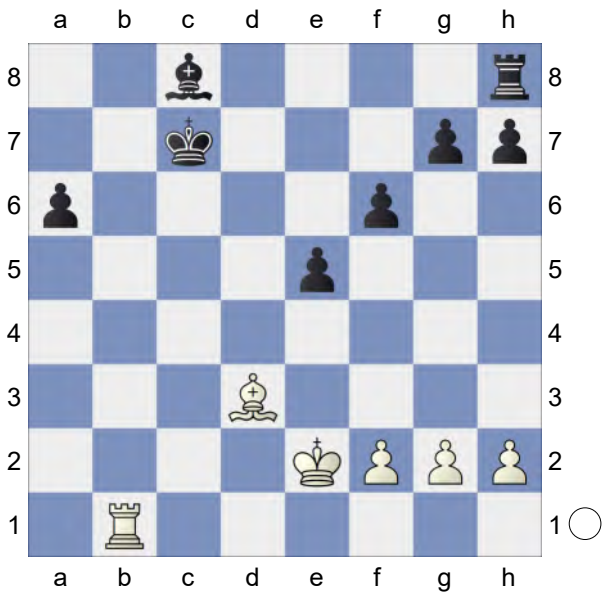


And now Rd8+ would win. **24...Ke7**
25.Rc1 Repels Rc6 **25...Kd6**

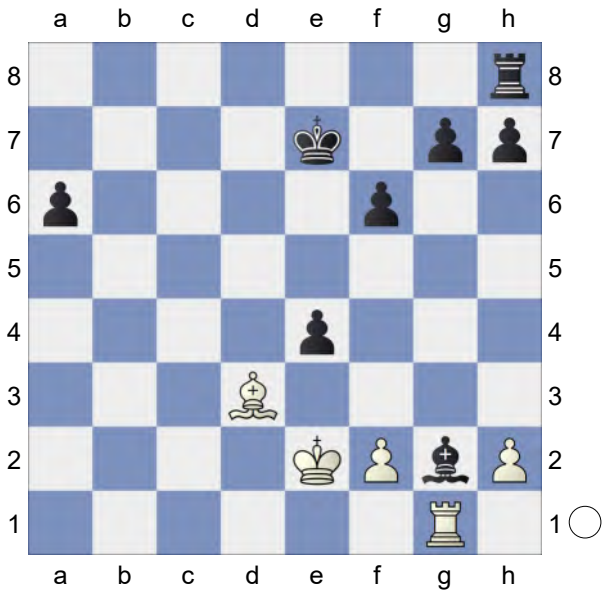


26.Bd3 Rc6 27.Ke2 Rxc7 28.Rxc7 Kxc7 Endgame. KRB-KRB **29.Rc1+ Kb6** ...Bd7 is the strong threat. **30.Rb1+ Kc7** 0.01/20
[30...Kc6∓ -0.81/20 31.Ra1 Kb6 32.Rb1+ Ka7]

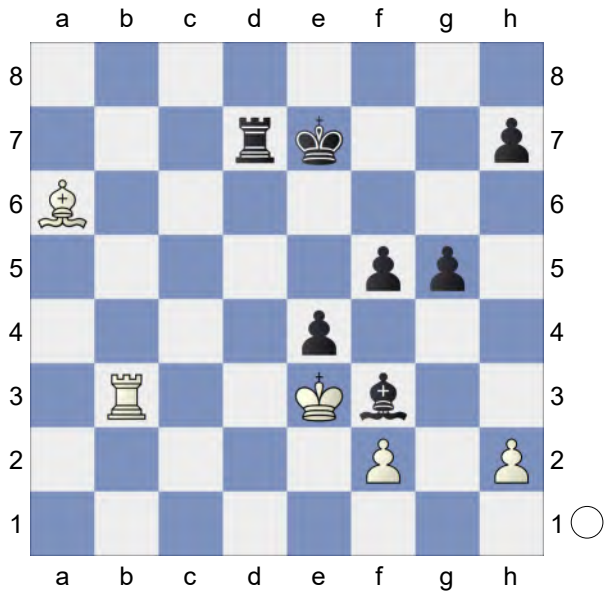
(Diagram)



31.Rc1+!= Kd6 32.Rd1 Ke7 33.Ra1 Bb7 34.Rb1 -2.54/22
[34.f3∓ -1.59/20]
34...Bxg2-+ 35.Rg1 e4



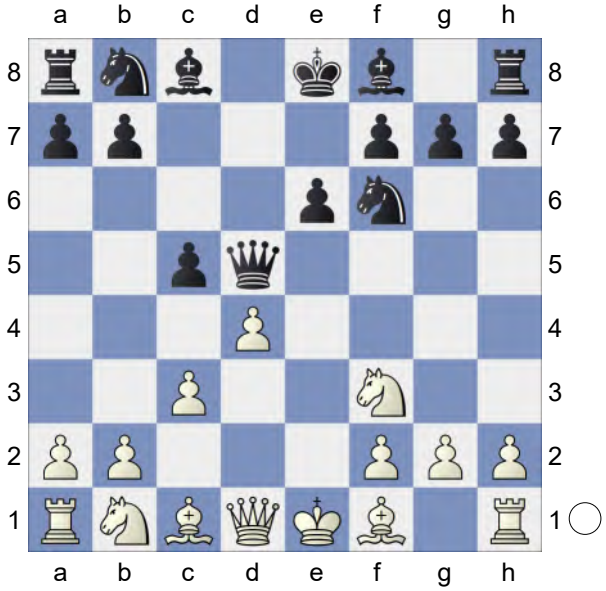
36.Bxa6 -3.72/26
[⌓36.Rxg2 -2.52/22 exd3+ 37.Kxd3]
36...Bf3+ 37.Ke3 g5 -1.10/21
[37...Ra8-+ -3.46/22 and Black stays clearly on top. 38.Bc4 g5]
38.Rb1? -3.41/23
[38.Bb7∓ -1.10/21]
38...Rd8 (-> . . . f5) **39.Rb7+ Rd7** -1.85/23
[⌓39...Ke6 -3.17/21 White must now prevent ...f5. 40.Bc4+ Kf5]
40.Rb3? -15.30/23
[40.Rxd7+ -1.85/23 Kxd7 41.Kd4]
40...f5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.18 (very precise)
0-1

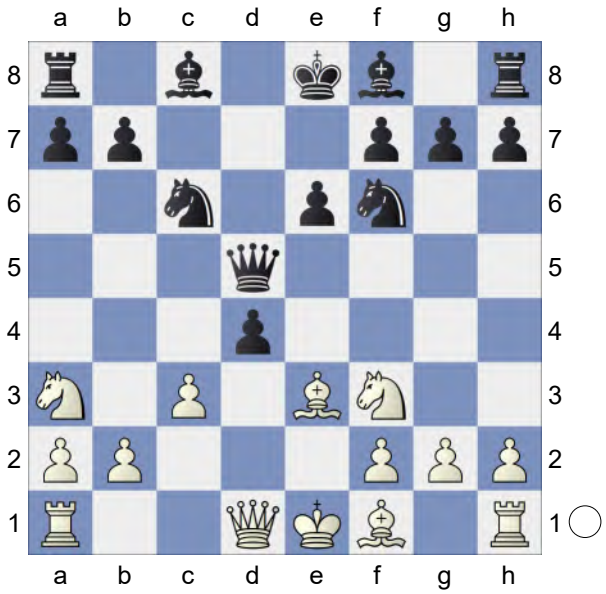
42 **B22**
□ **Athena Pallada** **2960**
■ **Konevlad** **3061**
Blitz 24.02.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Rogozenco,D: 'Annotations from CBM 110; my additional notes are marked MK. ' Rogozenco,D: 'Annotations from CBM 110; my additional notes are marked MK. ' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6**



6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4

(Diagram)

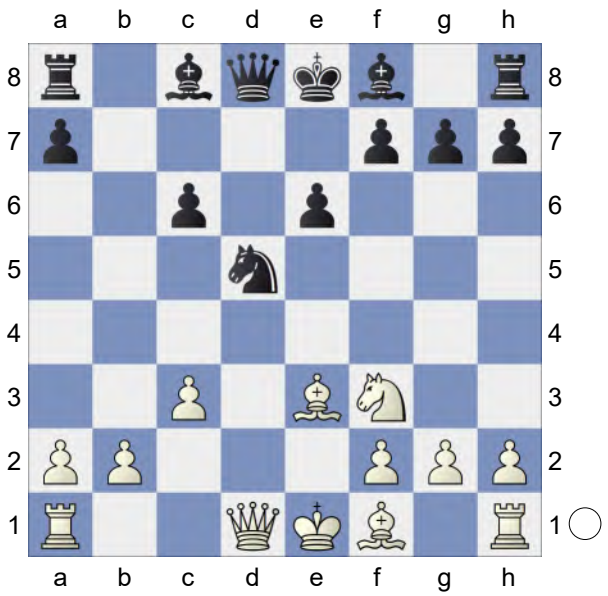


8.Nb5! Qd8 Inhibits Nc7+. **9.Nbxd4 Nd5** The position is equal. **10.Nxc6**

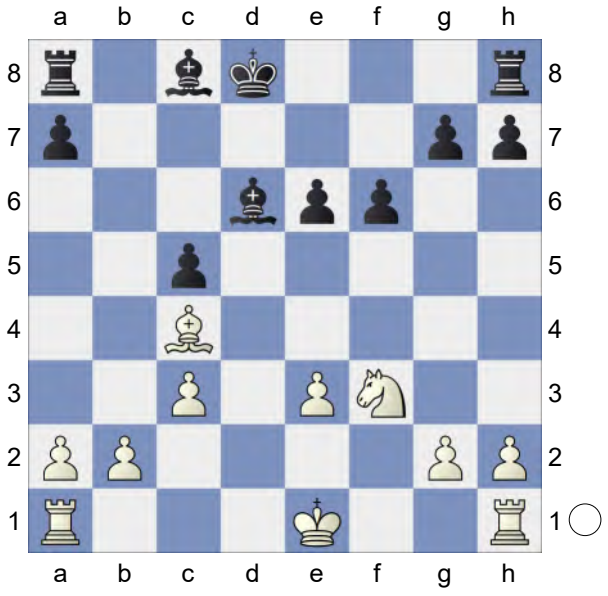
[10.Bg5 f6 11.Nxc6 *(11.Bh4 e5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bc4 Qd6 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bg3 Qd7 16.Re1 Bd6 17.Bb3 Bf7 18.c4 Nb6 19.c5 Bxc5 20.Nxe5 fxe5 21.Rxe5+ Be7 22.Bh4 Qxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Nc8 24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.Rde1 0-0* 1-0 (76) Gundavaa,B (2150)-Muskewitz,B (1839) Philadelphia Int 5th 1994 (9)*)* 11...bxc6 12.Bd2 e5 13.Qc2 Be6 14.Bd3 g6 15.h4 Qd7 16.0-0-0 Bc5 17.c4 Bxf2 18.Kb1 Rb8 19.h5 Ne7 20.Bc3 Bf5 21.g4 Bxd3 22.Rxd3 Qxg4 23.Qxf2 Qxc4 24.Rhd1 0-0 ½-½ (39) Fridman,D (2667)-Adams,M (2725) Grenke Chess Classic 1st 2013 (8)]

10...bxc6

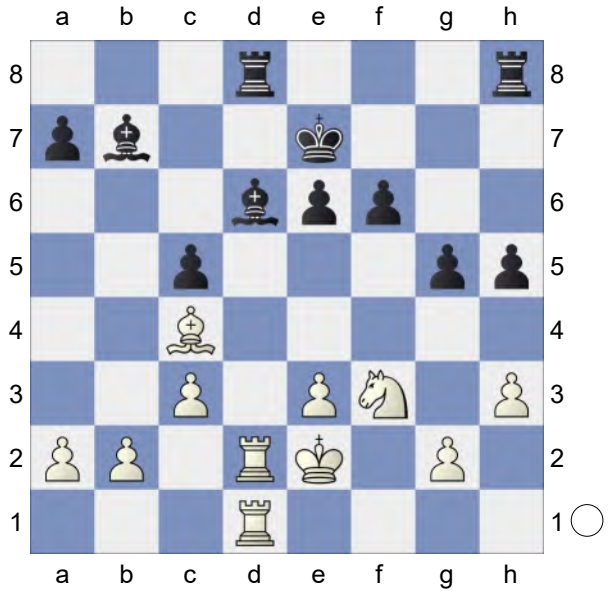
(Diagram)



11.Bd4 f6! 12.Bc4 c5N
[12...e5 13.Bxe5 fxe5 14.Nxe5 Qd6 15.0-0 Be6 16.Qh5+ g6 17.Nxg6 Nf6 18.Qe2 hxg6 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Bxe6 Kd8 21.g3 ½-½ Tiviakov,S (2678)-Smeets,J (2537) NED-ch60 Leeuwarden 2005 (1)]
13.Be3 Nxe3 14.Qxd8+ Kxd8 15.fxe3 Bd6

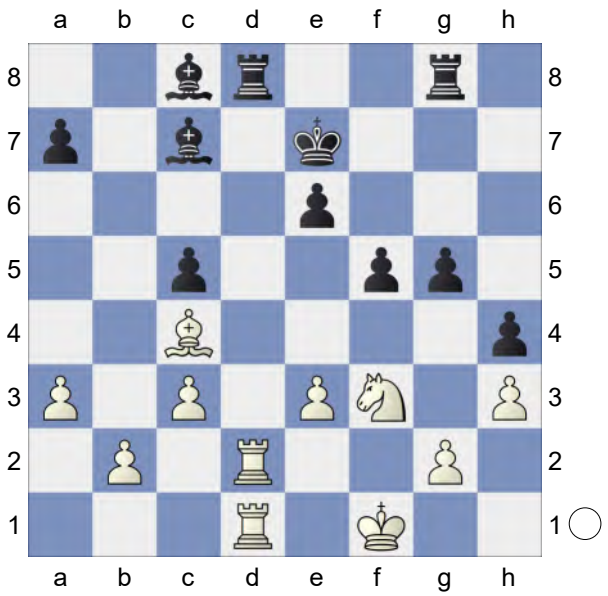


16.Ke2 -0.55/21
[16.Nd2= -0.14/20]
16...Ke7 17.Rhd1 -0.93/20
[17.h4∓ -0.57/19 deserves consideration.]
17...Bb7 18.Rd2 g5 19.h3 h5 20.Rad1 Rad8

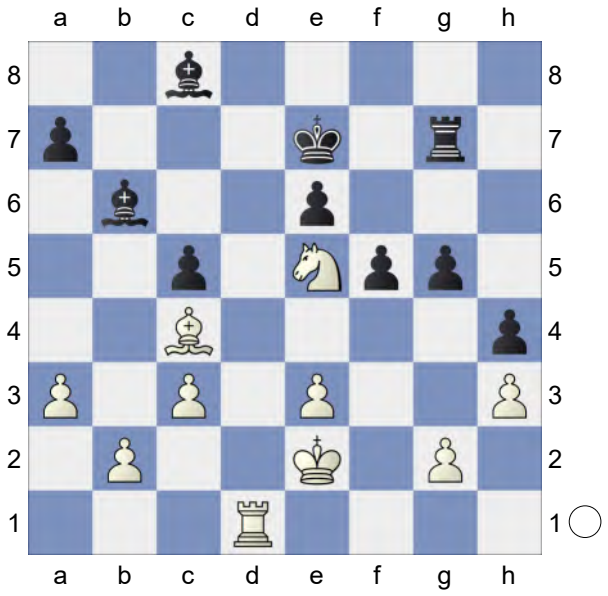


21.Kf2 h4 22.Be2 Rhg8 23.Kf1 f5 24.Bc4 -1.62/22
[24.a3∓ -0.80/22 was called for.]
24...Bc8 -0.36/22 A strong pair of Bishops.
[24...Bxf3-+ -1.62/22 25.gxf3 g4 26.fxg4 fxg4]
25.a3 Bc7 -0.26/21
[Black should play 25...Bb7∓ -0.71/20 Threatens to win with ...Bxf3. 26.Be2 Be4]

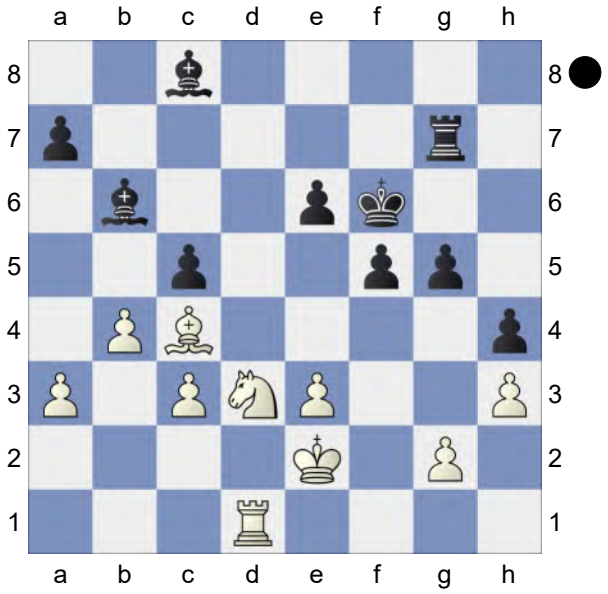
(Diagram)



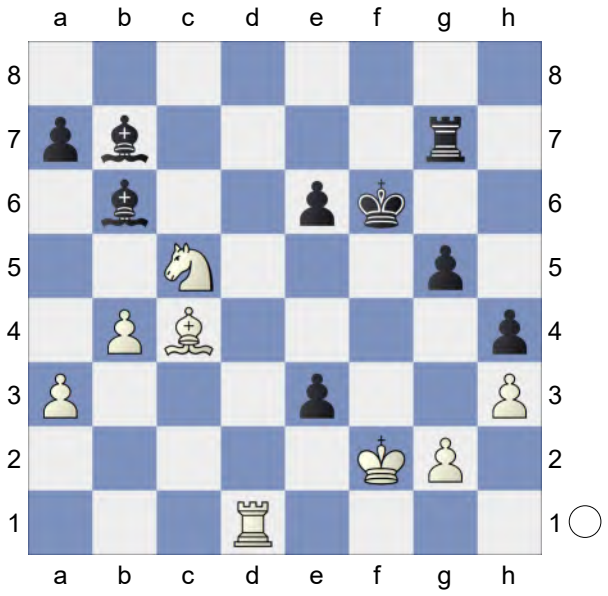
26.Rxd8= Bxd8 27.Ne5 Prevents Bd7.
27...Bb6 28.Ke2 -1.04/22
[28.a4∓ -0.42/20]
28...Kf6 -0.01/21
[Better is 28...g4∓ -1.04/22
White must now prevent ...gxh3.
29.Nc6+ Kf6]
29.Nd7+ Ke7 30.Ne5 Rg7 -0.61/22
[30...g4∓ -1.03/22 31.Kf2 Rg5]



31.b4 -1.29/23
[31.Bb5∓ -0.61/22]
31...Kf6↑ Keeping White busy. **32.Nd3** -2.43/23
[32.Nc6∓ -1.17/22]

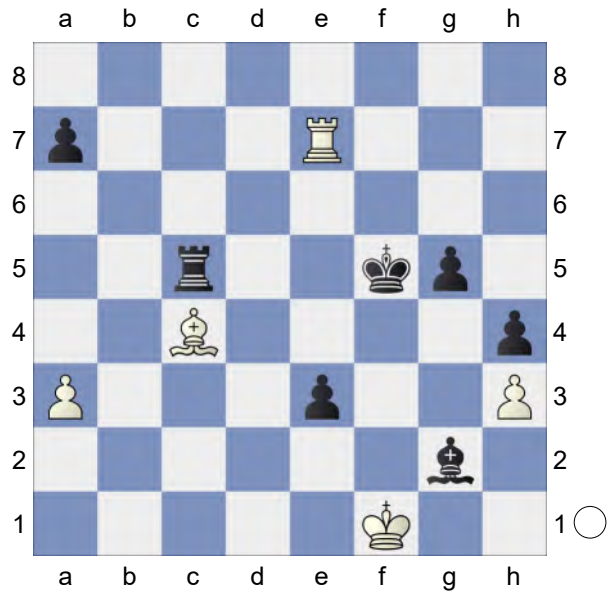


Now White is beyond hope. **32...cxb4!-+**
33.cxb4 Bb7 Prevents e4. **34.Kf2** -3.37/23
[⌓34.Ne1 -2.30/22]
34...f4 -1.94/23
[⌓34...Rc7 -3.37/23 35.Nc5 Bxc5 36.bxc5 Rxc5]
35.Nc5 fxe3+

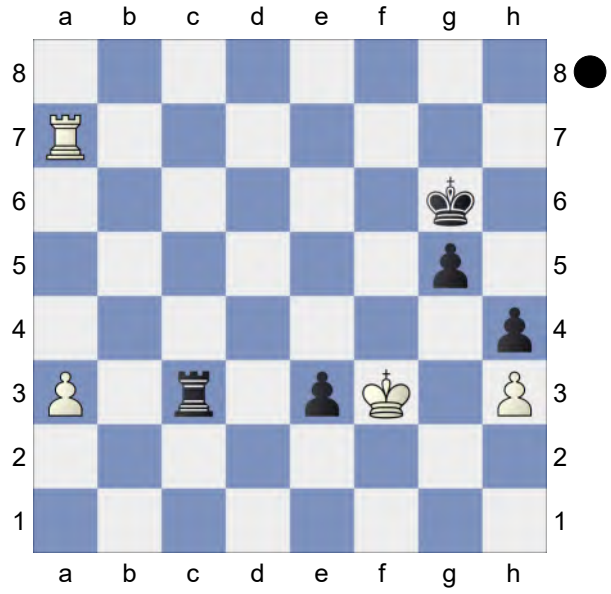


36.Kf1? -3.79/24
[36.Kxe3 -2.10/22 Bxg2 37.Bf1]

36...Bxc5 37.bxc5 Endgame. KRB-KRB **37...Rc7 38.Rd6** -6.52/23
[⌓38.Rb1 -4.22/22]
38...Rxc5 39.Rxe6+ Kf5 40.Re7 Bxg2+

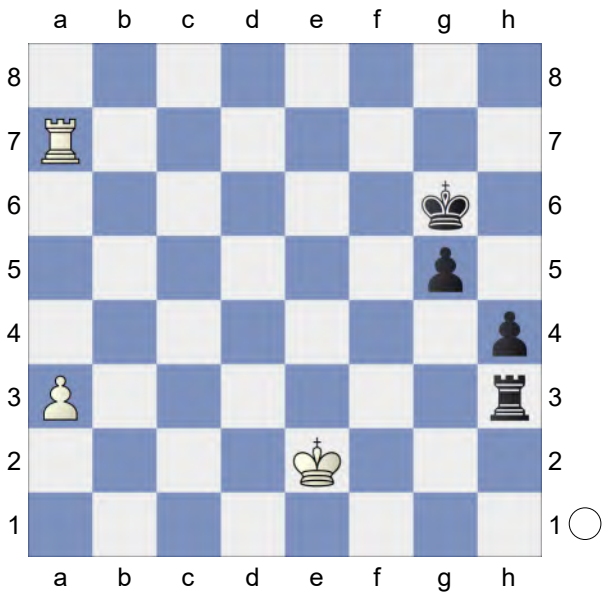


41.Kxg2 Rxc4 KR-KR **42.Kf3** -5.27/28
[42.Rxe3 -3.36/26 was worth a try. Rd4 43.Rc3]
42...Rc3 43.Rf7+ Kg6 44.Rxa7

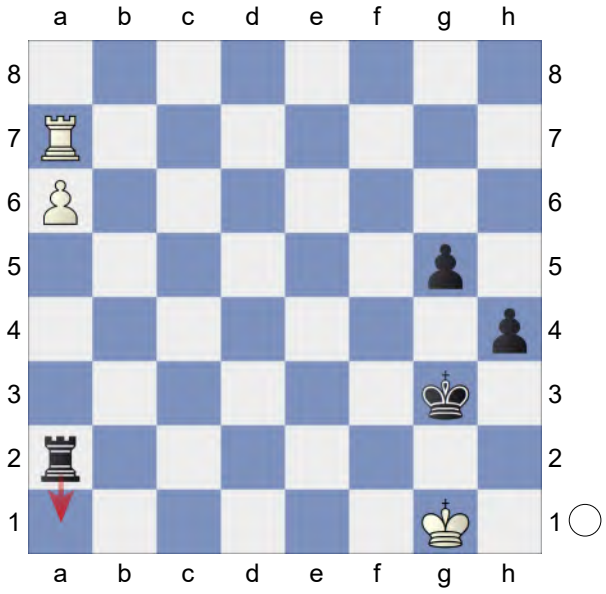


e2+! 45.Kxe2 Rxh3

(Diagram)

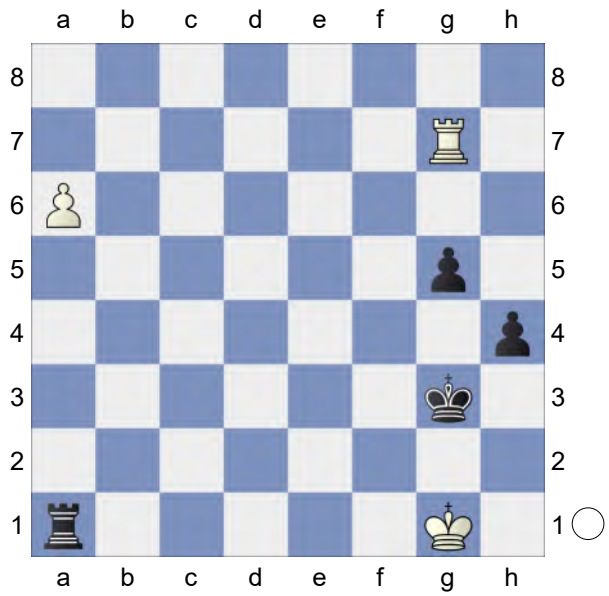


46.a4 Ra3 47.a5 Kh5 48.a6 Kg4 aiming for ...h3. **49.Kf2 Ra2+ 50.Kg1 Kg3**



51.Rg7 Ra1#

(Diagram)

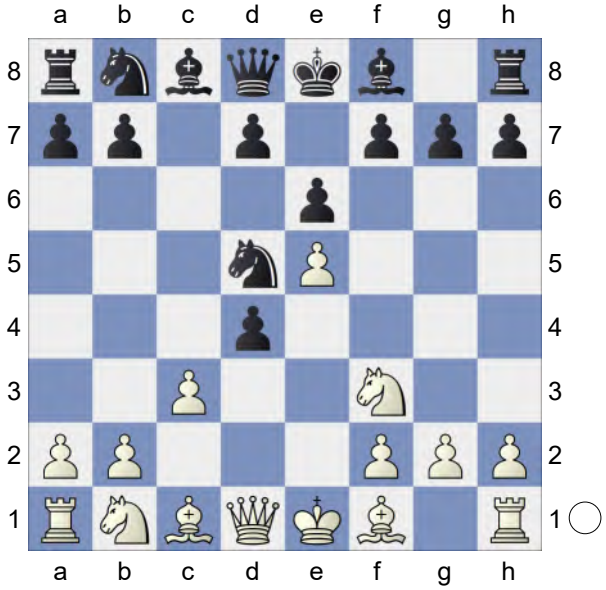


Weighted Error Value: White=0.84/ Black=0.32

0-1

43 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2890**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2776**
FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championsh..
[Kitty Kat]

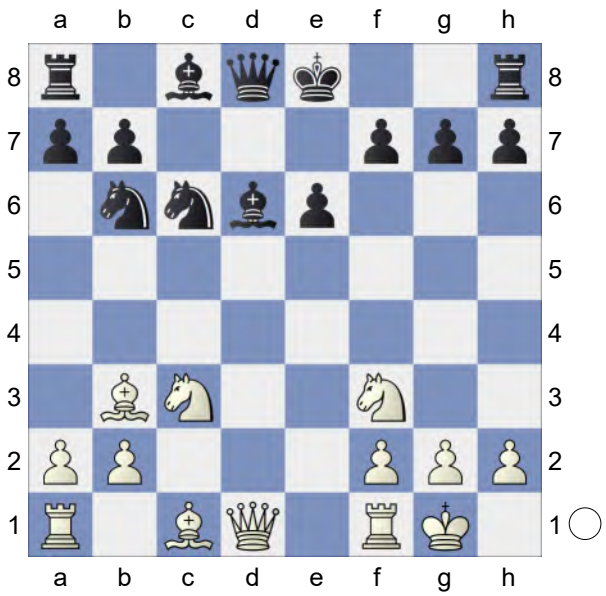
Blitz 0min+2sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 0 **c5** 0 **2.c3** 0 **Nf6** 0 **3.e5** 0 **Nd5** 0 **4.Nf3** 0 **e6** 0 **5.d4** 0 **cxd4** 0



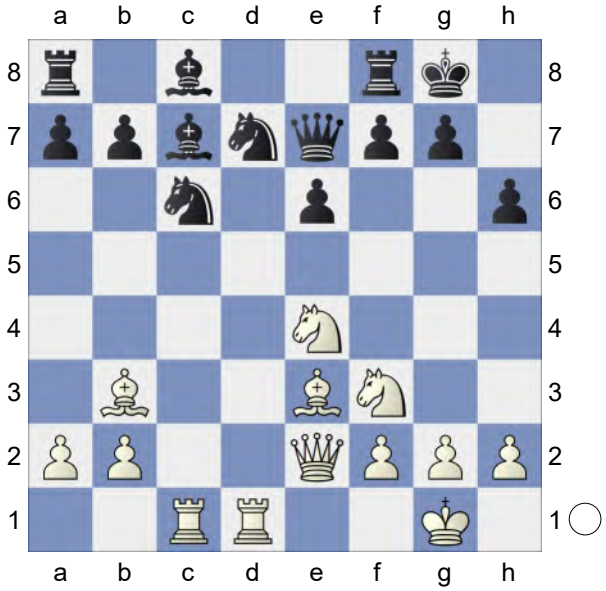
6.Bc4 0 **Nb6** 0 **7.Bb3** 0 **dxc3** 0 **8.Nxc3** 0 **d5** 0 **9.exd6** 0 **Bxd6** 0 **10.0-0** 0 **Nc6N** 0

[10...0-0 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Qc1 Bxg5 13.Nxg5 h6 14.Nge4 Nc6 15.Rd1 Qe7 16.Rd3 e5 17.Rg3 Kh8 18.Nb5 a6 19.Nbd6 Be6 20.Qe3 Nc8 21.Rd1 Nxd6 22.Rxd6 Nd4 23.Rxg7 Kxg7 0-1 8.Rb1 (1952)-13.c3 Be7 14. c4 Qc7 (2246) ch-High Pool, Marseilles FRA 2001 (9.13)]

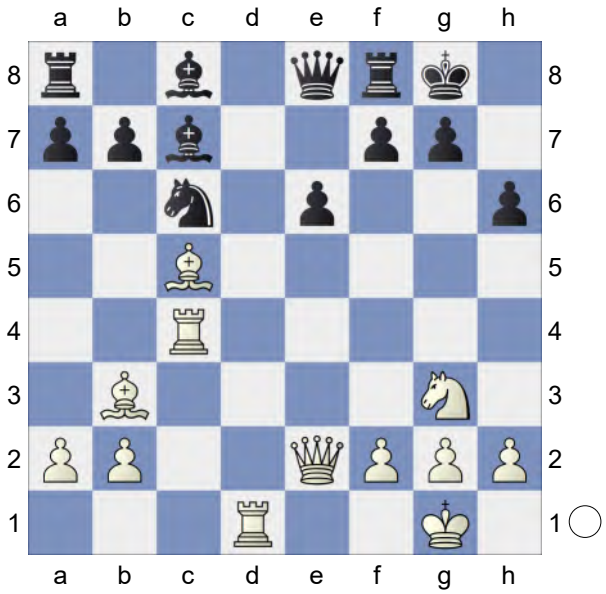
(Diagram)



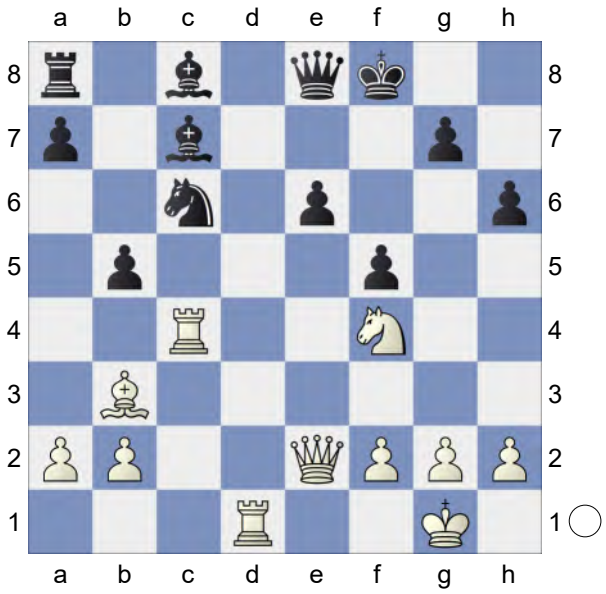
White is slightly better. **11.Qe2** 0
White has compensation. **11...h6** 0
12.Rd1 0 aiming for Nb5. **12...Qe7** 0
13.Ne4! 0 **Bc7** 0 **14.Be3** 0 **Nd7** 0
Inhibits Bc5. **15.Rac1** 0 **0-0** 0



16.Nd4 0 **Qh4** 0 **17.Ng3** 0
Active counter play! **17...Nde5** 0
18.Nxc6 0 **Nxc6** 0 **19.Rc4** 0 **Qe7** 1.66/19 0 A mistake that costs the game.
[19...Qf6= 0.26/22 and Black has nothing to worry.]
20.Bc5+- 0 **Qe8** 2.00/18 0
[⌓20...Qf6 1.62/21]

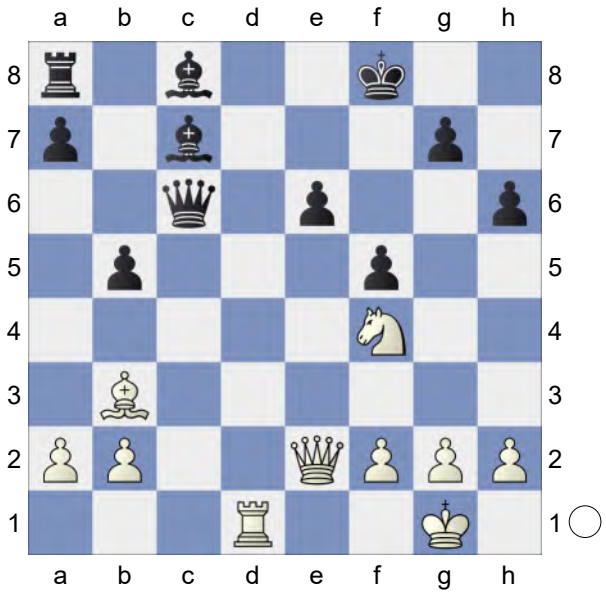


21.Nh5 0 **f5** 0 Against Rg4 **22.Bxf8** 0 **Kxf8** 0 **23.Nf4→** 0 White goes for the king. **23...b5?** 4.51/25 5
[23...Rb8 1.87/17 24.Qe3 Bb6]

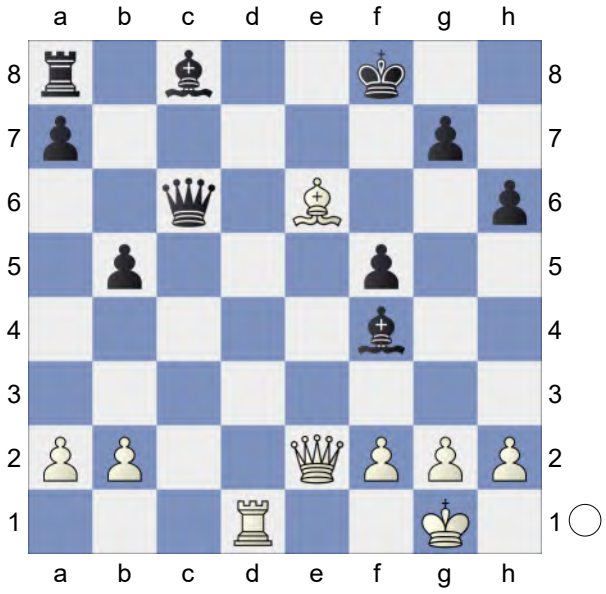


24.Rxc6! 21 Discovered Attack
24...Qxc6 1
[24...Bxf4 25.Qxb5]

(Diagram)

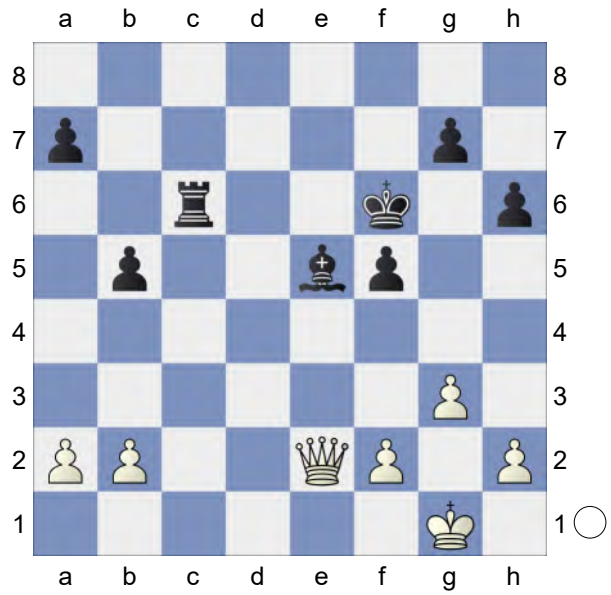


25.Bxe6! 10 **Bxf4** 41
[25...Qe8 26.Qe3]

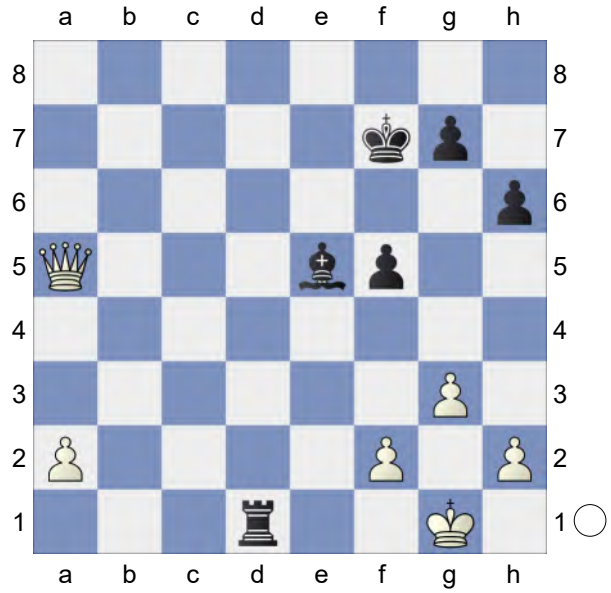


26.Rd8+ 2 **Ke7** 1 **27.Rxc8** 20
[27.Bxc8+? Kxd8 28.g3 Rxc8-+ *(28...Kxc8? 29.gxf4 Kb7 30.Qe7+ Qc7 31.Qe5-+)*]
27...Rxc8 6
[27...Qxe6 28.Qxe6+ *(28.Rxa8? Qxe2 29.Rxa7+ Kd6-+)* 28...Kxe6 29.Rxa8+-]
28.Bd5+ 1 Discovered Attack (Check)
[28.Bxc8+? Kf6 29.g3 Be5 30.Bxf5

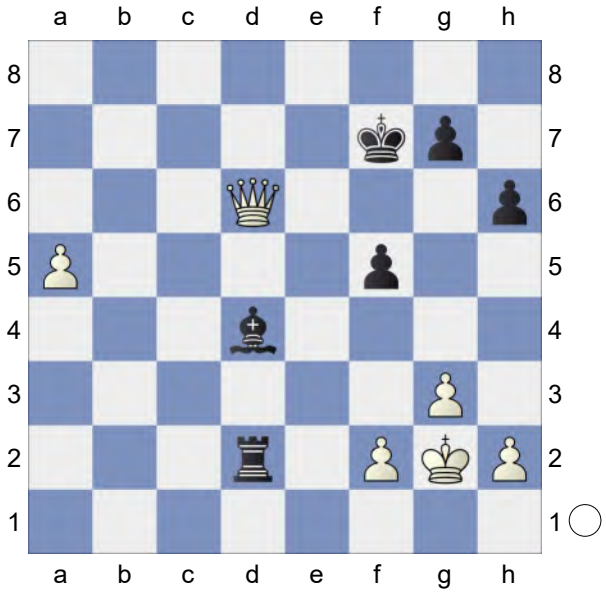
Kxf5-+]
28...Kf6 3 **29.Bxc6** 1 **Rxc6** 1
Endgame. KQ-KRB **30.g3** 1
[30.Qxb5? loses. Rc1+-+]
30...Be5 0



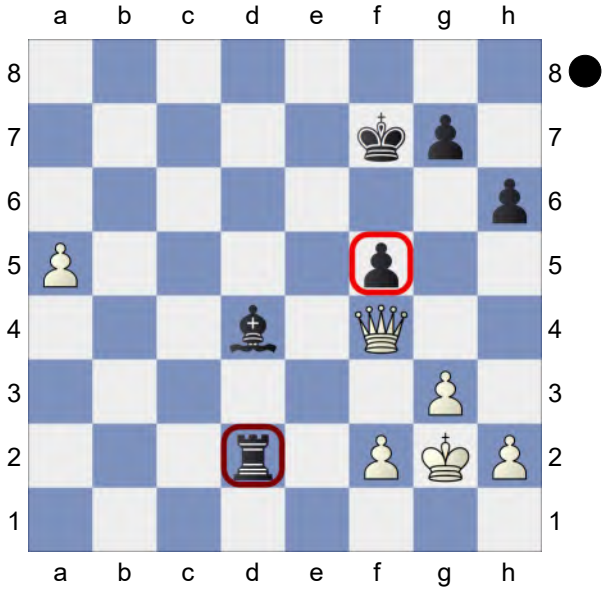
31.Qxb5 0 **Rb6** 5.17/21 7
[31...Rd6 2.82/19 32.b4 g6]
32.Qd7 3 White is clearly winning.
32...Rxb2 2 **33.Qxa7** 1
[Weaker is 33.f4 Rb1+ 34.Kg2 Ba1+-]
33...Rd2 5 **34.Qb6+** 2 **Kf7** 3 **35.Qa5** 5
Rd1+ 2



36.Kg2 1 **Kf6** 1 **37.a4** 2 **Bd4** 2
38.Qd8+ 2 **Kg6** 2 **39.Qd6+** 1 **Kf7** 2
40.a5 5 **Rd2** 1



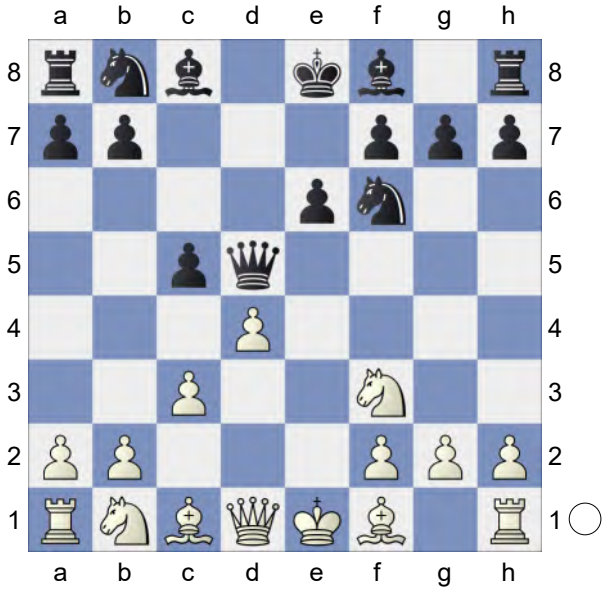
41.Qf4 1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

44 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2877**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2805**
Sinquefield Cup 2nd (9) 05.09.2014
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6



6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.Bc4 Be7 10.Qe2

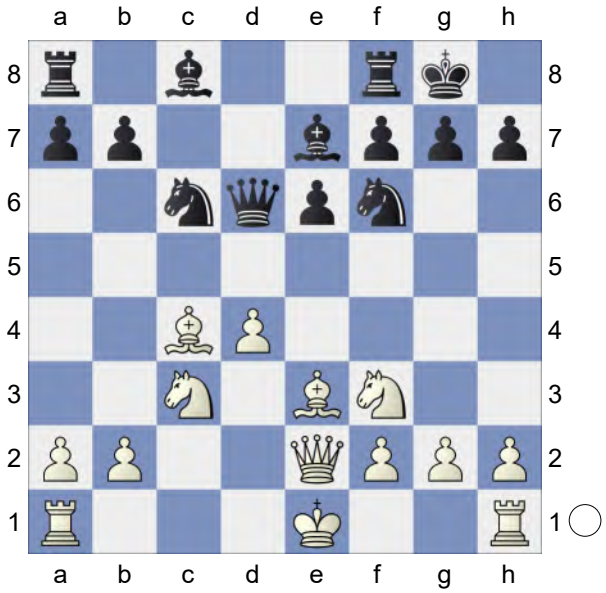
[10.0-0 0-0!+- M.Notkin

A) 11.Qe2 a6 *(11...Nb4!? M.Notkin 12.Bg5!? Nbd5 13.Rad1 a6 14.Rfe1* was recommended by IM Maxim Notkin but White can still fight on, say, after *Nxc3* with a minority attack. White obtained a tiny plus in the following game: *15.bxc3 b5 16.Bb3 Ra7 17.Qd3 Nd5 18.Bc2 g6 19.Bh6 Rc7 20.Qd2 Re8 21.Bb3 Bb7)* 12.Rad1 *(12.a3 b5 13.Ba2 b4 14.Na4 bxa3 15.bxa3 Rb8= 16.Nc5!? Nd5 17.Rac1 Rd8 18.Qc2 Qc7 19.Ne4 Bb7 20.Neg5± g6 21.Qe4! Qd6!? 22.Qh4 h5)* 12...b5 13.Bb3 , and White apparently can't make progress Nb4 14.Bg5 Bb7 15.Ne5 Rac8 16.Rfe1 is a theoretical draw Nbd5 17.Rd3 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Ne4 ; however, the king goes forward: 19.Bxe7! Qxe7 20.Qe3 Rc7 21.Qh3 Rfc8 22.Nxf7+- M.Notkin Kxf7 23.Rf3+ Ke8 24.Qxh7 Rxc3 25.Qg8+ Kd7 26.Bxe6+ Qxe6 looks very dangerous for Black but, surprisingly, there is no decisive blow, e.g. 27.Qxg7+ Kd6! 28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.Qxb7? Qd5 30.Qxa6+ Kd7 31.h4 Nxf2 32.Qa7+ Rc7 33.Re7+ Kxe7± 34.Qxc7+ Ke6 35.Kxf2 Qxa2+;

B) 11.Rc1 Nb4 12.Nb5 Qd8 13.Bf4 Nbd5 14.Bg3!? Bd7 15.Re1 Bc6 16.Ne5 Qb6 17.a4 a6 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.Nc4 Qd8 20.Nbd6 Bg5 21.Ra1 Nf4]

[10.a3 0-0 11.0-0 Nd5 12.Ne4± 1-0 (83) Melkumyan,H (2628)-Esen,B (2555) Plovdiv 2012 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Qd8 14.Rc1 Bd7 15.Nc5 Be8 16.b4 b6 17.Nd3 Bf6 18.Ba6 Qd6 19.Nf2 Be7 20.Qc2 Rb8 21.Bd3]

10...0-0



11.Rd1 Nb4

[11...a6 12.d5 No zugzwang is possible now, and White can't make progress. exd5! was necessary. It is essential for White not to allow Black's rook to control the a-pawn from the side. 13.Nxd5 Nxd5

A) 14.Bxd5 Be6 15.Bb3 Qb4+⊙ 16.Bd2

A1) 16...Qg4 17.Bxe6 Qxe6 *(17...fxe6 18.0-0 Bf6 19.h3 Qf5 20.g4 Qd5 21.Bb4)* 18.Qxe6 fxe6 19.0-0 Bf6 20.Rfe1;

A2) 16...Qb5 17.Bxe6 Qxe2+ 18.Kxe2 fxe6+- 19.Bc3 Rad8;

B) 14.Rxd5 Qb4+ 15.Rd2 Rd8]

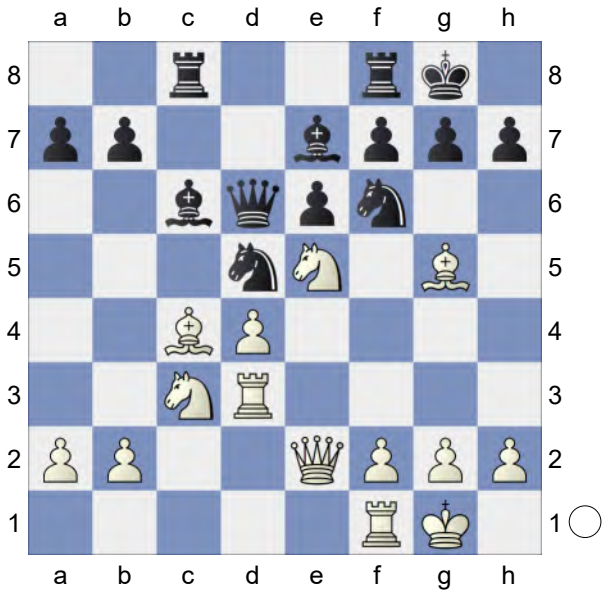
12.Ne5 Nbd5 13.0-0 An unusual decision allowing e6-e5. On the other hand, White prevents ...b7-b6 followed by ...♗c8-b7 and ...c6-c5 so the position remains asymmetrical. **13...Bd7**

14.Bg5 Bc6

[14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 Nd5 16.Bxd5 exd5 17.Nxd7 Rfe8 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Ne5= f6 (b6, d6 etc.) 20.f4]

15.Rd3 We have a typical quiet position with the open d-file. It is approximately equal but not yet drawn - just made for Magnus Carlsen! **15...Rac8**

(Diagram)



16.Rh3 Rfd8

[16...h6

A) 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Bf4 *(18.Bd2 Rfd8 19.Rg3 Kf8)* 18...Bc4 19.Nxc4 Qxf4;

B) 17.Bxf6 Nf4 18.Qg4 Nxh3+ 19.Qxh3 Bxf6;

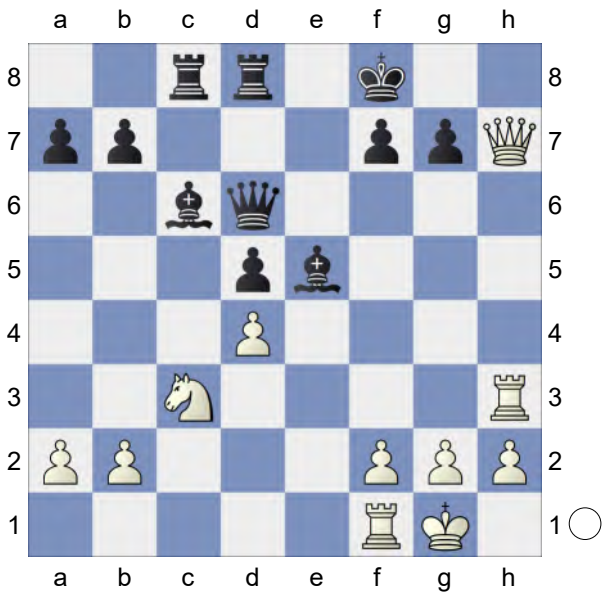
C) 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Rxh6 Kg7 19.Qd2 Rg8 20.Rh3 Kf8]

17.Bxd5 exd5

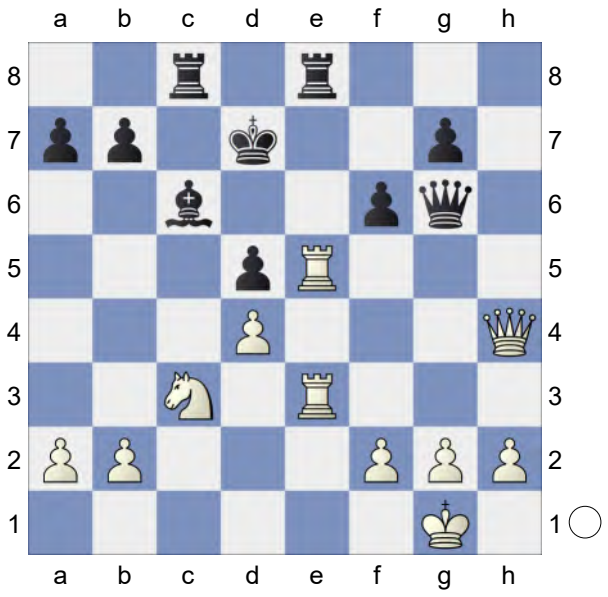
[17...Nxd5 18.Qh5 Bxg5 19.Qxf7+ Kh8 20.Ng6#]

18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qh5 Bxe5 20.Qxh7+ Kf8

(Diagram)

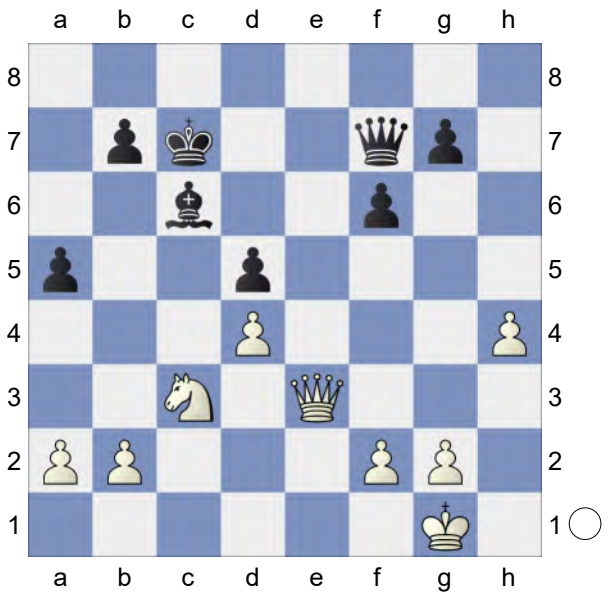


21.Re1 Qg6 22.Qh8+
[22.Qxg6 Bxh2+ 23.Rxh2 fxg6]
22...Ke7 23.Qh4+ Kd7 24.Rxe5 Re8 25.Rhe3 f6?!

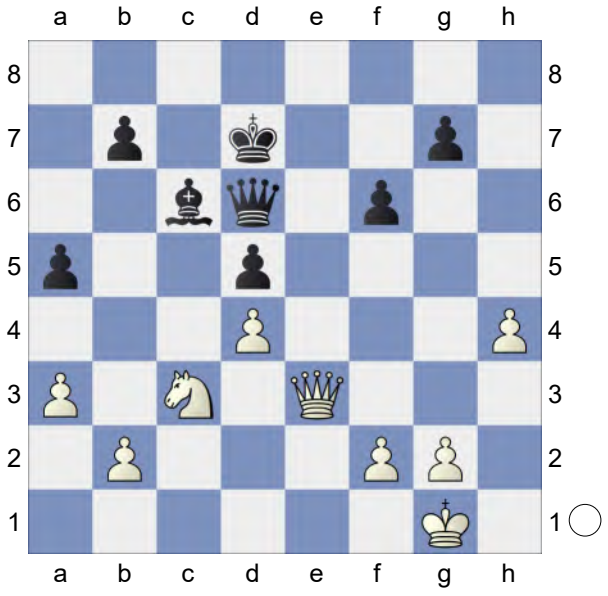


Hardly a good idea. Black trades White's only weakness and remains with pawn ruins on the queenside. **26.Qh3+ Kc7 27.Rxe8!?** A nice pawn sacrifice. **27...Rxe8 28.Rxe8 Qxe8 29.Qe3 Qf7 30.h4 a5**

(Diagram)



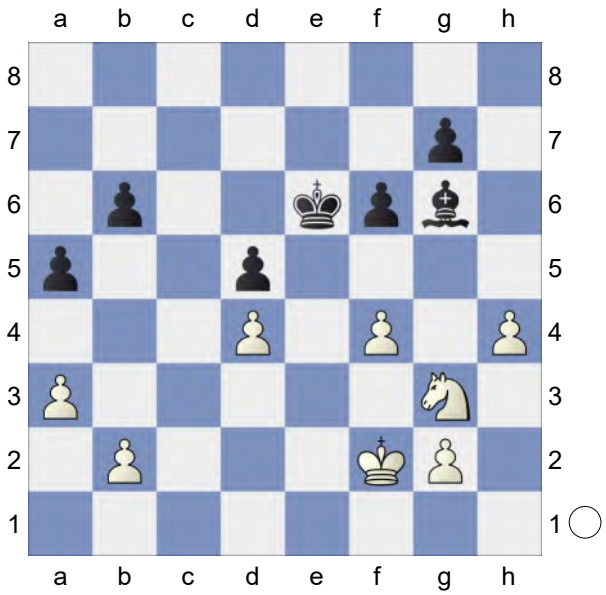
31.Qf4+ Kd7 An unnecessary tactical trick. **32.Qg4+! Kc7 33.a3 Qe7 34.Qf4+ Kd7 35.Qe3 Qd6**



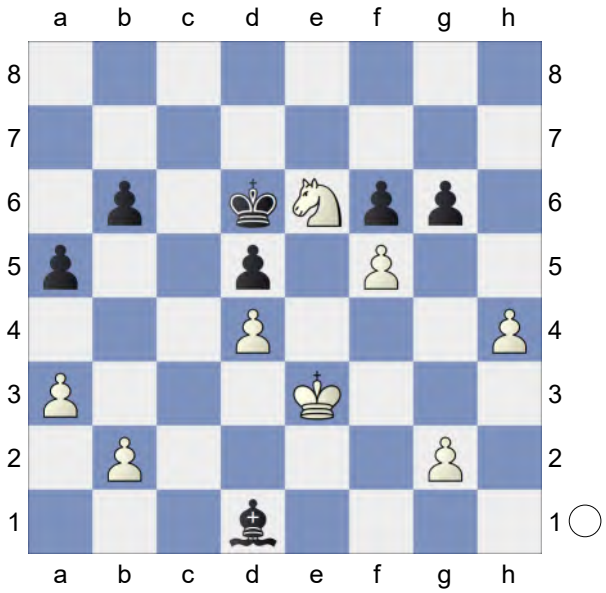
36.Ne2 This rook endgame is very subtle; the line between a draw and White's win is very thin. **36...b6** It looked more logical to give a couple of checks to force White's king out of the centre: **37.Ng3 Qe6**
[37...g6 38.Qh6 f5 *(38...Qe6 39.Qxg6 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qxf2 41.Qf5+ Qxf5* Black pushes White's king away as it is approaching the a-pawn.

42.Nxf5 Ke6 43.g4) 39.h5 f4 *(39...gxh5 40.Qxh5 f4 41.Qf7+ Kd8 42.Ne2)* 40.Ne2]

38.Qxe6+ Kxe6 39.f4 Be8?! 40.Kf2 Bg6



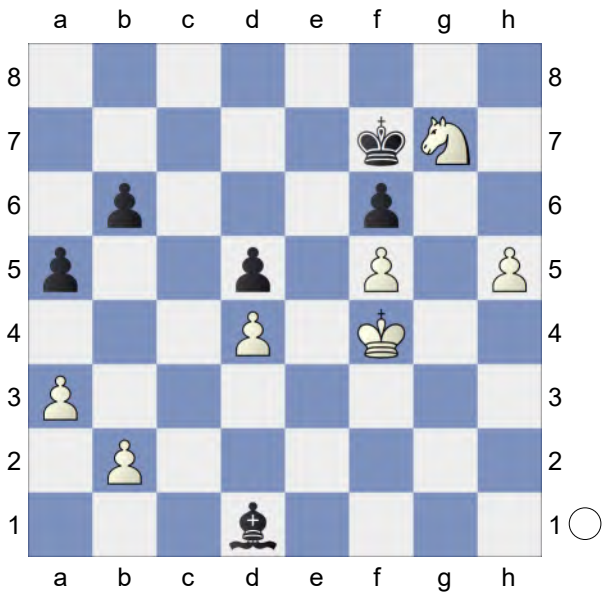
41.Ke3 Kd6 42.f5 Be8 43.Ne2 Ba4 44.Nf4 Bd1 45.Ne6 g6



46.Kf4? Bc2!! Miraculously, this move now saves the game.

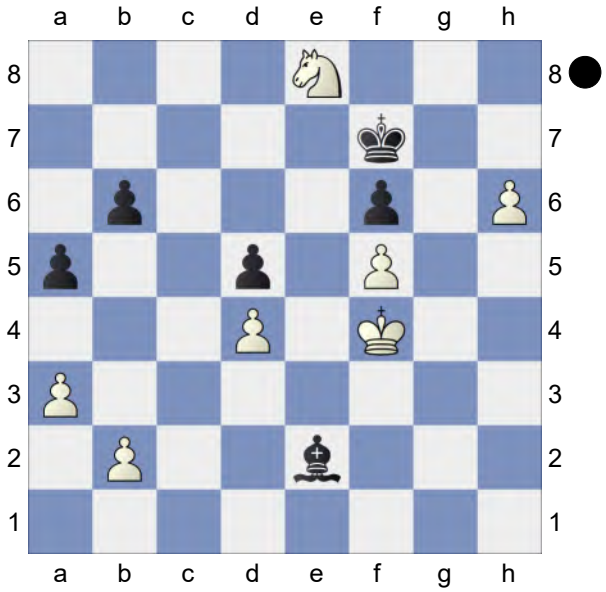
47.g4 gxf5 48.gxf5 Bd1 The so-called Vancsura setup. Despite 3 extra pawns, the position is drawn.

49.Ng7 Ke7 50.h5 Kf7



The f-file is the most appropriate position for Black's rook.

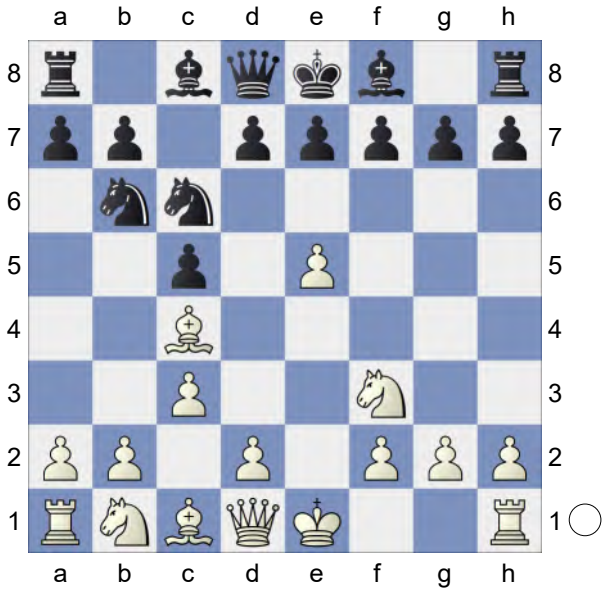
51.h6 Be2 52.Ne8



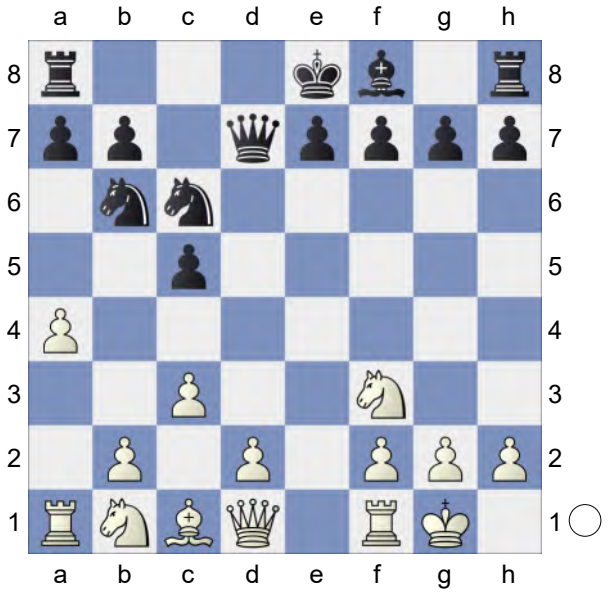
½-½

45 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2862**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2784**
Skilling op KO rapid (2.22) 28.11.2020
[Collins,Sam]

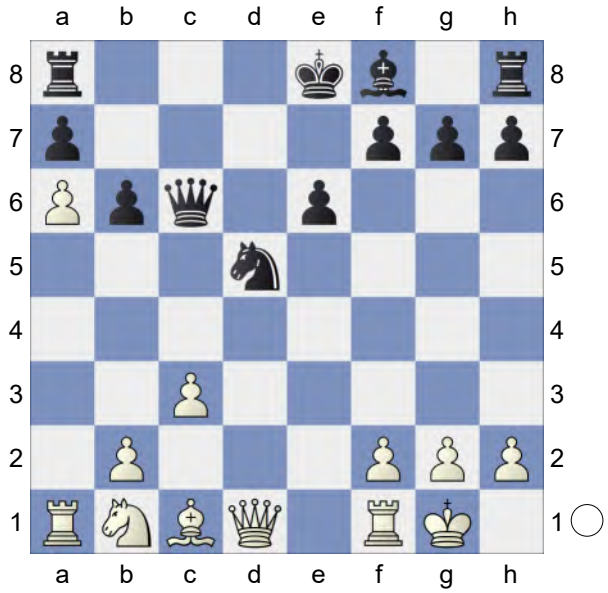
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



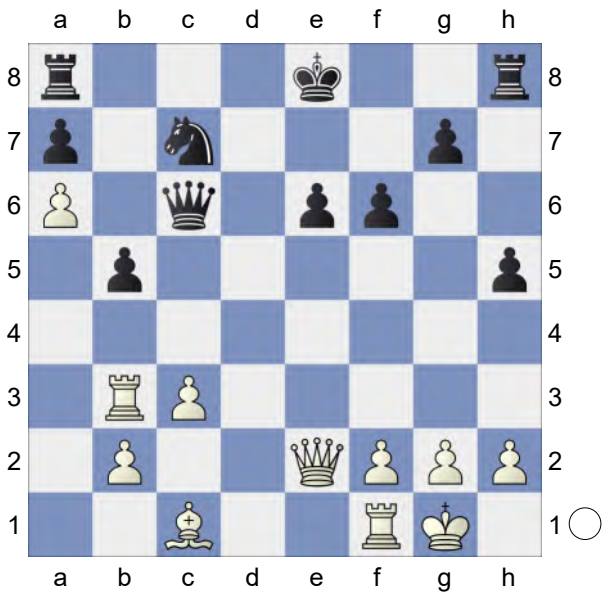
6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 Qxe6 10.a4 White is slightly better. **10...Qd7**



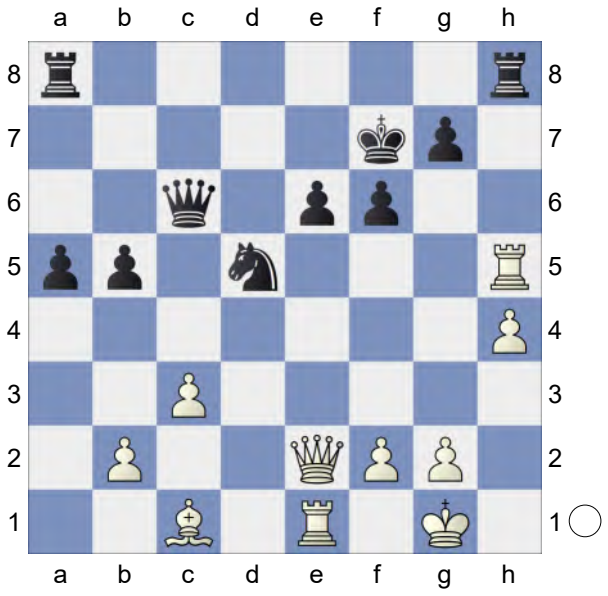
11.a5 Nd5 12.a6 The best scoring move here.
[The most popular 12.d4 was played in D.Pavasovic - J.Borisek, Vidmar Memorial 2005 (1-0 in 50), annotated by Jonathan Rowson in the Archives.]
12...b6 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 e6 15.Nxc6N
[15.Nb5 is much more popular, after which Bc5 *(15...Be7 16.Qa4 0-0 17.Rd1* 6. 2...Nf6: Mainline 4...Nc6-7... Qxd6 8. O-O Be6 #2*)* 16.Qa4 Hoping for b4. 0-0 17.Rd1 Qc8!= is a well-trodden path leading to equality. *(17...Ne5!?)*]
15...Qxc6



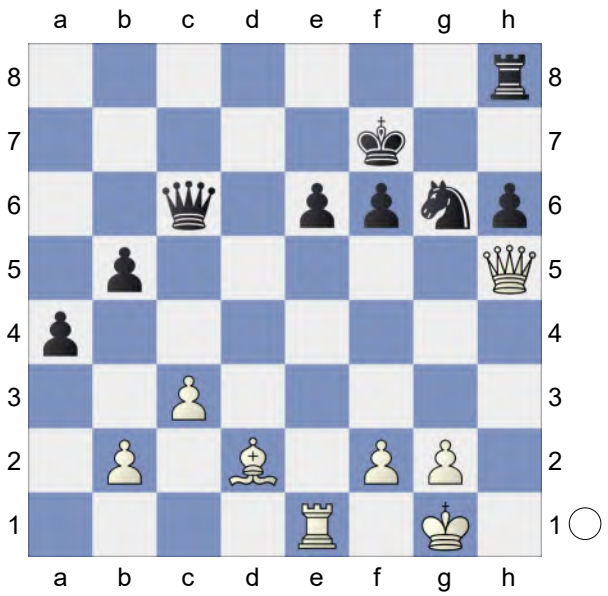
16.Qg4 h5?! A typical and ambitious response to Qg4 in several Sicilian lines, such as the Taimanov, but perhaps not completely appropriate in this position.
[16...Nf6 17.Qe2 Bc5 18.Nd2 0-0 was a safer route to equality in K. Brown - P.Bodziony, ICCF email 2017 (1/ 2-1/2 in 35).]
17.Qe2 b5 18.Na3 Bxa3 19.Rxa3 f6 20.Rb3 0.40/21
[20.Bd2± 0.80/18]
20...Nc7



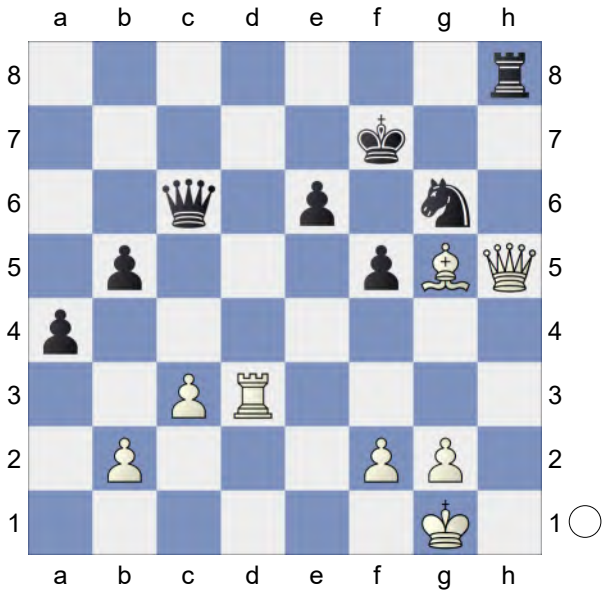
21.Rb4 Qxa6 22.Rh4
[22.Rd4 aiming for Bf4. e5 23.Rfd1± puts Black in a critical position.]
22...Kf7 23.Rxh5 Nd5 24.Re1 Qc6=
The position is balanced and further adventures are referable to the time control. **25.h4 a5**



26.Rxh8 Rxh8 27.h5 a4 28.Bd2?!
[28.h6 gxh6 0.41/21 *(28...Ne7=* 0.01/21) 29.Qh5+± Ke7 30.Qg4 Against Rg8 Kf7 Against Qg7+ 31.Qh5+=]
28...Ne7 29.h6 gxh6 30.Qh5+ Ng6

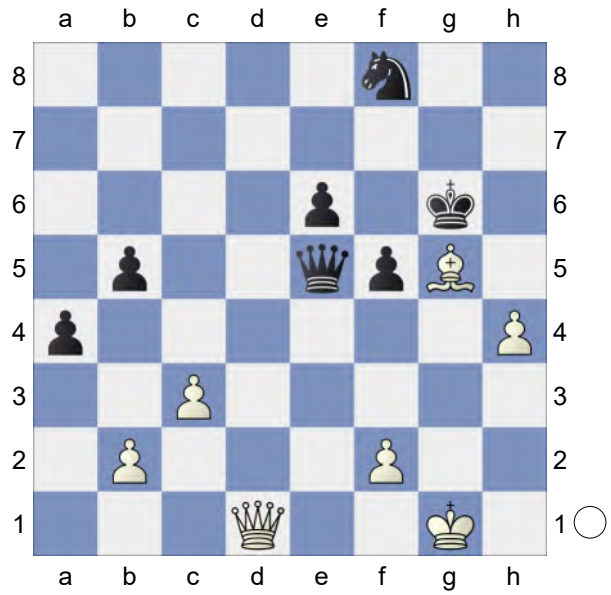


31.Bxh6 Qd6?! Wards off Rd1
[31...Qd5! 32.Qxd5 exd5∓ gives Black a better endgame.]
32.Rd1! The board is on fire. **32...Qc6**
Black is weak on the dark squares
[32...Rxh6 33.Qxg6+ Rxg6 34.Rxd6=]
33.Rd4 f5 0.79/24
[33...e5= was one of several moves to maintain the balance.]
[33...e5= 0.20/24 34.Rb4 Qd5]
34.Rd3 Rg8 35.Bg5 Rh8



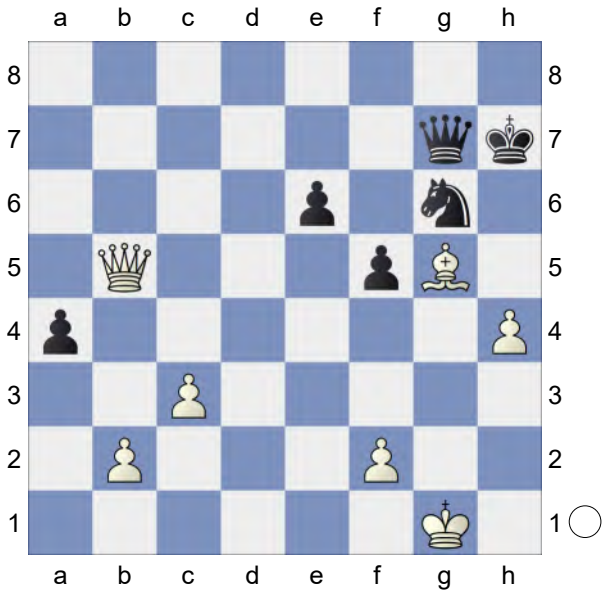
36.Qe2 Qc7! 37.Rh3 0.01/22

Inhibits Qh2+.
[37.Qd2!± 0.51/23 Qh2+ 38.Kf1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2]
37...Rxh3 38.gxh3 Endgame. KQB-KQN **38...Qe5 39.Qd1 Nf8 40.h4 Kg6**

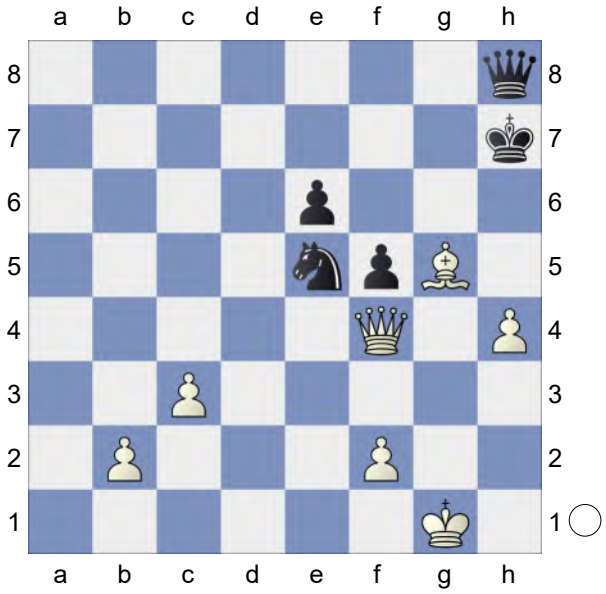


41.Qd8 Qg7 1.49/22
[41...Kf7=]
[41...Kf7!= 0.01/24 keeps the balance.]
42.Qe8+ 0.92/24
[⌓42.Qb8 1.49/22]
42...Kh7 1.54/23
[⌓42...Qf7 0.92/24 43.h5+ *(43.Qxb5 Qd7±)* 43...Kg7 44.Bh6+ *(44.Qxb5 Qxh5 45.Qe5+ Kh7=)* 44...Kg8]
43.Qxb5± White is more active.
43...Ng6? 3.63/22
[43...Qd7± 1.40/21 keeps fighting. 44.Qe5 Ng6]

(Diagram)

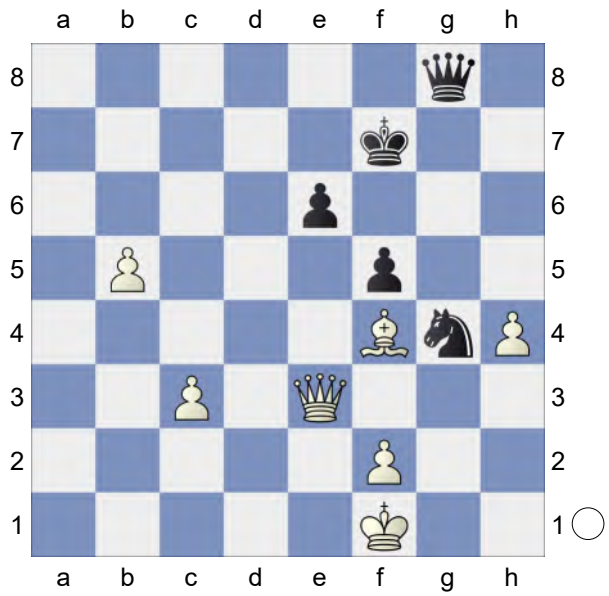


This costs Black the game. **44.Qxa4+- Ne5 45.Qf4 Qh8**

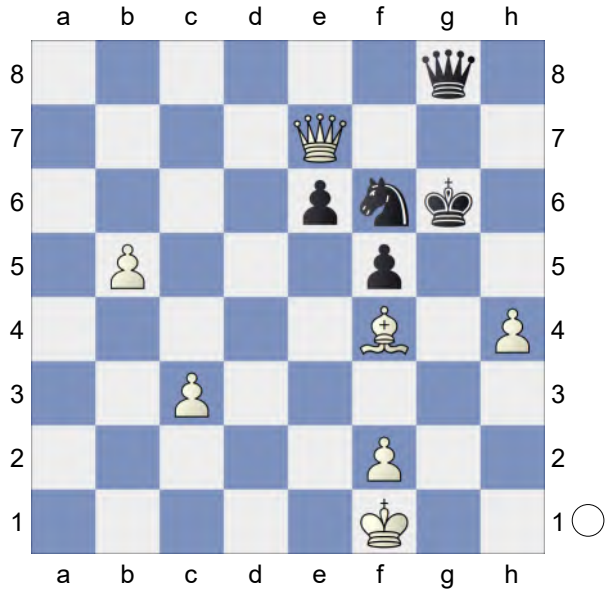


46.b4 Kg6? 7.68/23
[46...Nf7 3.53/19 47.Qc7 Kg6]
47.Qe3 White is clearly winning. **47...Kf7 48.b5 Qb8 49.Bf4 Qg8+ 50.Kf1 Ng4**

(Diagram)

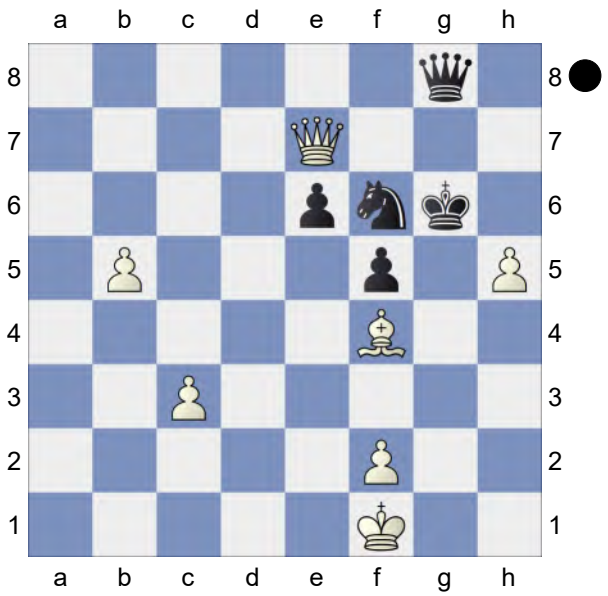


51.Qa7+ Kg6 52.Qe7 Nf6



53.h5+!

(Diagram)

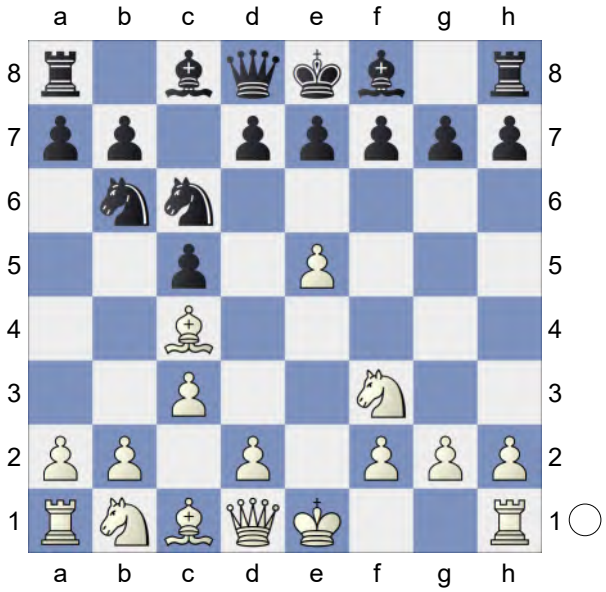


Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)

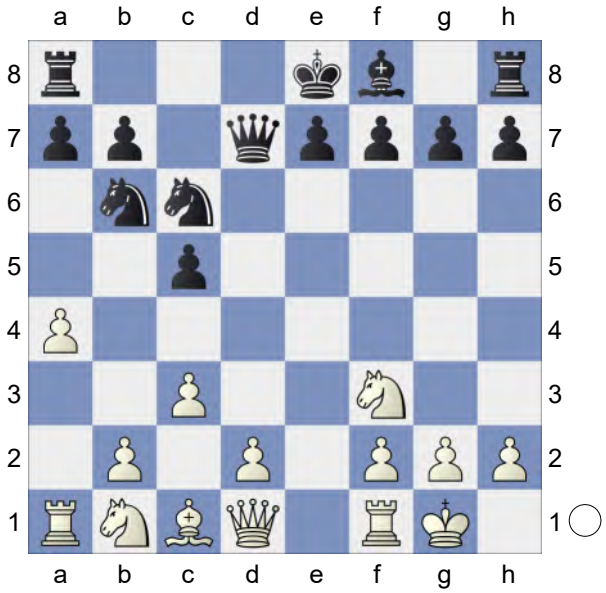
1-0

46 **B22**
□ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito** **2862**
■ **Panov Botvinnik Attack** **2784**
Zuerich Chess Challenge Blitz 5th_1948..
[Kitty Kat]

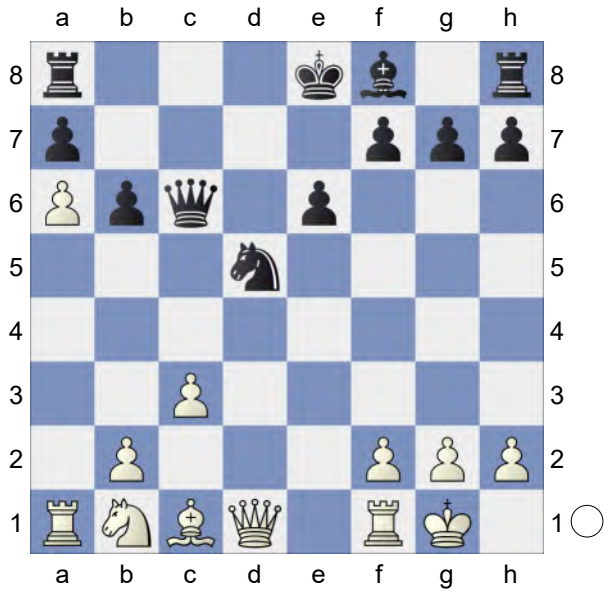
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



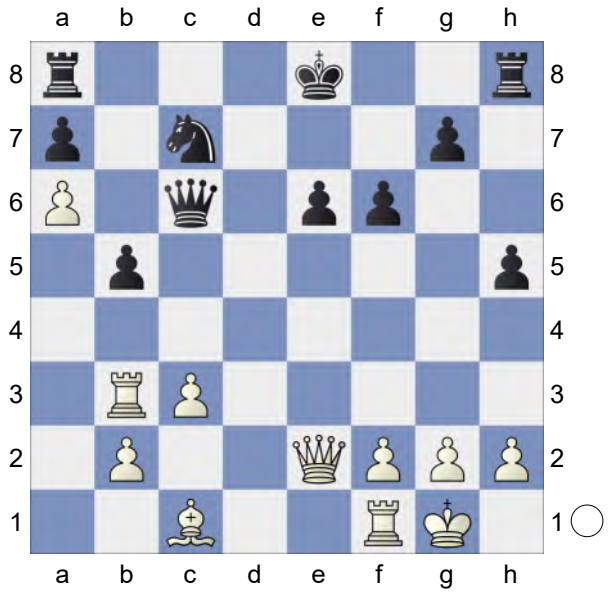
6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 Qxe6 10.a4 White has an edge.
10...Qd7



11.a5 Nd5 12.a6 b6 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 e6 15.Nxc6N
[15.Nb5 Be7 16.Qa4 0-0 17.Rd1 6. 2...Nf6: Mainline 4...Nc6-7... Qxd6 8. O-O Be6 #2]
15...Qxc6

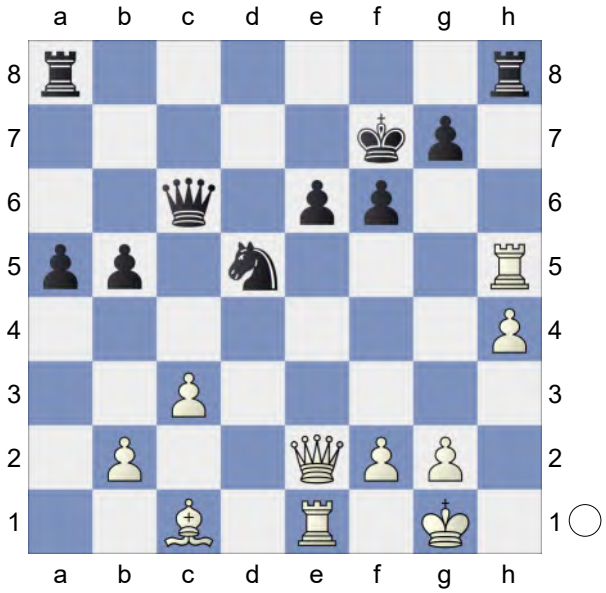


16.Qg4 h5 17.Qe2 b5 18.Na3 Bxa3 19.Rxa3 f6 20.Rb3 Nc7

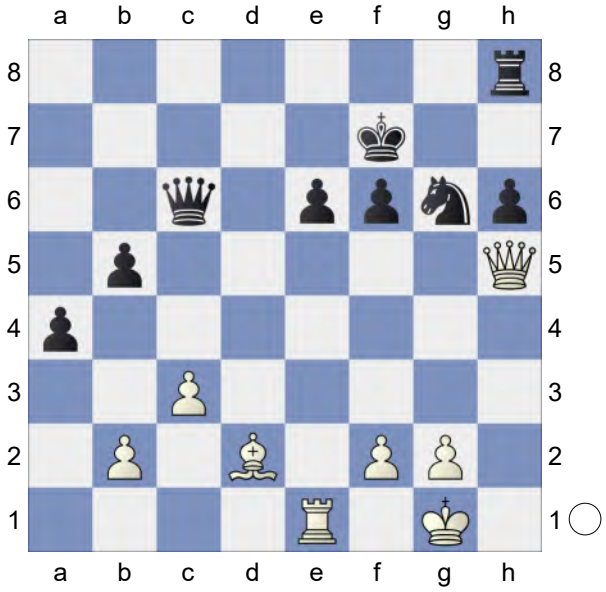


21.Rb4
[21.Rd1 seems wilder. 0-0 22.Qxh5 Rfd8 23.Rb4]
21...Qxa6 22.Rh4 0.23/21
[22.Rd4± 0.63/20 should be

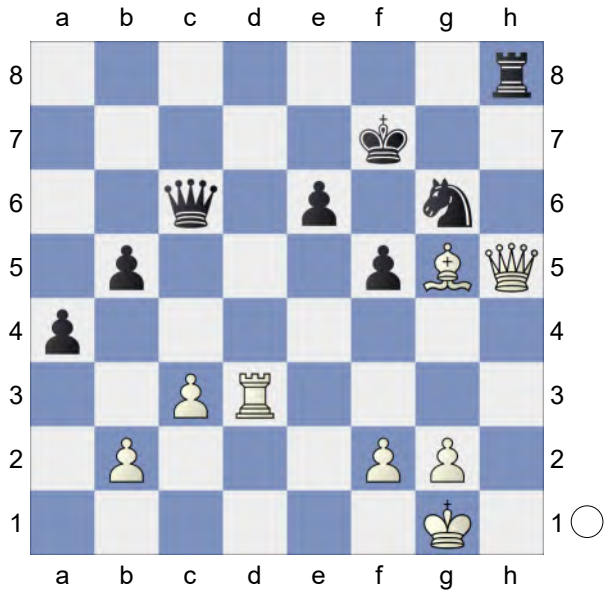
considered.]
22...Kf7= 23.Rxh5 Nd5 24.Re1 Qc6 25.h4 a5



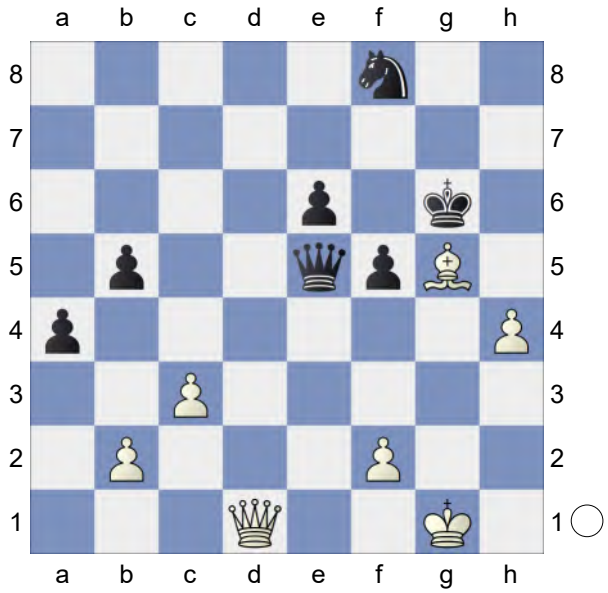
26.Rxh8 Rxh8 27.h5 a4 28.Bd2 Ne7 29.h6 -0.54/22 **gxh6∓ 30.Qh5+ Ng6**



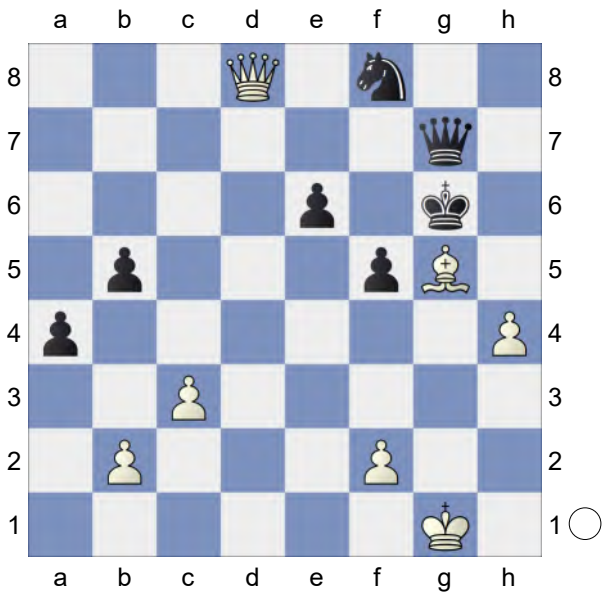
31.Bxh6 Qd6 Prevents Rd1 **32.Rd1!** The board is on fire. **32...Qc6** Black is weak on the dark squares **33.Rd4 f5** 0.75/23
[33...e5= 0.14/21 keeps the balance. 34.Rg4 Rg8]
34.Rd3 Rg8 35.Bg5 Rh8
(Diagram)



Prevents Qh7+ **36.Qe2** 0.34/22
[White should play 36.Qd1± 0.72/25 Ne5 37.Rd4]
36...Qc7± 37.Rh3 Against Qh2+
[37.Qd2 keeps more tension. Qh2+ 38.Kf1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2]
37...Rxh3 38.gxh3= Endgame. KQB-KQN **38...Qe5 39.Qd1 Nf8 40.h4 Kg6**



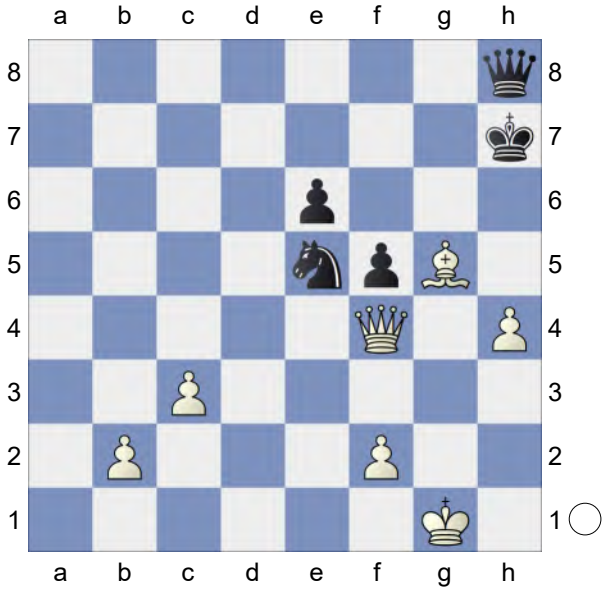
41.Qd8 Qg7 1.58/23
[Better is 41...Kf7= 0.01/23]
(Diagram)



42.Qe8+± Kh7 43.Qxb5 White is more active. **43...Ng6?** 3.75/23 This costs Black the game.

[43...Qd7± 1.44/21 44.Qe5 Ng6]

44.Qxa4+- Ne5 45.Qf4 Qh8

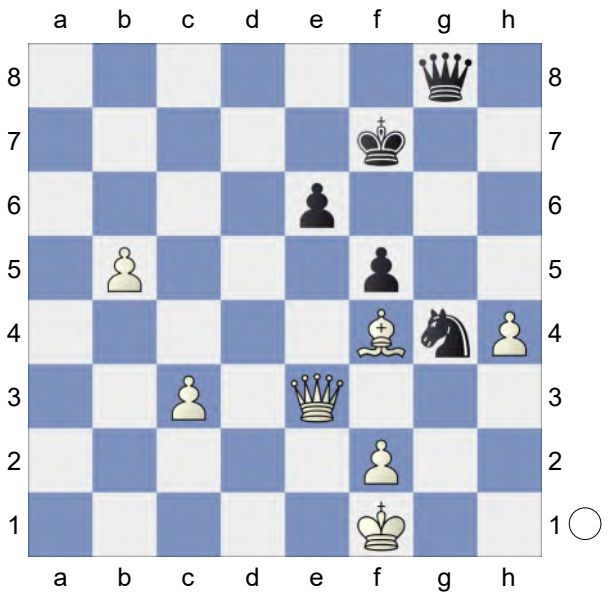


46.b4 Kg6? 7.35/24

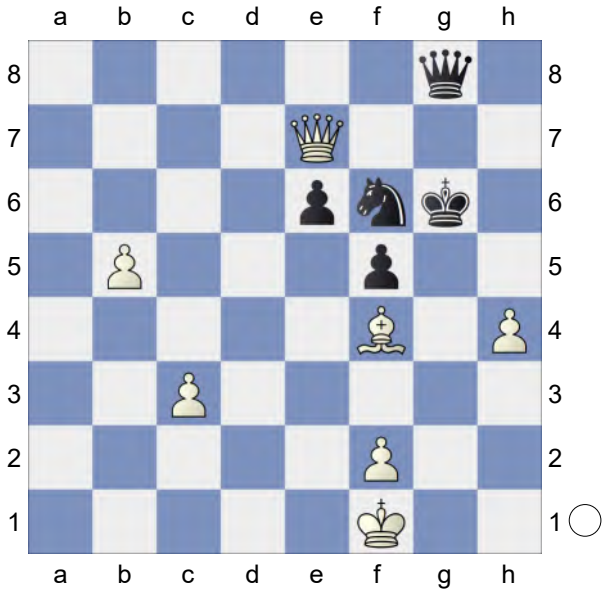
[46...Nf7 3.86/21 47.c4 Qa1+ 48.Kg2 Qa7]

47.Qe3 White is clearly winning. **47...Kf7 48.b5 Qb8 49.Bf4 Qg8+ 50.Kf1 Ng4** 13.49/19

[⌓50...Nd7 5.07/22 51.Qf3 Qh8]

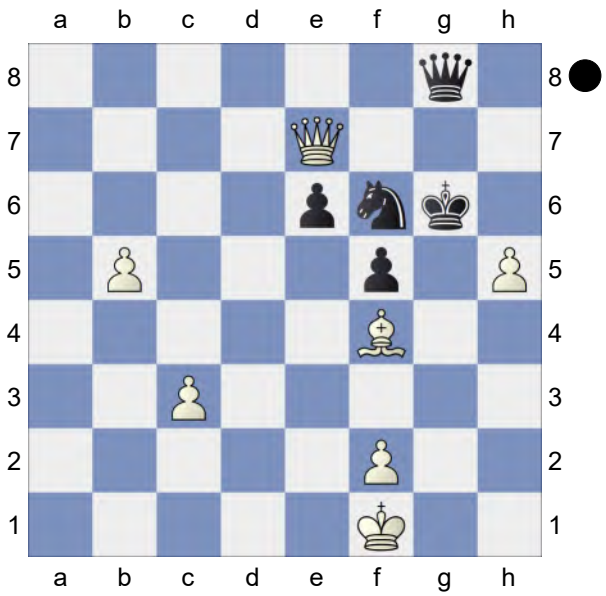


51.Qa7+ Kg6 52.Qe7 Nf6



53.h5+!

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

1-0

47 **B27**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2847**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2736**
NIC Classic KO rapid (3.24) 02.05.2021
[Collins,Sam]

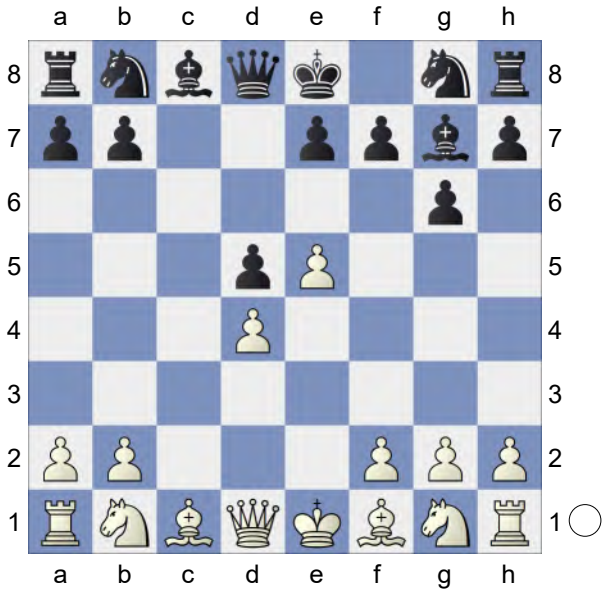
B27: Sicilian: 2 Nf3, unusual Black 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6N I always thought this was a poor line for Black, and this game does nothing to affect that assessment.

[2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 *(4...e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nb5 Qd7 9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bd2 Be7 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.c4 Nb4 13.Bc3 Qxd1+ 14.Kxd1 Bb7 15.a3 Rd8+ 16.Nd2 Nd3 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Kc2 Rd7 19.Rhe1* 21) 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 N-5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd; *4...g6 5.dxc5 Qxc5 6.Be3 Qc7 7.Bxa7 Nc6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.Be2 Ng4 11.Bd4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qf4 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.Nf3 Bf6 15.0-0 Kg7 16.h3 Ne5 17.Nd4 Rd8 18.Nd2 Nc6 19.Bxc6* 0-1 (38) 6.♖e1 a6 7.♗c4 (2483)-Cardenas,R (2537) USSR 46/(50) 1988 (6)*)* 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 e4 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Ne7 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Rd1 Qxa2 14.Bb4 Qe6 15.Qxe4 Re8 16.Bb5 Nc6 17.0-0 ½-½ (53) Lehmann,K (2218)-Peretz,M (2158) EU-chT Sesniors 65 2023 (8.3)]

[2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 d6 6.exd6 Qxd6 7.Na3 a6 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.0-0 Bf5 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 e6 13.Qf3 Qc6 14.Qg3 Bxa3 15.bxa3 0-0 16.Bh6 Bg6 17.Rac1 (19) Delchev,A (2503)-Saric,I (2668) Deutschland 154/(48) 2022]

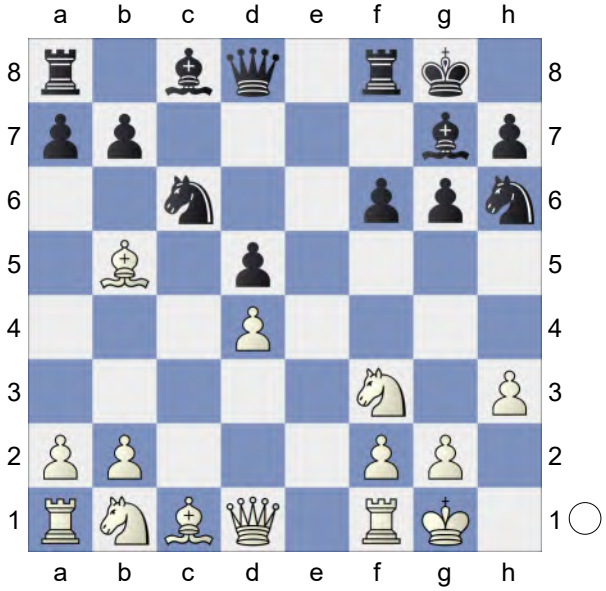
3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Bg7



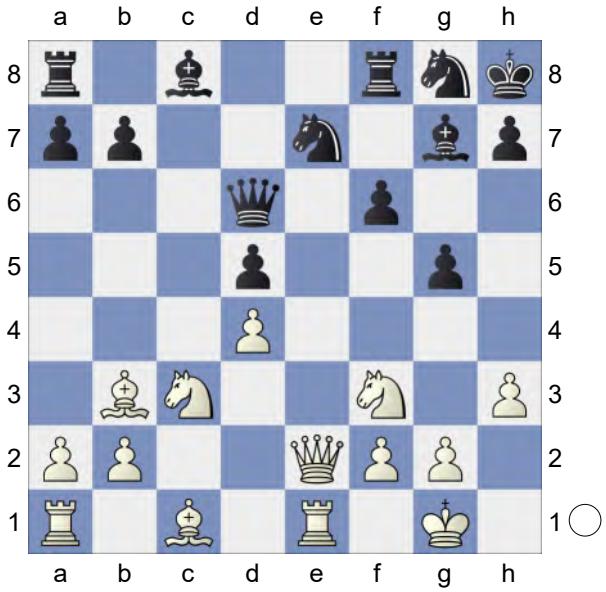
6.Nf3 Nh6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 White is slightly better. **9.h3 f6 10.exf6**

[In his Chessable repertoire, Johan Sebastian Christiansen recommends maintaining the tension with 10.Nc3 . Instead Carlsen plays into a symmetrical IQP position where Black's kingside pieces are slightly unusual, but also quite well placed.]

10...exf6

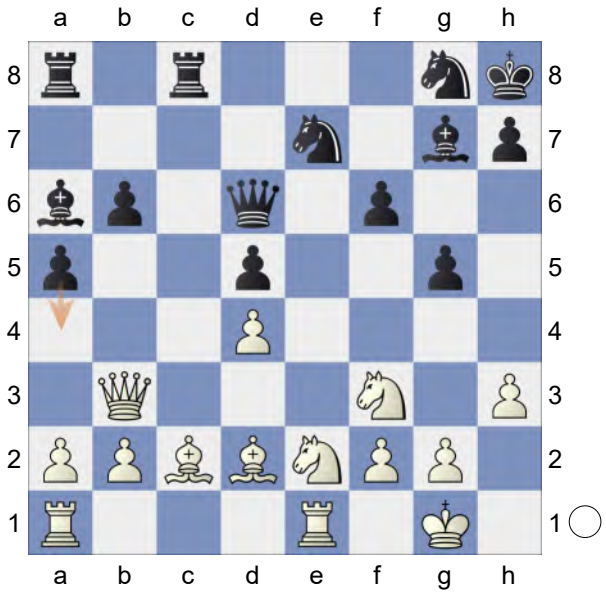


11.Nc3 g5
[11...Nf7 12.Re1 Qd6 13.Be3 Bf5 14.Rc1 Rac8 15.Bf1± was very pleasant for White in A.Grischuk - R. Mamedov, Huaian 2017 (0-1 in 46).]
12.Re1 Qd6 1.11/20
[12...g4 13.hxg4 Bxg4 14.Bf4± led to similar play in V.Tkachiev - G. Guseinov, Warsaw 2013 (1-0 in 30). White has a better structure and more active pieces, but the position remains complicated.]
[Black should play 12...Kh8 0.75/19]
13.Ba4!± Re-routing the bishop to the ideal b3-square. Stockfish already assesses this as a winning advantage for White. **13...Kh8 14.Bb3 Ne7 15.Qe2 Nhg8**

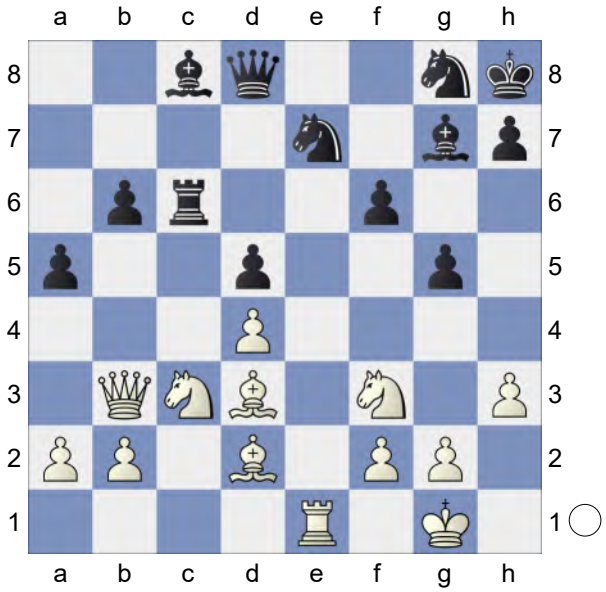


Tenacious defence by Nakamura.
16.Qb5 Rd8 17.Bd2 b6 18.Ne2 a5 19.Bc2 Ba6 20.Qb3 Rdc8

(Diagram)

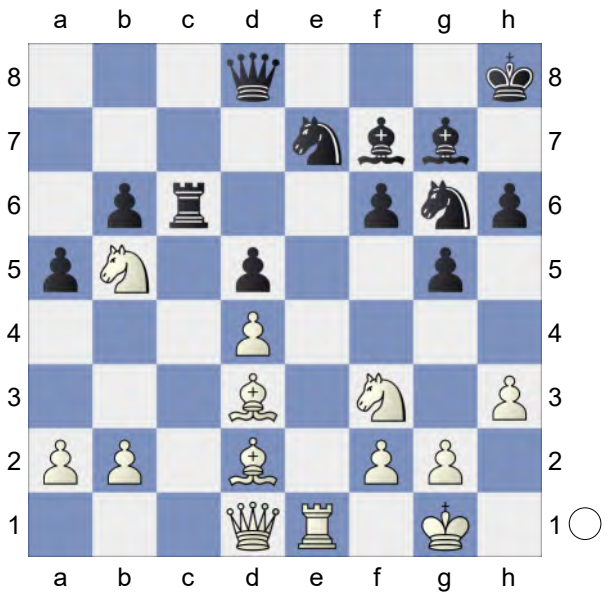


Threatens to win with ...a4! **21.Rac1 Rc6 22.Bb1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.Nc3 Bc8 25.Bd3 Qd8**

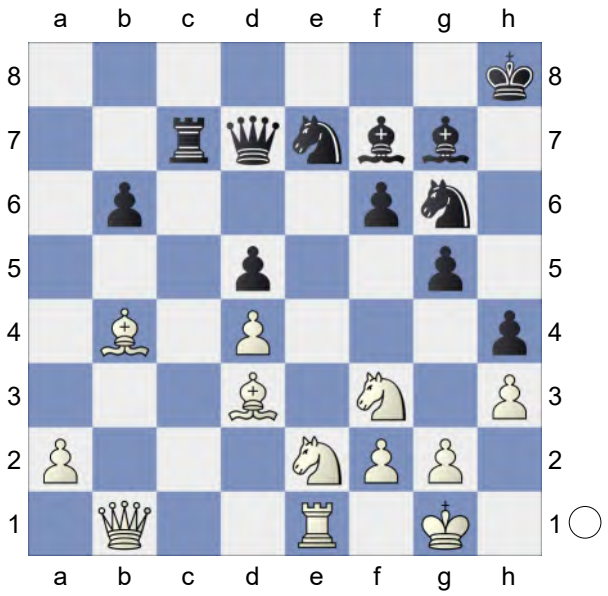


26.Qc2 White has more active pieces.
26...h6 27.Qd1 Be6 28.Qe2 Bf7 29.Nb5 Ng6 30.Qd1 N8e7

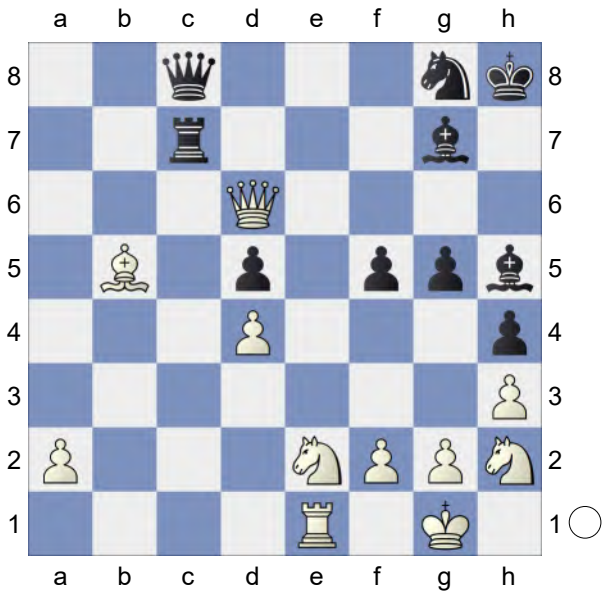
(Diagram)



31.Qb1 Qd7 32.b4 axb4 33.Bxb4 h5 34.Nc3 Rc7 35.Ne2 h4

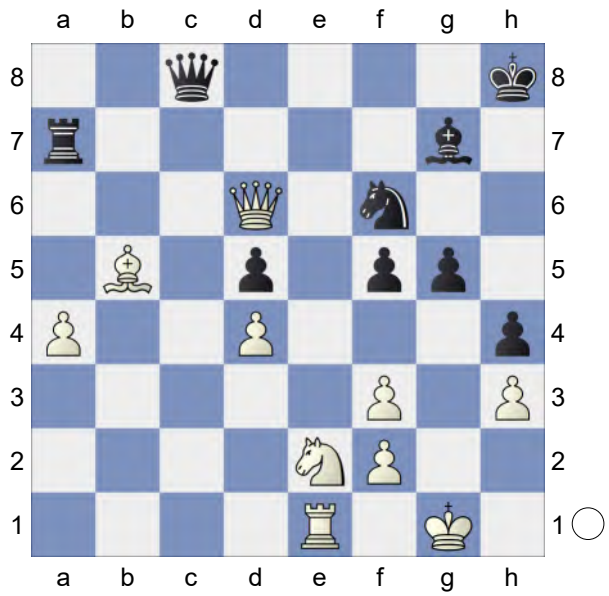


36.Bxe7 Cashing in, but Black has reasonable drawing chances with a pawn deficit.
[36.Nh2!? was strong, opening up possibilities of Ng4 or f4.]
36...Nxe7 37.Qxb6 Bh5 1.50/21
[Black should try 37...Rb7 0.95/20 38.Qc5 Bf8]
38.Nh2 0.80/19
[Apparently White can ignore the threat of ...Bxf3 with something like 38.Rb1+- , but it's very hard to imagine a human going for this.]
[⌓38.Rb1 1.50/21]
38...f5 1.28/17 From a practical perspective, Black has compensation for the pawn, although the objective assessment remains daunting.
[⌓38...Rb7 0.80/19 39.Qc5 Qe6]
39.Bb5 0.57/22
[39.a4± 1.28/17]
39...Qc8 1.55/21
[39...Rb7!≦ 0.57/22 40.Bxd7 Rxb6]
40.Qd6 White is clearly better. **40...Ng8** 2.01/20
[40...Rb7± 1.53/19 might work better. 41.Bd3 Qd7]



41.Nf3 Bxf3 42.gxf3 Nf6 2.48/19
[⌓42...g4 1.79/19 43.fxg4 *(43.Qxd5 Nf6+-)* 43...fxg4]
43.a4 Hoping for Rb1. **43...Ra7+-** 3.75/22
[⌓43...g4 1.77/19]

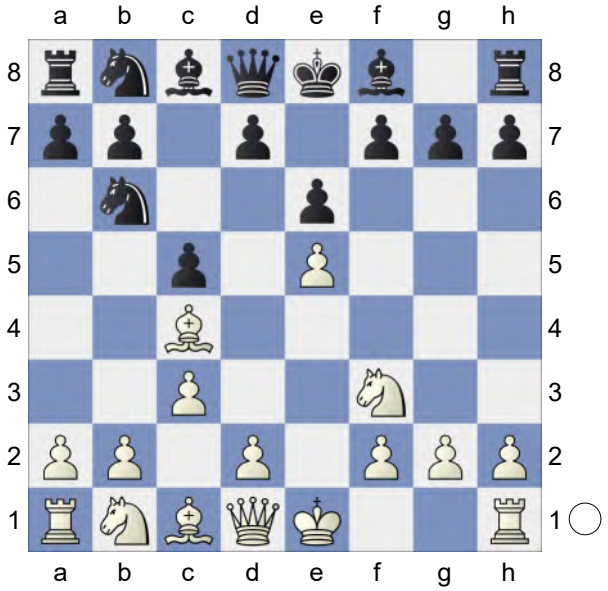
(Diagram)



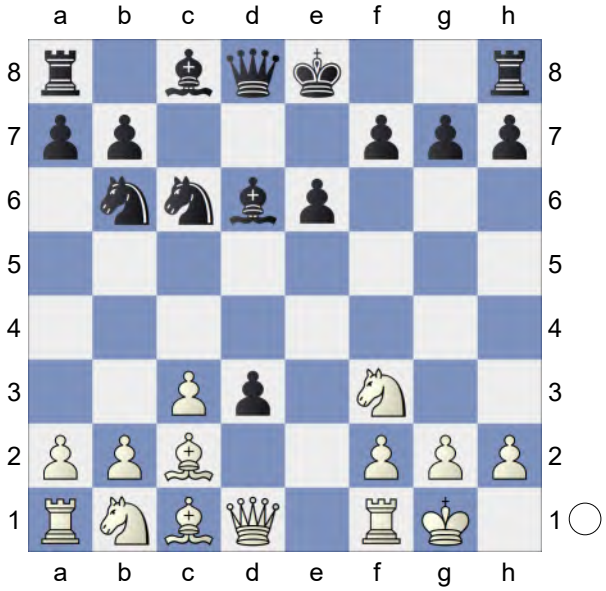
Engines assess this as completely winning for White, although the game is recorded as drawn.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise) . An unexpected result.
½-½

48 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2839**
■ **So,Wesley** **2753**
Chess.com Speed Chess blitz (3.11)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 Nb6
[5...d6 0-1 Lisenkov,S (2143)-Bocharov,D (2516) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th May Early blitz 2023 (5) 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Nd7 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 b6 13.Ng5 Nf6 14.Qf3 Qc7 15.Bd3 Bb7 16.Qh3 h6 0-1 Carlsen,M (2835)-So,W (2769) Aimchess Rapid Div 1 W 2023 (4.3) 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Rxe4 Rac8 20.Bd2 Qc4]

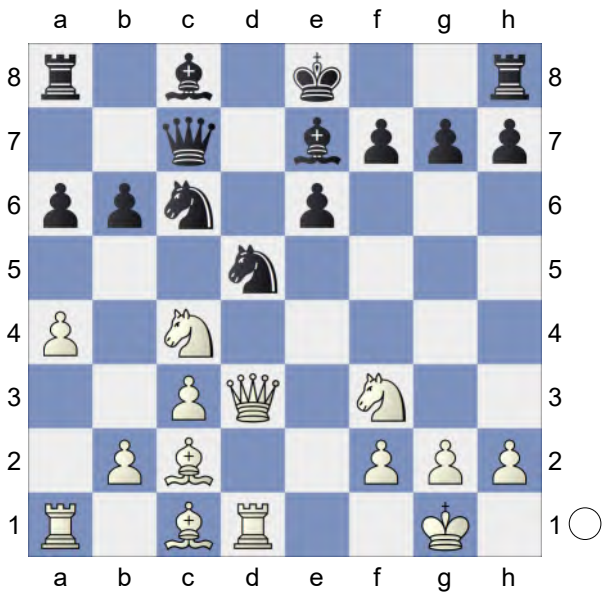


6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.0-0!? An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **9...Nc6** White is slightly better. **10.d4 cxd3N**
[10...h6 11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Qe2 Ne7 13.Ne5 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Bd7 15.Rd1 Ng6 16.Bxg6 fxg6 17.Ne4 0-0 18.Nd6 Kh7 19.Rd4 Bc6 20.Rg4 Rad8 21.Qc2 Rf5 22.Be3 Bd5 23.Bd4 Rxd6 24.exd6 Qxd6 25.Re1 0-1 (32) Rybak,R (2052)-Chenaux,P (2135) Hosur op 3rd 2023 (7)]

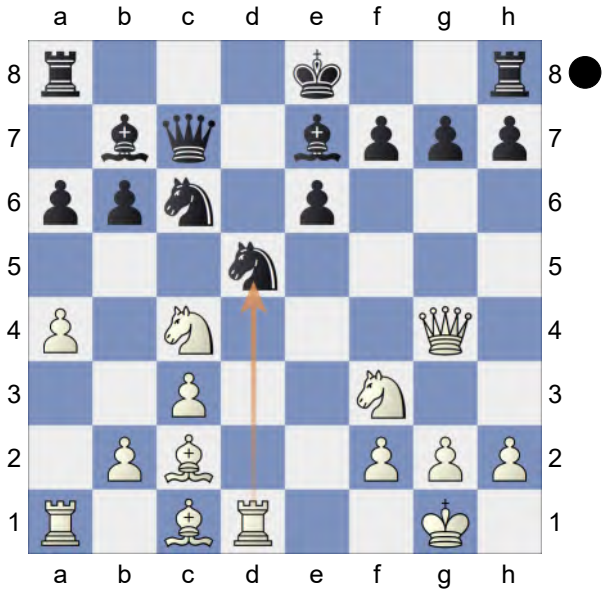


11.Qxd3 Qc7N
[11...Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Qh3 Bd7 14.Nd2 Qc7 15.Nf3 Bf6 16.Bg5 Nd5 17.Be4 Bc6 18.c4 Nb4 19.Bxc6+ Nxc6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Qh6 Ke7 22.Rfe1 Rag8 23.Rad1 Rg4 24.g3 Qa5 25.Rd5 Qxa2 26.Nh4 0-1 (44) Hracek,Z (2630)-Van Wely,L (2645) GER CupT 9697 f-1 1997 [2]]
12.Rd1 Be7 13.Na3 a6 Prevents Nb5
14.Nc4 Nd5 Prevents Bf4.
[14...Nb4 1.15/19 14...Nd5 0.68 15.cxb4 Qxc4 16.Ba4+! Kf8 Strongly threatening ...Qxd3. 17.Qxc4 Nxc4 18.Bb3 Nb6 19.Bf4 Nd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Rxd5]
15.a4 b6

(Diagram)

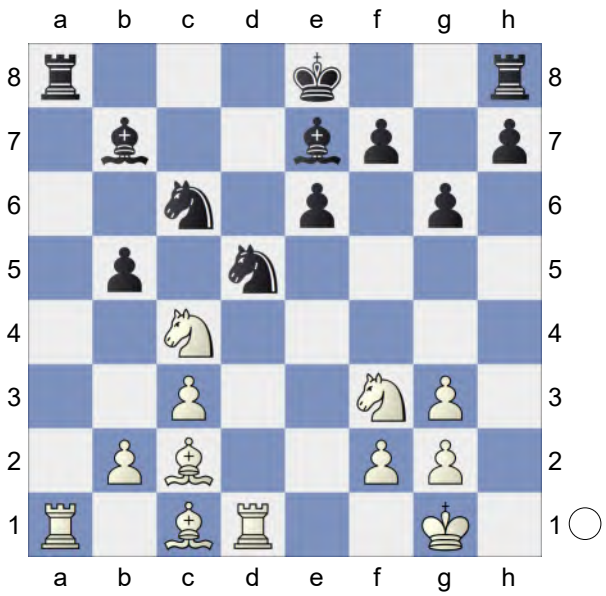


16.Qe4 Bb7 17.Qg4

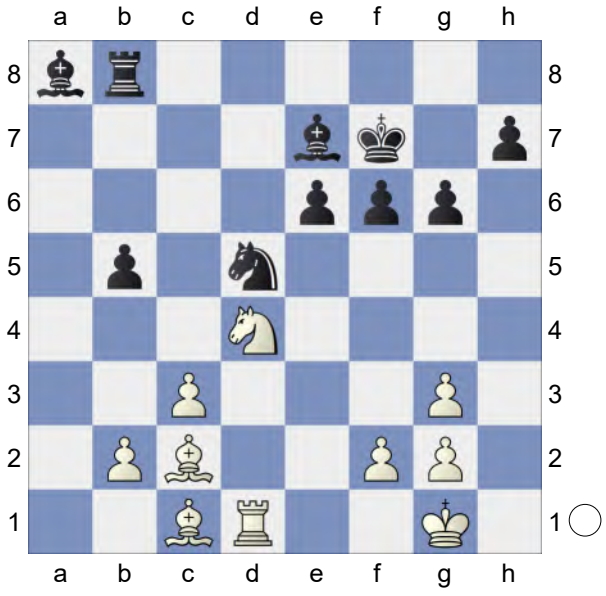


Hoping for Rxd5! White is more active.
17...g6 18.Qg3 Qxg3 19.hxg3 b5! 20.axb5 axb5

(Diagram)

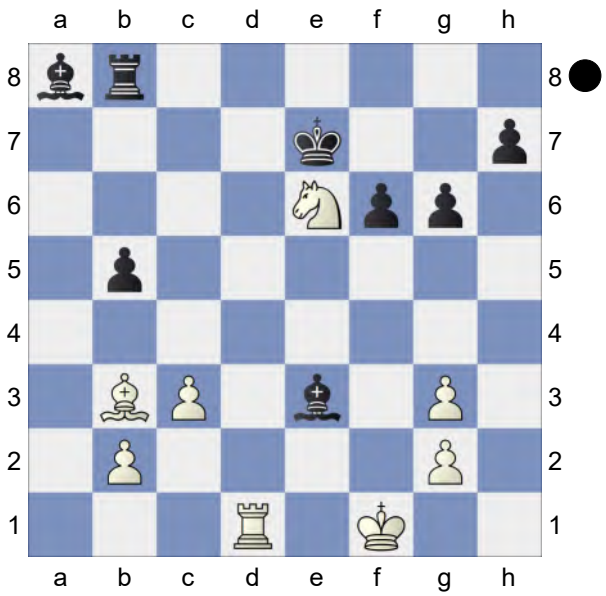


21.Rxa8+ Bxa8 22.Nce5 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Bd3 is the strong threat. **23...f6 24.Nf3 Kf7 25.Nd4 Rb8**

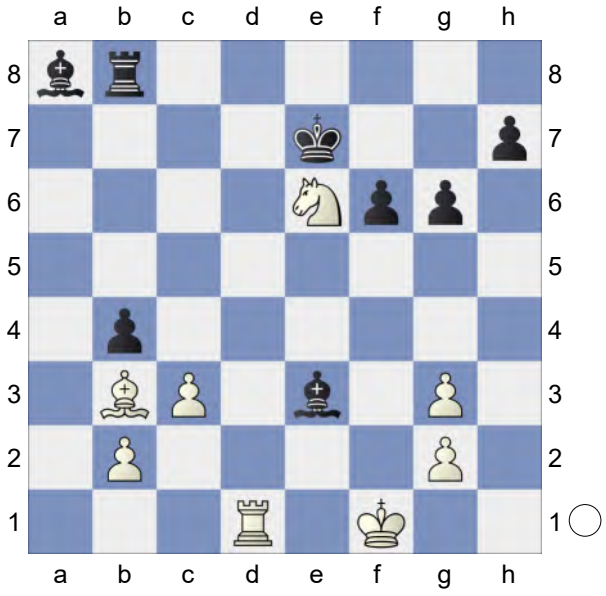


26.Bb3 Bc5 27.Be3 -0.77/23
[27.Nc2= 0.01/20]
27...Nxe3∓ 28.fxe3 Ke7 29.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 30.Kf1

(Diagram)

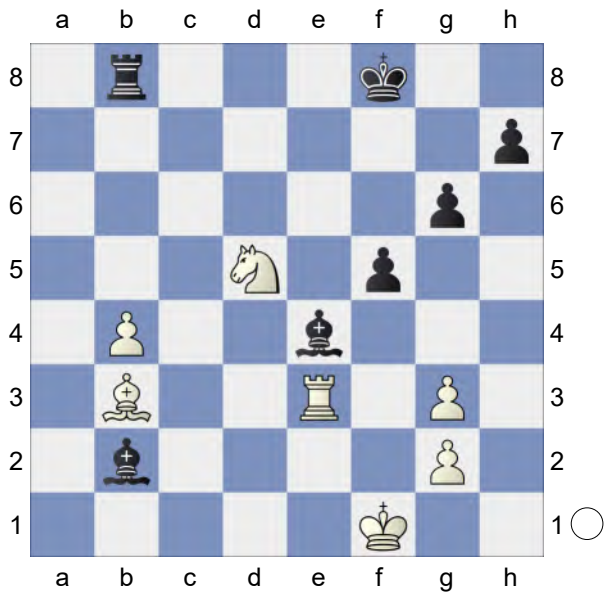


b4!

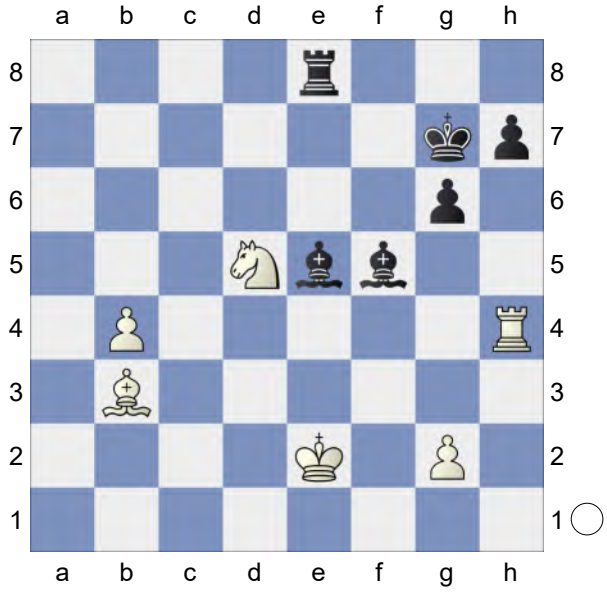


31.Rd3 Bc1 -0.34/24
[31...Ba7∓ -0.91/20 White must now prevent ...Be4. 32.cxb4 Rxb4]
32.cxb4 -0.84/22
[32.Nc5∓ -0.34/24 Bc6 *(32...Bxb2? too greedy. 33.Rd7+ Skewer Kf8 34.Ne6+ Ke8 35.Ba4+-)* 33.Ba4 Bxa4 34.Nxa4]
32...Bxb2 33.Nc7 Be4 34.Nd5+ Kf8 35.Re3 f5

(Diagram)

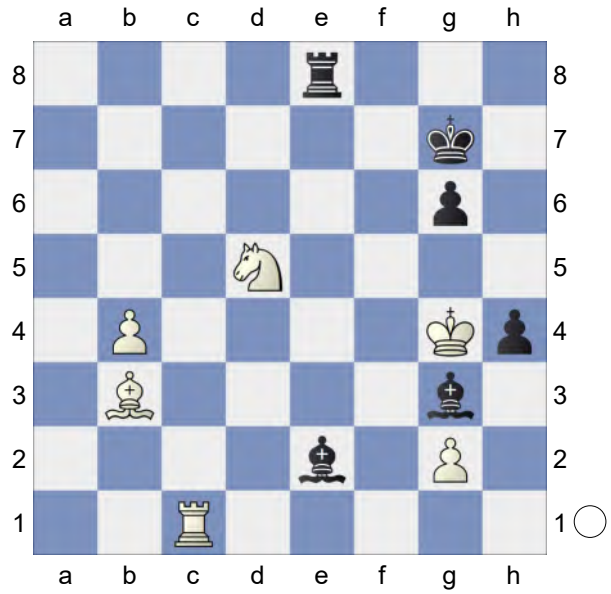


36.g4 Bd4 37.Rh3 Kg7
[37...fxg4 38.Rxh7 g5 39.Rd7∓]
38.gxf5 Bxf5 A strong pair of Bishops.
39.Rh4 Prevents Bg4. **39...Be5 40.Ke2 Re8**

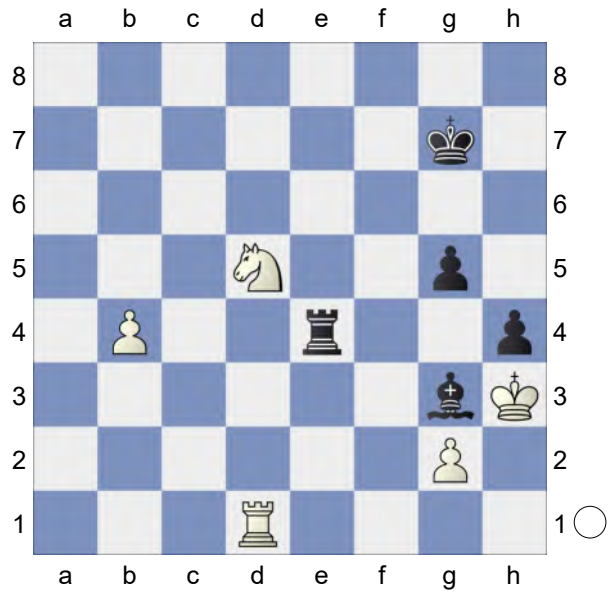


41.Kf2 -1.31/22 Against Bg3+
[White should try 41.Rc4 -0.86/20]
41...h5 42.Rc4 Bd3 43.Rc1 h4 Threatens to win with ...Bd4+. **44.Kf3** -2.46/21
[44.Kg1∓ -1.42/22]
44...Bg3-+ 45.Kg4? -10.71/23
[45.Nc3 -2.35/23]

45...Be2+



Black is clearly winning. **46.Kh3 Re4 47.Bd1 Bxd1 48.Rxd1** Vorgänger: **48...g5**



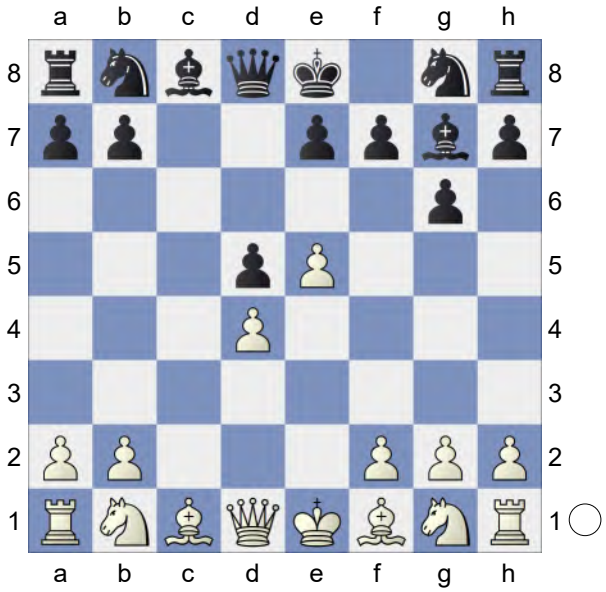
Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.15 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

49 **B27**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2839**
■ **So,Wesley** **2753**
Chess.com Speed Chess blitz (3.1)
[Kitty Kat]

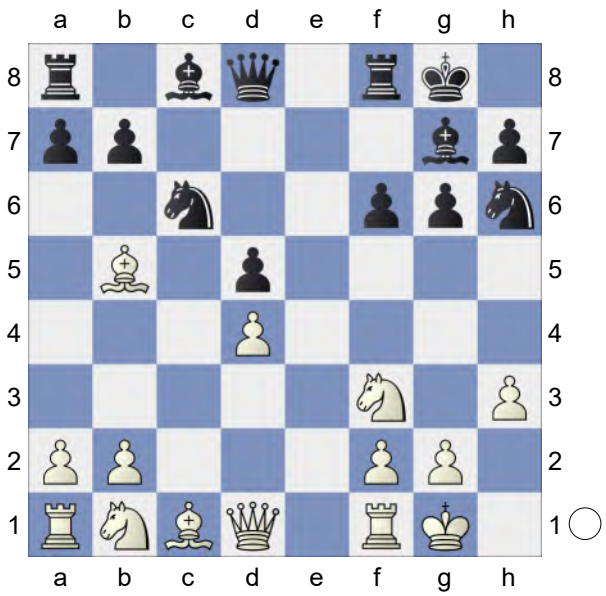
B27: Sicilian: 2 Nf3, unusual Black 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Bg7

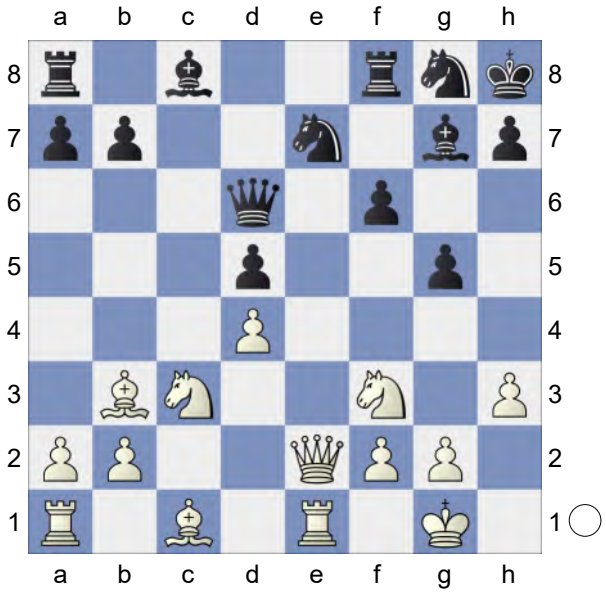


6.Nf3 Nh6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.0-0!?
8.d4 is a critical line. An interesting side line. 8.d4 ist die kritische Fortsetzung. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **8...0-0**
White is slightly better. **9.h3 f6**
10.exf6N
[10.Nc3 fxe5 11.dxe5 e6 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.b3 Quickstarter Guide-2...g6]
10...exf6N

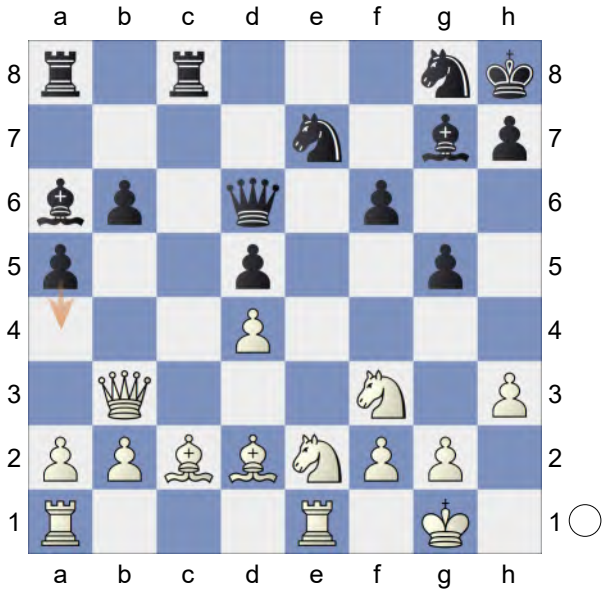
(Diagram)



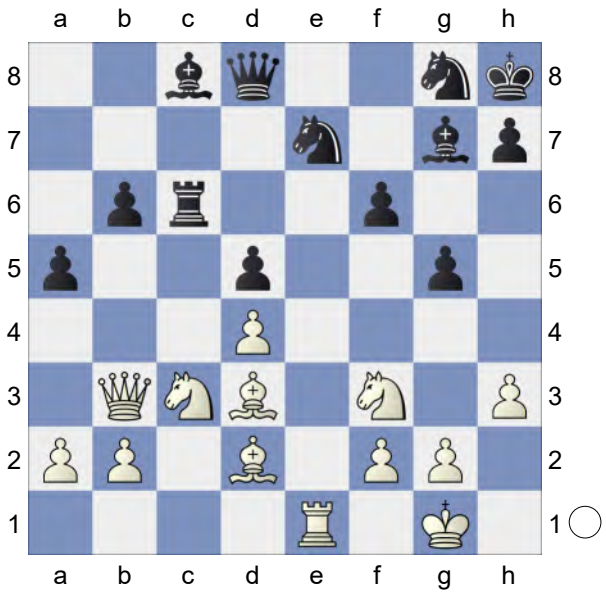
11.Nc3 g5
[11...Nf7 0.91/19 11...Re8 0.45 12.Re1 Qd6 13.Be3 Bf5 14.Rc1 Rac8 1-0 Carlsen,M (2835)-Keymer,V (2690) FIDE World Cup 2023 (4.2) 15.Bf1]
12.Re1 Qd6 1.09/19
[12...g4 13.hxg4 Bxg4 14.Bf4 Prevents Qd6.]
[12...Kh8± 0.67/18 is more appropriate.]
13.Ba4 Kh8 14.Bb3 Ne7 15.Qe2 Nhg8



16.Qb5 Rd8 17.Bd2 b6 18.Ne2 a5 19.Bc2 Ba6 20.Qb3 Rdc8

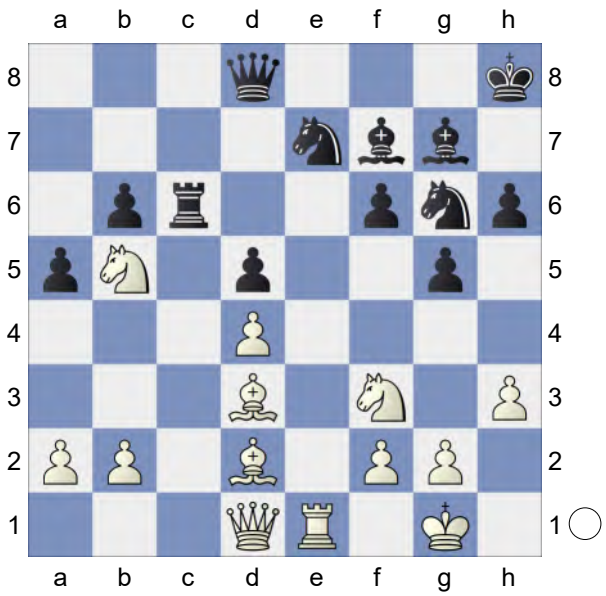


21.Rac1 Rc6 22.Bb1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.Nc3 Bc8 25.Bd3 Qd8

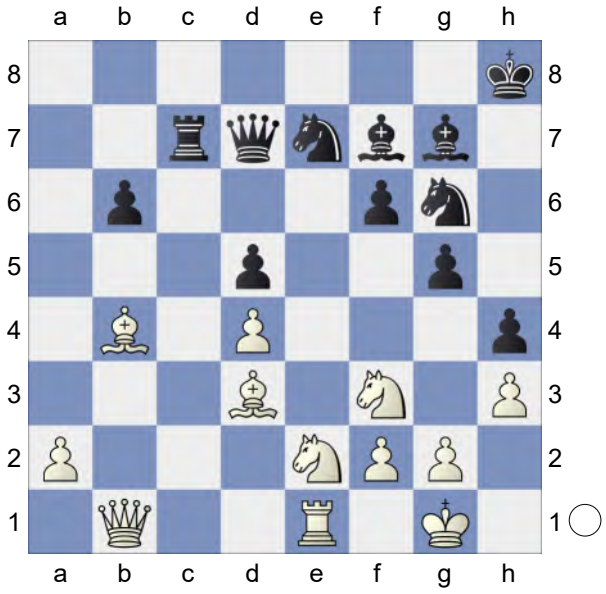


26.Qc2 White is much more active.
26...h6 27.Qd1 0.89/19
[⌓27.a3 1.31/19]
27...Be6 28.Qe2 0.80/20
[Better is 28.Qb1 1.23/19]
28...Bf7± 29.Nb5 Ng6 30.Qd1 N8e7

(Diagram)

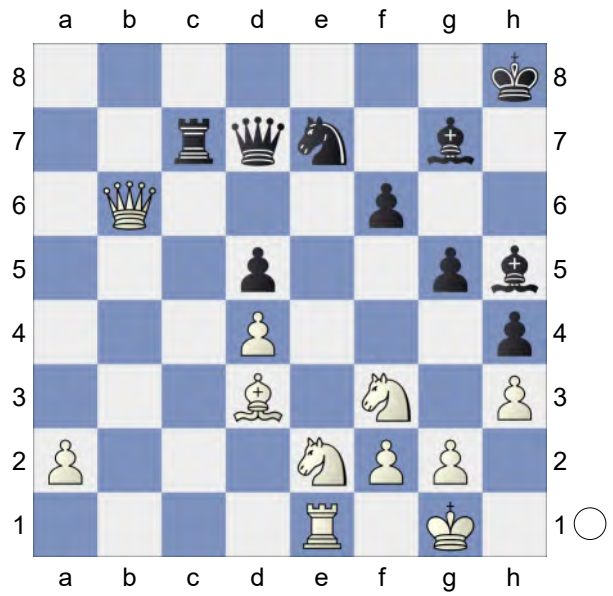


31.Qb1 Qd7 32.b4 axb4 33.Bxb4 h5 34.Nc3 Strongly threatening Bb5.
34...Rc7 35.Ne2 h4

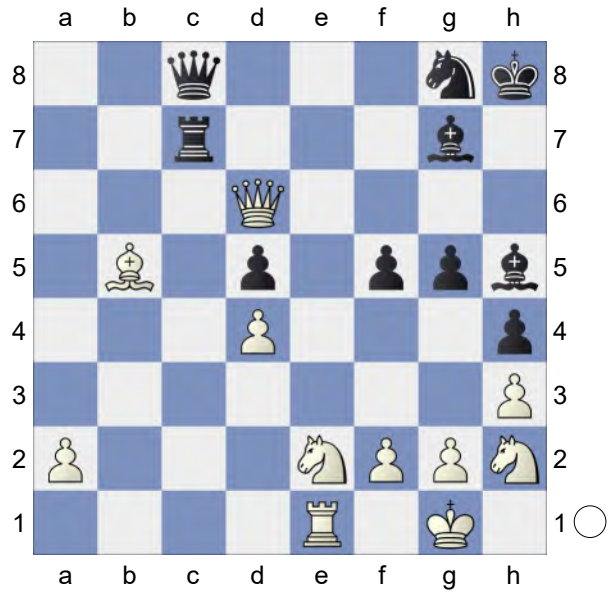


36.Bxe7 0.82/21
[36.Nh2]
[⌓36.Nh2 1.20/19]
36...Nxe7 37.Qxb6 Bh5 1.48/21
[⌓37...Rb7 0.98/20 38.Qc5 Bf8]

(Diagram)

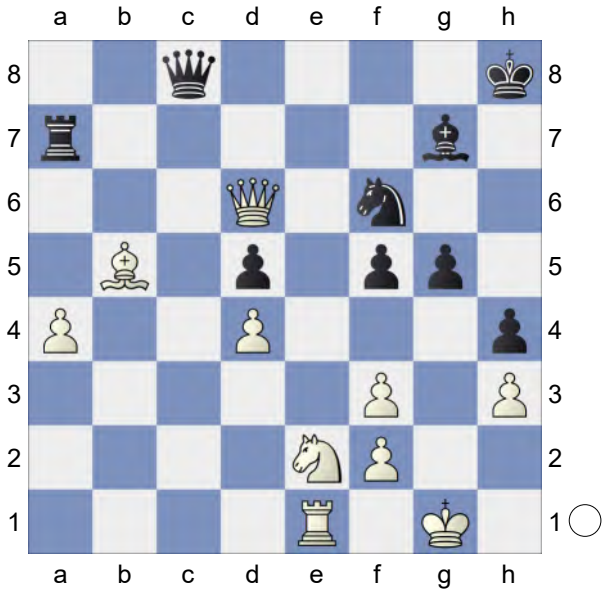


38.Nh2 0.99/21
[38.Rb1 1.82/20 38.a4 1.46]
[White should play 38.Rb1! 1.48/21]
38...f5 39.Bb5 Qc8 1.69/21
[39...Rb7± 0.89/22 40.Bxd7 Rxb6]
40.Qd6 White is clearly better. **40...Ng8** 2.14/21
[40...Rb7 1.63/20 was worth a try. 41.Bd3 Qc7 42.Qxc7 Rxc7]



41.Nf3+- Bxf3 42.gxf3 Vorgänger: **42...Nf6 43.a4** Rb1 is the strong threat. **43...Ra7** 3.39/24

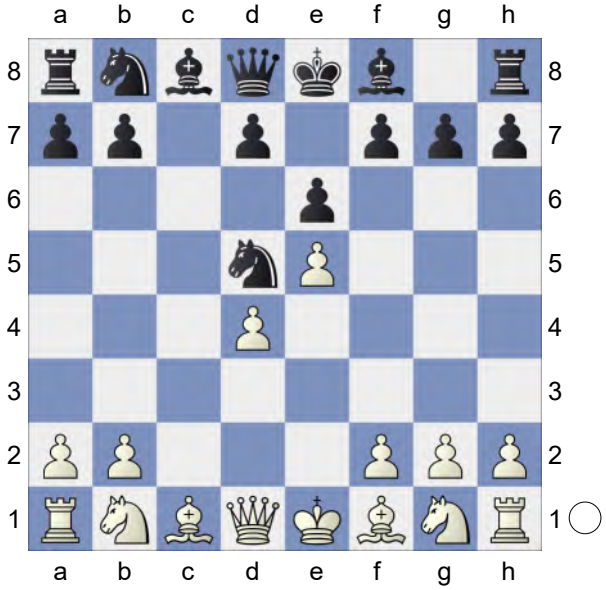
[⌓43...g4 2.09/21 44.Nf4 Rc1]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

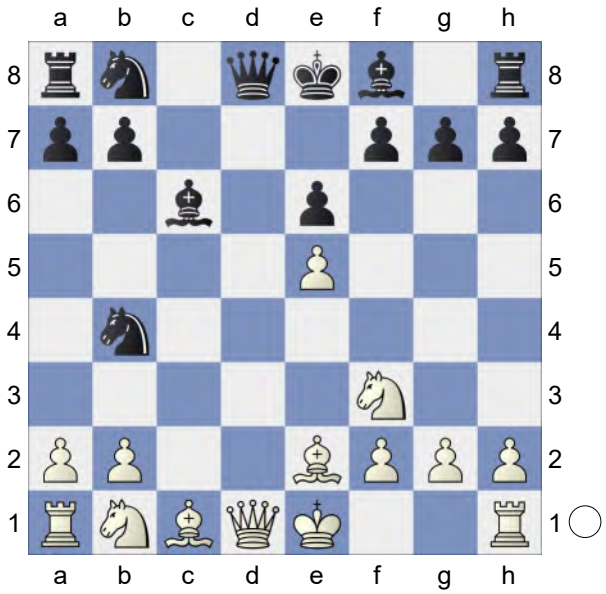
50 **B22**
□ **Lintchevski,Daniil** **2838**
■ **Persianking2000** **2776**
Blitz 01.04.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 e6

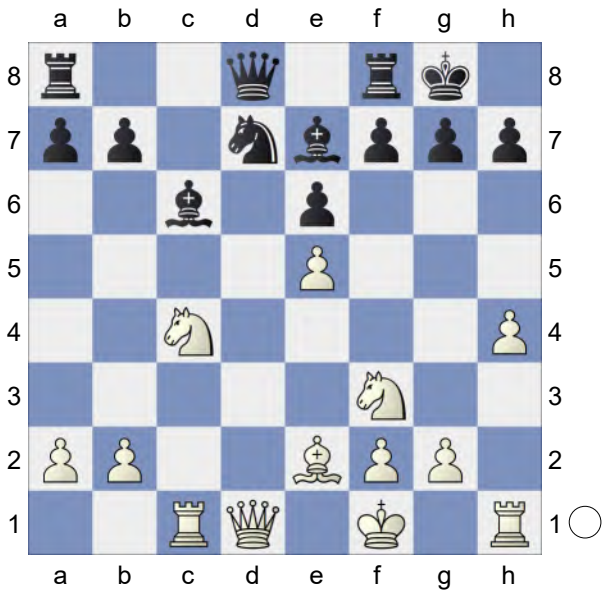


6.Nf3 d6 7.Bd3 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nb4 9.Bb5+
[9.Be4 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Nd7 11.Bd2 a5 12.a3 Nc5 13.axb4 Nxe4 14.Be1 b6 15.Nc3 Nxc3+ 16.Bxc3 a4 17.Nd2 Bb7 18.f3 Bd5 19.Kc1 b5 20.b3 a3 21.Kb1 Be7 22.Ka2 0-0 23.Rac1 Rfc8 ½-½ (50) Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2747)-Deslandes,P (2787) Bodensee op Bregenz 2023 (11)]
9...Bd7 The position is equal. **10.Be2 Bc6N**
[10...Be7 11.Nc3 Bc6 Sicilian Alapin Theory]

(Diagram)

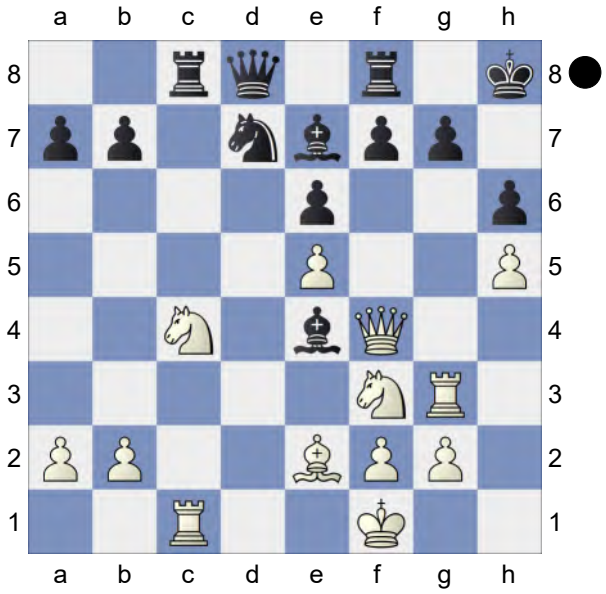


11.Nbd2 -0.65/20
[11.Qxd8+± 0.38/17 Kxd8 12.Na3]
11...Nd3+∓ 12.Kf1 Nxc1 13.Rxc1 Be7 14.Nc4 0-0 15.h4 Nd7



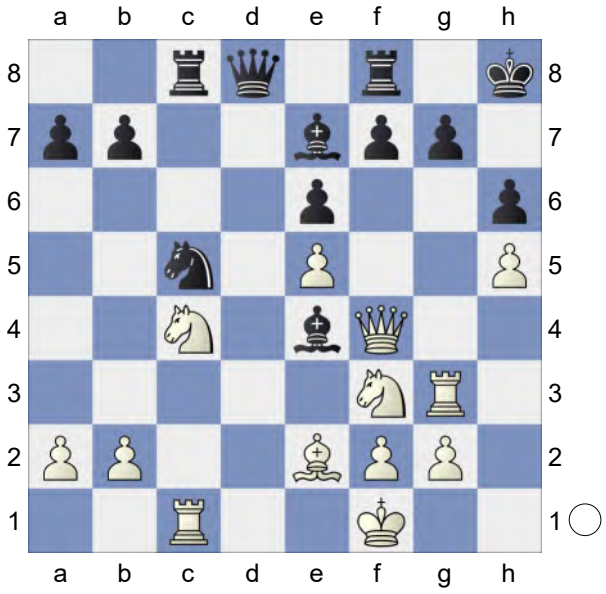
16.h5 h6 17.Rh3 Rc8 18.Rg3 Be4 0.01/20
[Black should try 18...Bd5∓ -0.73/18 19.Kg1 Qc7]
19.Qd2 Rd1 would now be deadly.
19...Kh8 Black wants to play ...Bxf3.
[19...Bxf3 feels hotter. 20.Qxh6 Bxe2+ 21.Kxe2 Bf6]
20.Qf4 -1.71/20

[20.Rd1= -0.01/19 and White has nothing to worry. b5 21.Qxd7 bxc4 22.Qxa7]



20...Nc5? 0.25/21

[20...Bxf3!-+ -1.71/20 21.gxf3 Bg5 Skewer 22.Rxg5 hxg5 *(22...Qxg5? 23.Qxg5 hxg5 24.Rd1-+)*]



21.Rd1= Qc7 1.34/21

[21...Bd5!= -0.01/20 keeps the balance.]

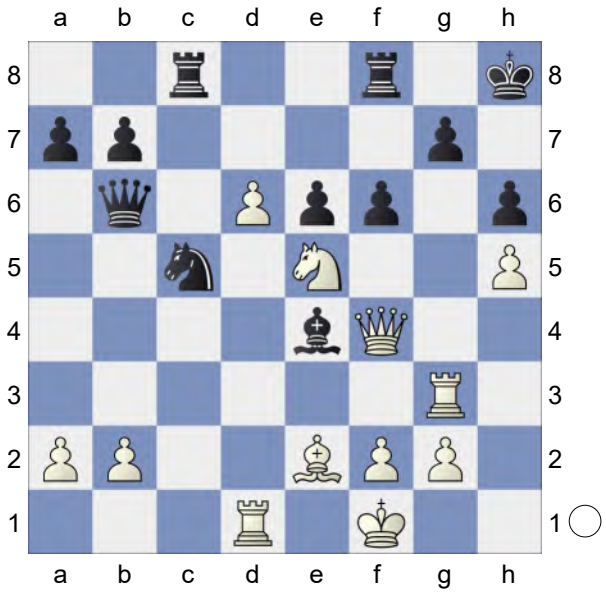
22.Nd6 White is more active. **22...Bxd6 23.exd6 Qb6 24.Ne5→** 0.37/19

White is up to no good.

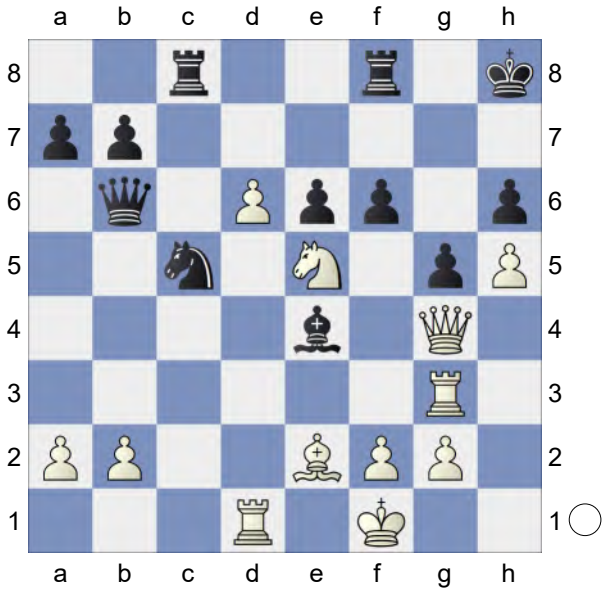
[24.b3± 0.82/18 And now d7 would win. Bxf3 25.Bxf3 *(25.Rxf3 Nd7±)*]

24...f6? 6.84/21

[24...Qxb2± 0.37/19 25.Nxf7+ Kh7]



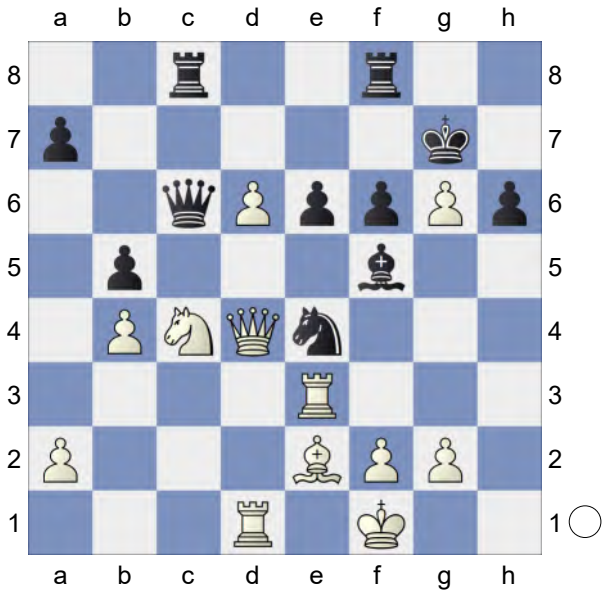
Black is on the road to losing. **25.Qg4! g5**



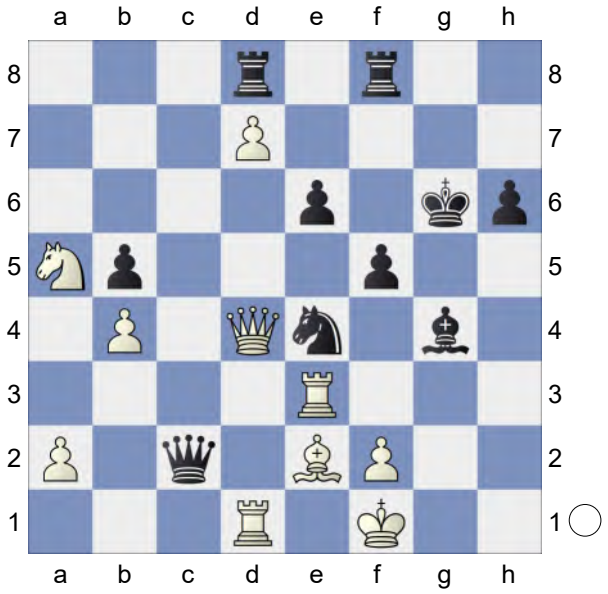
26.hxg6! Kg7 27.Nc4 2.51/19

[⌓27.d7 6.03/18 Ra8 28.Nf7]

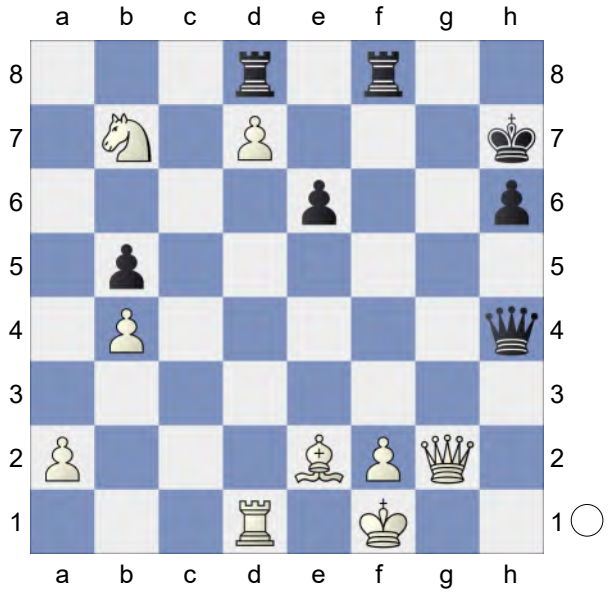
27...Qc6 28.b4 Bf5 29.Qd4 Ne4 30.Re3 b5



31.Qxa7+ Kxg6 32.Na5 Qc2 33.g4 Bxg4 34.Qd4 f5 35.d7 Rcd8

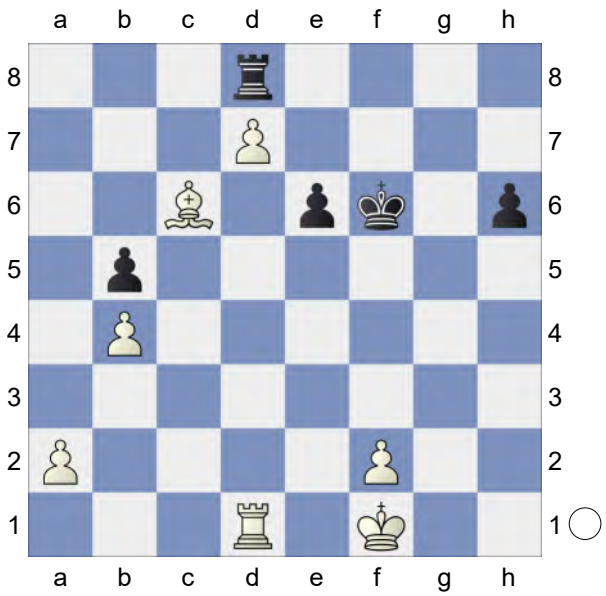


36.Nb7
[36.f3?! Rf7 37.Qb6 *(37.fxe4? f4-+; 37.fxg4 Rfxd7 38.gxf5+ exf5∓)* 37...Rfxd7 38.Rxd7 *(38.Qxe6+ Nf6=)* 38...Bh3+ 39.Kg1 Rxd7 40.fxe4 Kh7±]
36...Qc7 5.45/21
[36...e5? 37.Qd3 *(37.Qxe5? Bxe2+ 38.Kg2 Bxd1-+)* 37...Qxd3 38.Rdxd3 *(38.Rexd3 Rxd7 39.Rxd7 Bxe2+ 40.Kxe2 Nc3+ 41.Kf1 Nxd1+-)* 38...Bxe2+ 39.Kxe2+-]
[36...Bxe2+ 1.90/20 is tougher. 37.Rxe2 Qc6 38.Nxd8 Rxd8]
37.Rxe4
[37.Nxd8? Qh2-+]
37...Qh2? #7/16
[37...fxe4+- 3.21/20 38.Bxg4 *(38.Nxd8 Bh3+ 39.Kg1 Qxd8+-; 38.Qxe4+ Bf5+-)* 38...Qxb7 39.Bxe6 Qc6]
38.Rxg4+ 7.24/5
[⌓38.Rxe6+ #7/16 Kh7 39.Re7+ Kg6 40.Rg7+ Kh5 41.Bxg4+ Kh4 42.Bxf5+ Discovered Attack (Check) Qf4 43.Qxf4+ Kh5 44.Qh2#]
38...fxg4+- 39.Qxg4+ Kh7 40.Qg2 Qh4



41.Nxd8 Rxd8 42.Bd3+ Kh8 43.Qe4 Qxe4 44.Bxe4 Endgame. Bc6 would kill now. KRB-KR **44...Kg7 45.Bc6 Kf6**

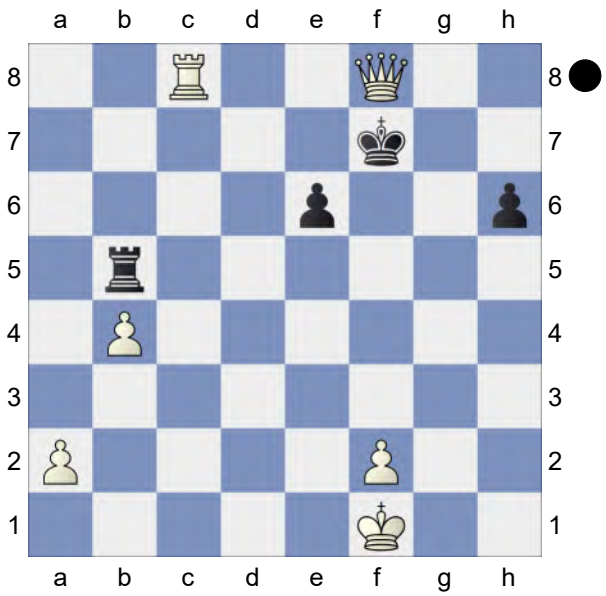
(Diagram)



46.Bxb5 White threatens Rc1 and mate. **46...Ke7 47.Rc1** Threatening mate with Rc8. **47...Rb8 48.Rc8 Rxb5 49.d8Q+ Kf7 50.Qf8+** 18.12/5

[⌓50.Qd7+ #6/14 Kf6 51.Rf8+ *(51.Qxb5 e5 52.Qc6+ Kf5 53.Rf8+ Kg5 54.Rg8+ Kf4 55.Qg6 Kf3 56.Qg4#)* 51...Kg6 52.Qf7+ *(52.Qxb5 Kg7 53.Qe8 h5 54.Qe7+ Kh6 55.Qf6+ Kh7 56.Rh8#; 52.Qe8+ Kg5 53.Qxb5+ Kg4 54.Qe5 Kh4 55.Rf4+ Kh3 56.Qh5#)* 52...Kg5 53.Rg8+ *(53.Qxe6 Rxb4 54.Rg8+ Kf4 55.Rg4+* Skewer *Kf3 56.Qe2#)* 53...Kh4 54.Qf4+ Kh5 55.Qh2#]

(Diagram)

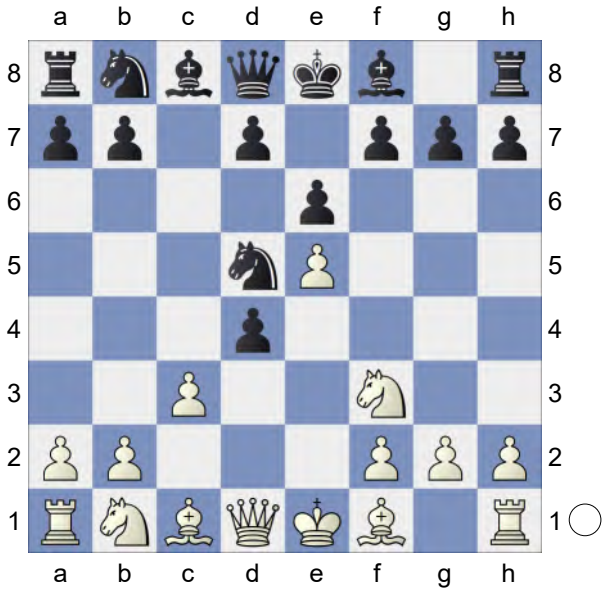


Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.94

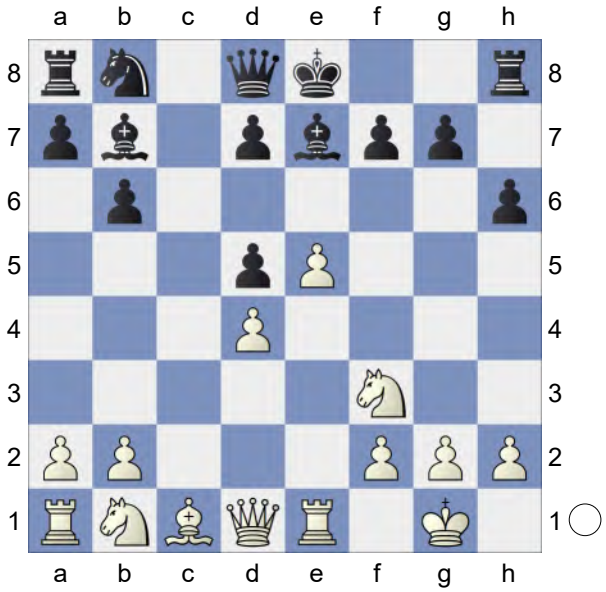
1-0

51 **B22**
□ **Reluctantcannibal** **2838**
■ **Mclutjedorp** **2776**
Blitz 08.06.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4

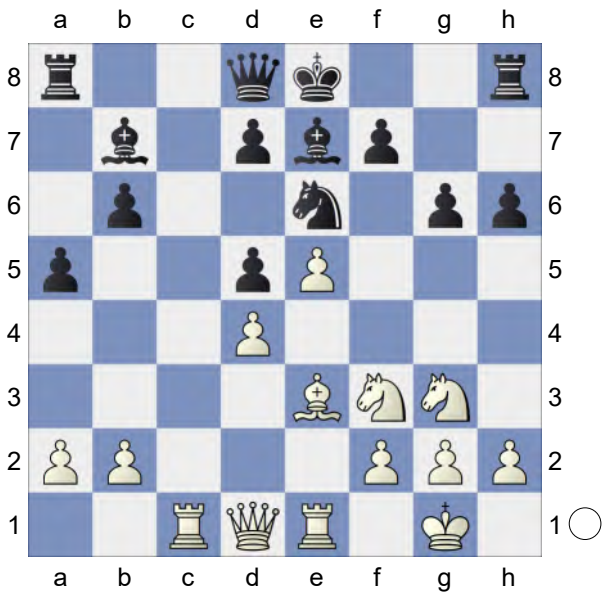


6.cxd4 b6 7.Bc4 Bb7 8.0-0 h6N
[8...Be7 9.Bxd5 Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nc6 12.Qg4 g6 13.Bh6 d5 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.Rac1 Rc8 16.d5 f5 17.Qc4 Chapter Puzzles 301-315-Game 1 Chapter Puzzles 301-315]
[8...Na6 9.Nc3 Nac7 10.Ne4 d6 11.Nfg5 h6 12.Qa4+ Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Nxf7 Rg8 15.exd6 b5 16.Be2 Ke8 17.Ne5 1-0 Vysochin,S (2501)-Mchedlishvili,M (2570) Euro Online +2300 Day 1 2020 (8)]
[8...d6 9.Bxd5 Bxd5 10.Nc3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 d5 12.Qg4 Nc6 13.Be3 Qd7 14.f4 h5 15.Qe2 g6 16.Rac1 Be7 17.Qb5 Rc8 18.Rf2 Na5 19.Qe2 Nc4 20.b3 Na3 21.g3 b5 22.Rff1 Qb7 23.h3 1-0 (35) Chrysogelou,A (1949)-Kosma,M (1699) GRE-chT 50th 2023 (3.5) Kd7 24.Kg2 Rc6 25.Nb1 Nxb1 26.Rxb1 Rhc8 27.Rbc1 Ba3 28.Rxc6 Qxc6 29.Bd2 a6 30.Ba5 Be7 31.Qd2 h4 32.g4 b4 33.Bxb4 Bxb4 34.Qxb4 Qc2+ 35.Kg1 Qd3 0-1 Hristov,I-Tay,J Interzonal 2000 bd7]
9.Bxd5 exd5 0.79/20
[9...Bxd5± 0.40/21 10.Nc3 Bb7]
10.Re1 Be7

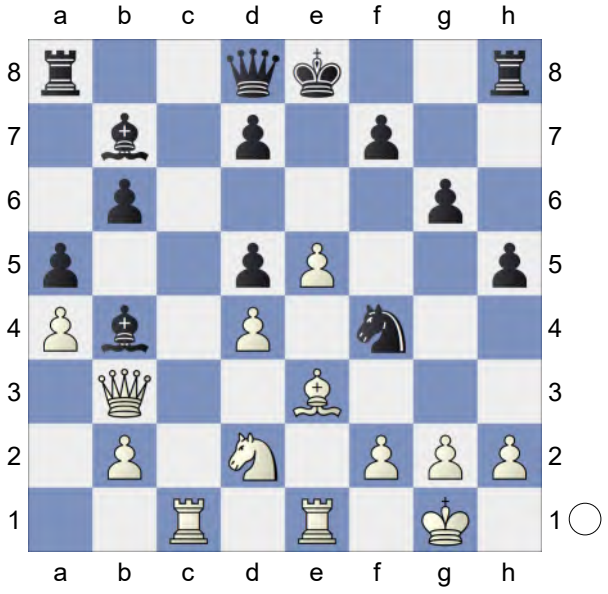


White is slightly better. **11.Nbd2 Na6 12.Nf1 Nc7 13.Ng3 g6 14.Be3 Ne6 15.Rc1 a5**

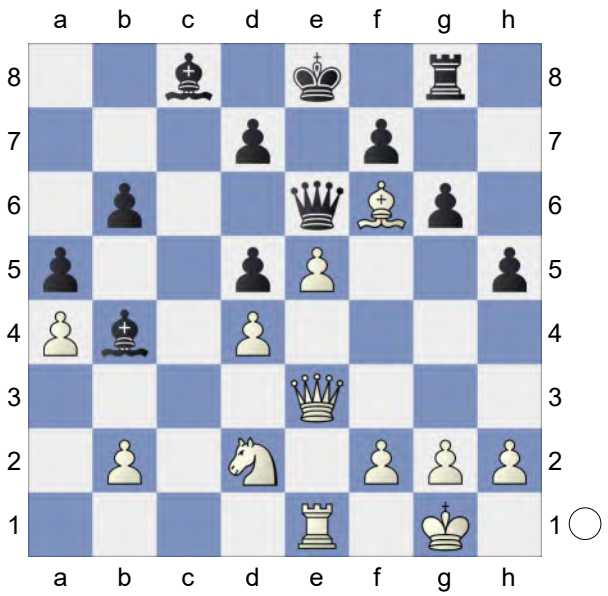
(Diagram)



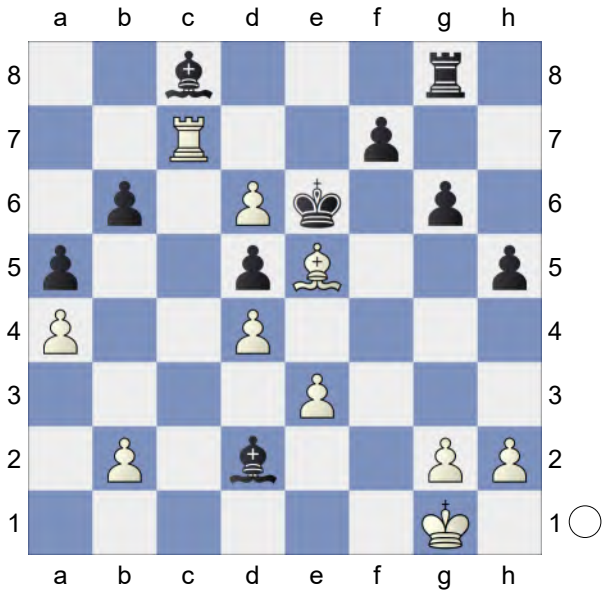
16.a4 Ba6 0.89/20
[16...h5± 0.50/19]
17.Nd2 h5 18.Qb3 Bb7 19.Ne2 White is more active. **19...Bb4 20.Nf4 Nxf4**



21.Bxf4 Rc8 22.Qe3 Qe7? 2.88/26
[22...Rc6± 0.90/20]
23.Bg5 Qe6 5.31/25
[23...Bxd2 2.72/25 24.Qxd2 Qb4 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8]
24.Bf6+- Rg8 6.85/22
[⌓24...Rh7 4.69/22 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8]
25.Rxc8+ Bxc8



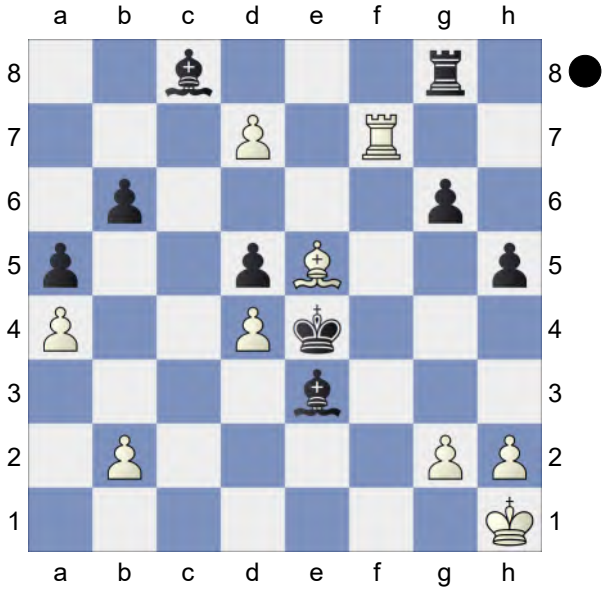
26.Rc1 Prevents Qc6 **26...d6 27.exd6?** 0.34/23
[27.Nf3+- 4.39/23 And now Ng5 would win. dxe5 28.dxe5 *(28.Nxe5 Bd7+-)*]
27...Qxe3± 28.fxe3 Kd7↑ Black has some pressure. **29.Rc7+** -1.40/24
[29.Nf3= 0.09/22]
29...Ke6!∓ 30.Be5 Black must now prevent Re7+. **30...Bxd2**



31.Re7+ Kf5 32.Rxf7+ -3.27/29
[32.d7 -1.78/20 was forced.]
32...Ke4-+ 33.d7 Bxe3+

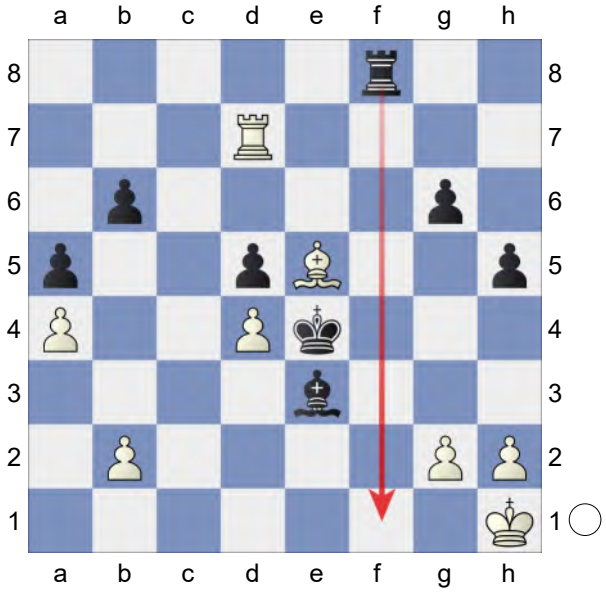
[33...Kxe3 34.Bf4+ *(34.dxc8B Rxc8 35.Bf4+ Kd3∓)* 34...Kd3 *(34...Kxd4? 35.Bxd2 Bxd7 36.Rxd7+-; 34...Ke2 35.Re7+ Kd1 36.Bxd2±)* 35.Bxd2 Kxd2 36.Rg7=]

34.Kh1



Bxd7! Deflection **35.Rxd7** Endgame. KRB-KRB **35...Rf8**

[35...Bxd4 36.Bxd4 Kxd4 37.h4]

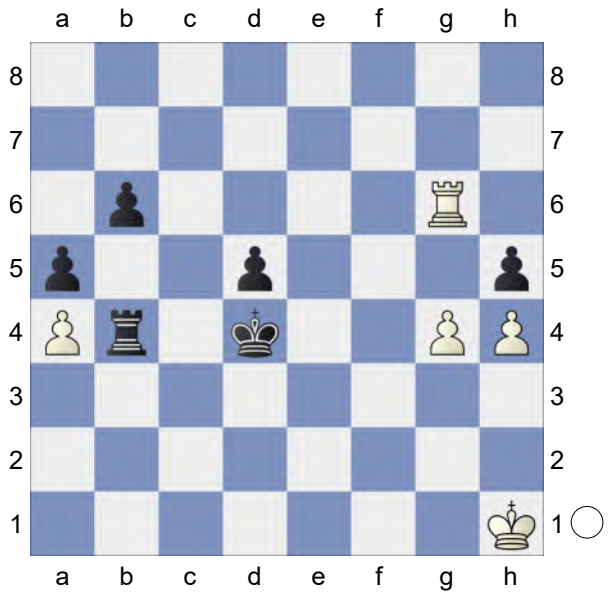


36.h4 Rf2 37.Rd6 Rxb2 ...Rb4 would now be deadly. **38.Rxg6** -2.11/24

[⌓38.g4 -1.71/24]

38...Bxd4 39.Bxd4 Kxd4 KR-KR **40.g4 Rb4** -0.88/24

[40...hxg4-+ -1.80/23 Strongly threatening ...Ke3. 41.Rxg4+ Kc5]



41.Kg2 hxg4 -0.01/21

[41...Rxa4 42.Rxb6 Ra2+ *(42...hxg4 43.Kg3∓; 42...Kc5 43.Rg6∓)* 43.Kg3∓]

[41...Kc5∓ -0.96/21 42.gxh5 Rxa4 *(42...Rxh4 43.h6∓)*]

42.h5!= Ke5 -0.01/27

[42...Rxa4 43.Rxg4+ Ke5 44.Rxa4 Kf5 45.Rh4 Kg5 46.h6 Kxh4 47.h7]

[42...Rc4∓ -0.45/21]

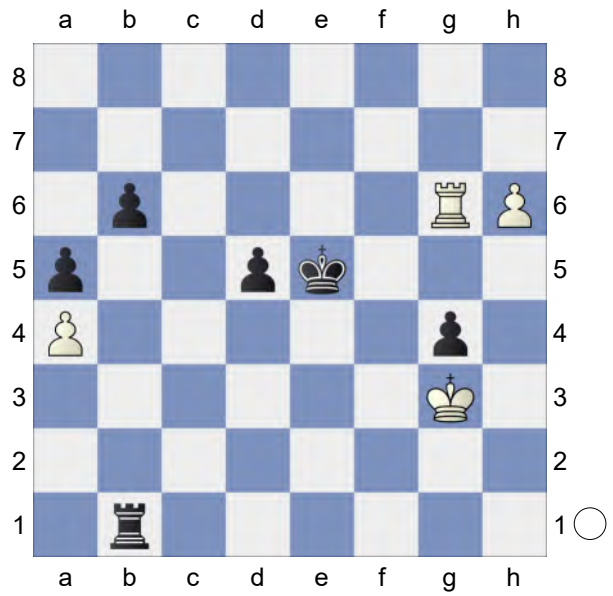
43.h6 Rb2+

[43...Rxa4 44.h7 Kf5 45.Rh6 *(45.h8R? Kxg6 46.Rd8 Rd4-+; 45.h8Q Ra2+ 46.Kf1 Kxg6+-)* 45...Ra2+ 46.Kf1 Ra1+ 47.Ke2 Ra2+ 48.Kd3 Ra3+ 49.Kd4]

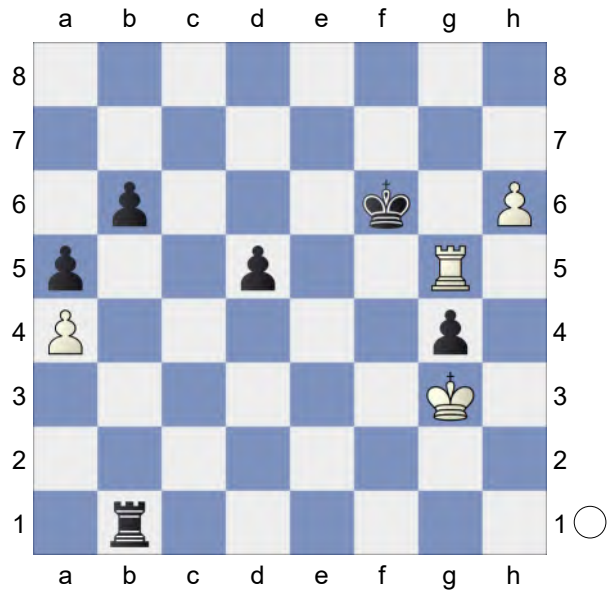
44.Kg3 Rb1? 4.65/28

[44...Kf5= 0.00/25 and Black stays safe. 45.Rxg4 Rb3+ 46.Kh4 Rb1 47.Rg5+ Kf6]

(Diagram)

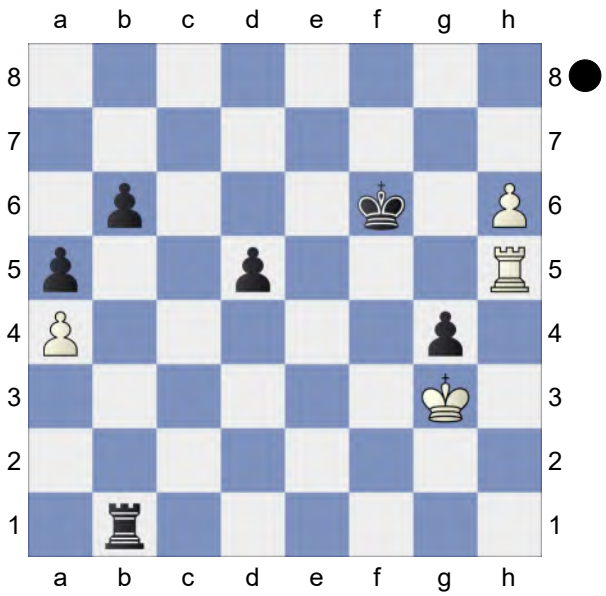


45.Rg5+!+- Kf6? 6.34/28
[45...Kd6 3.12/25 46.Rh5 Rg1+ 47.Kf2 Rc1]



46.Rh5!

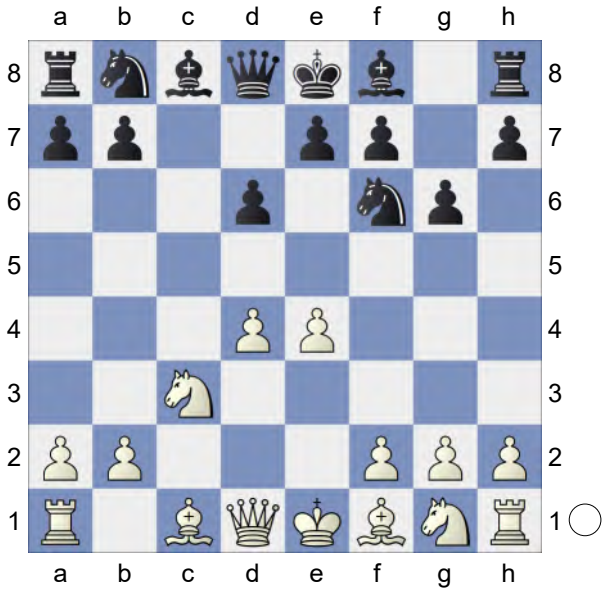
(Diagram)



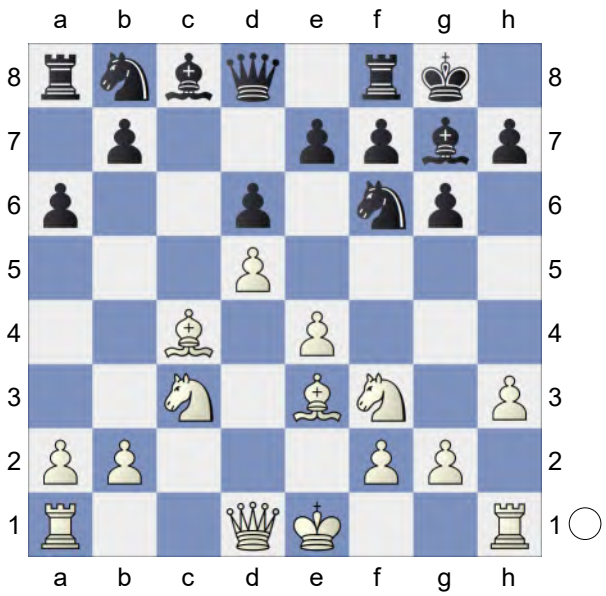
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.64
1-0

52 **B22**
□ **Zhigalko,Sergei** **2838**
■ **Neslracsungam77** **2811**
Blitz 14.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

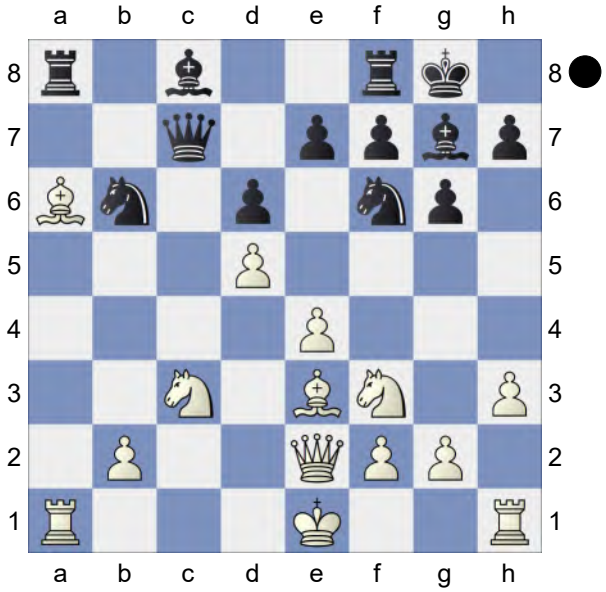
Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



6.Nf3 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Be3
[8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 e5 10.Be3 Ne8 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bc5 Nc7 13.Bxf8 Kxf8 14.Bc4 Nd4 15.Nxd4 ½-½ Arngrimsson,D (2396)-Malakhatko,V (2570) Quebec op Montreal 2009 (2)]
8...Nc6 9.d5N
[9.Be2 Re8 10.0-0 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bb5 Qc7 13.Rc1 Rd8 14.Qa4 Be6 15.Ng5 Qc8 16.Ne2 Bd7 17.Qb3 Be8 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Nc3 Qa6 20.Qc2 h6 21.Nf3 Nh5 22.b3 Nf4 23.Rcd1 Ne6 ½-½ (33) Kaphle,S (1976)-Carvalho Da Silva,A (1842) Luis Paucar Perez Memorial 199 (7.12)]
9...Nb8 10.Bc4 a6

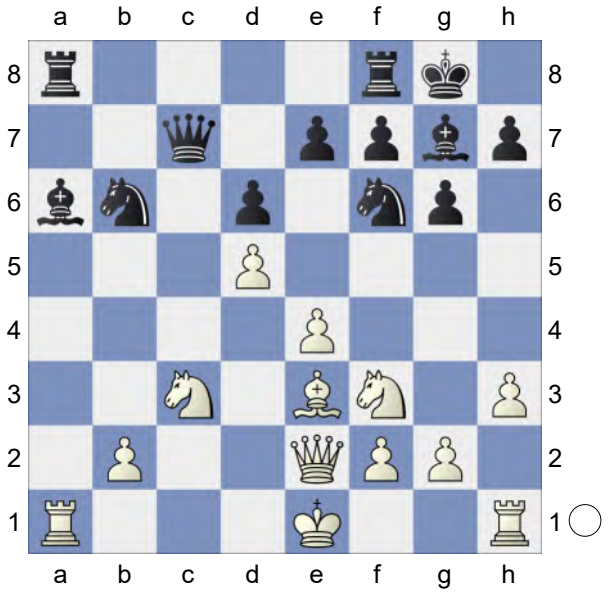


11.a4 White is better. **11...Nbd7 12.a5** 0.45/18 White is much more active.
[12.0-0± 0.81/16]
12...Qc7 13.Qe2 0.22/20
[13.Be2± 0.74/18]
13...b5= 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Bxa6 -1.40/21
[15.Bd3± 0.46/20 keeps the upper hand.]

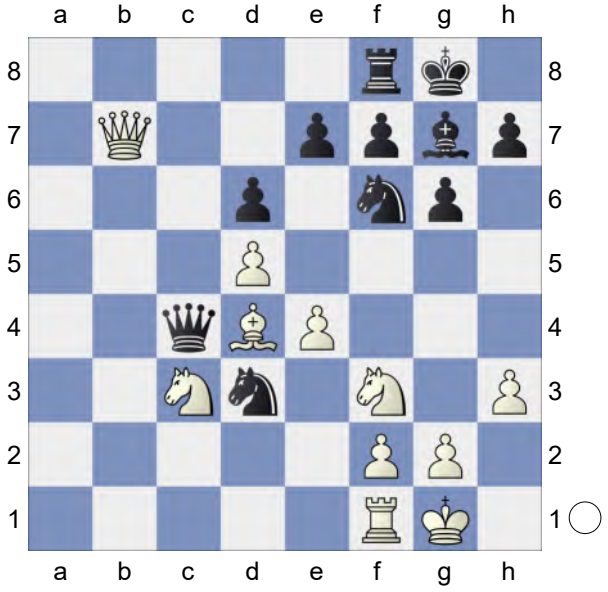


15...Bxa6 -0.01/19
[Black should play 15...Nc4!∓ -1.40/21
16.Nb5 *(16.Qxc4? Qxc4 17.Bxc4*

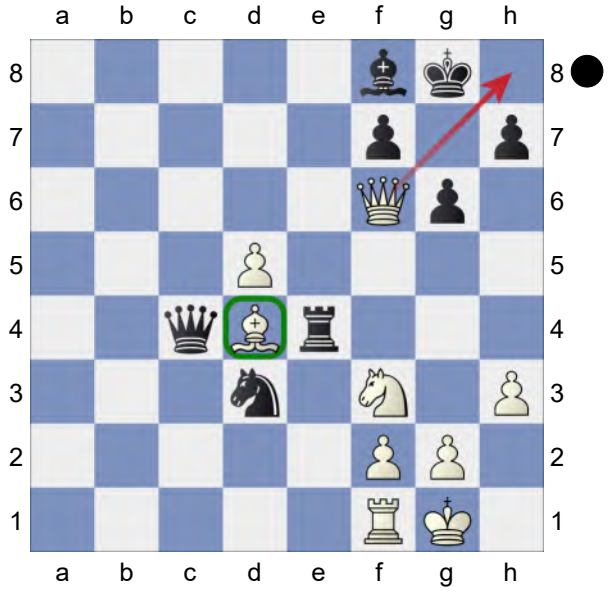
Rxa1+ 18.Nd1 Nxe4-+) 16...Qd7 17.Qxc4 Bxa6 18.Rxa6 Rxa6]



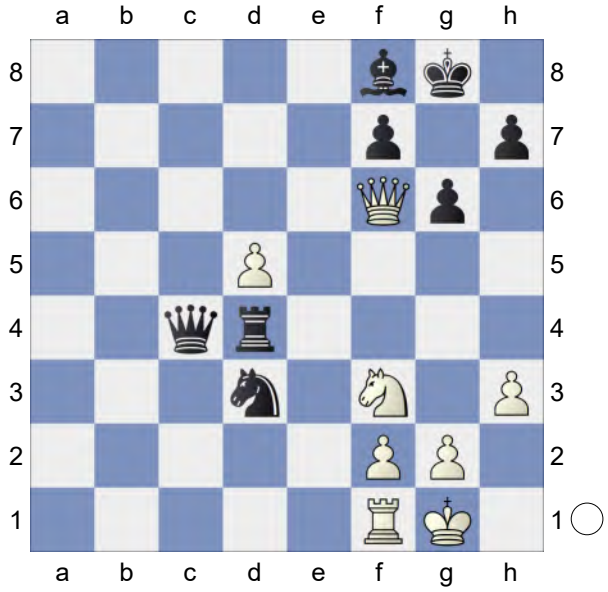
16.Rxa6 Rxa6 17.Qxa6 Nc4 18.Bd4 Nxb2 Threatens to win with ...Nxd5!
19.0-0 Qc4 20.Qb7
[20.Qxc4 simplifies Nxc4 21.Ra1 e5 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.Ra6]
20...Nd3



21.Qxe7 Re8 1.08/19
[21...Ne5!= 0.25/22 remains equal. 22.Bxe5 *(22.Qxd6?* is the wrong capture. *Nxf3+* Remove Defender *23.gxf3 Qxd4-+)* 22...dxe5]
22.Qxd6± Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Rxe4 2.52/22
[23...Bxd4± 1.05/23 was called for. 24.Nxd4 Rxe4]
24.Qd8++- White has a decisive advantage. **24...Bf8 25.Qf6**

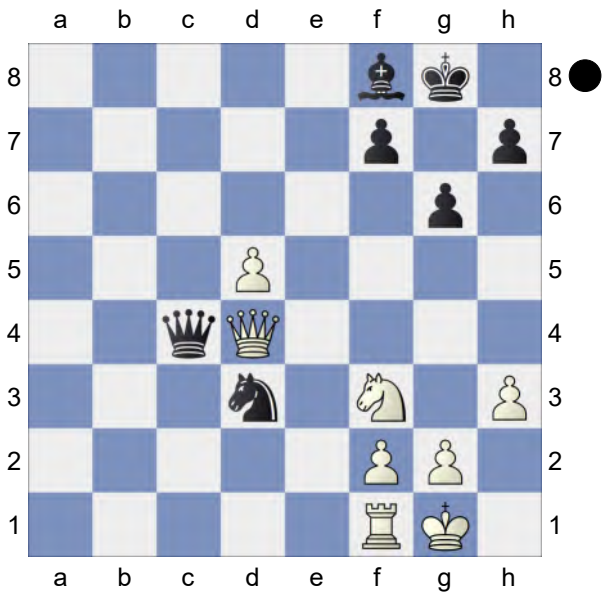


Rxd4



26.Qxd4

(Diagram)

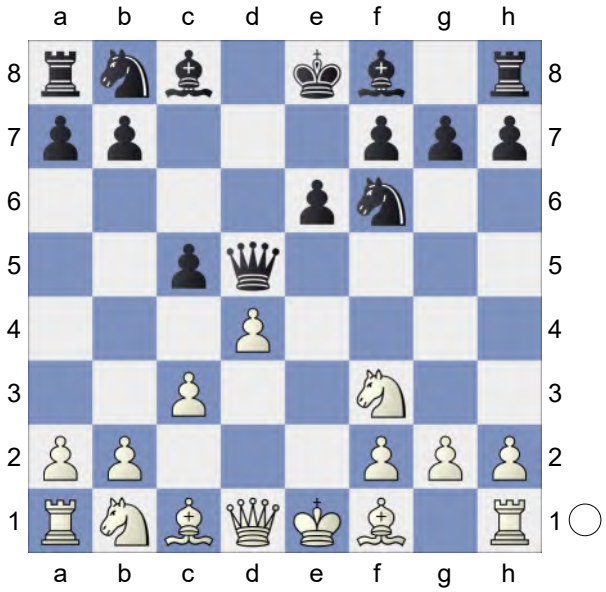


Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.41

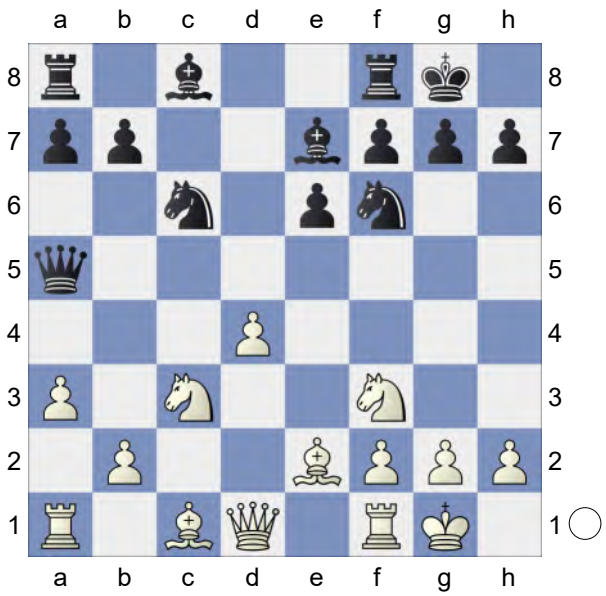
1-0

53 **B22**
□ **Zhigalko,Sergei** **2838**
■ **Bmwhero** **2856**
Blitz 09.04.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6

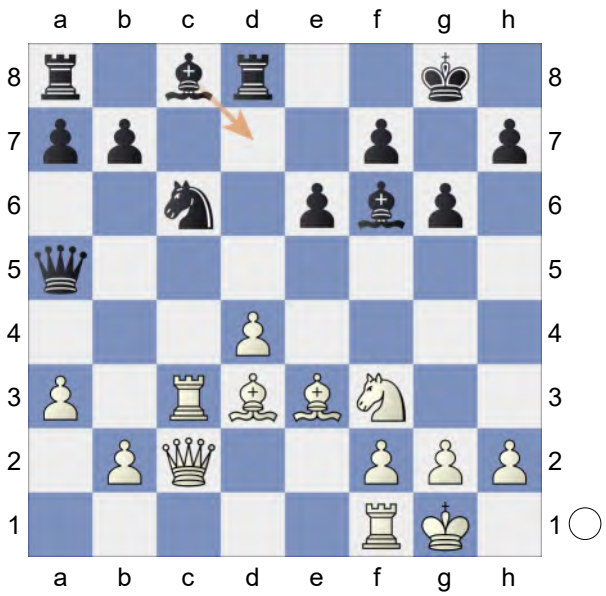


6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 Qa5 10.a3 0-0

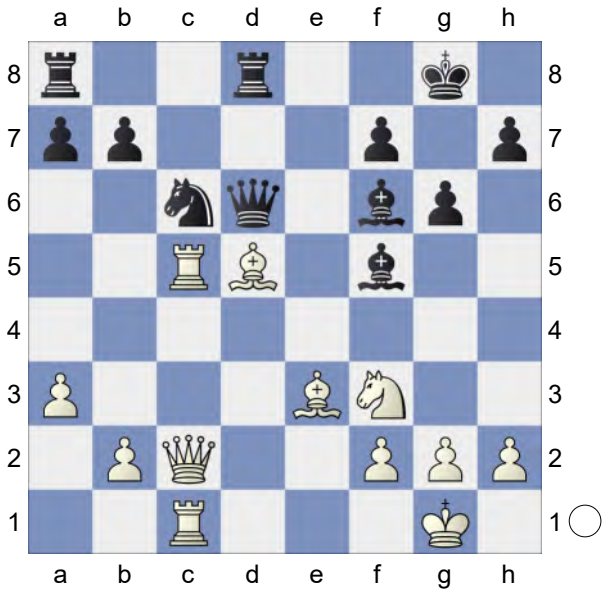


11.Be3 Rd8
[11...Nd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Rc1 Rd8 14.Bc4 Qa5 15.Qb3 Qh5 16.Rfd1 Bd7 17.Qxb7 Na5 18.Qe4 Ba4 19.Re1 Nxc4 20.Rxc4 Bb3 21.Rc3 Bd5 22.Qe5 Qg6 23.Qg3 Rdb8 24.Re2 Qxg3 25.hxg3 f6 26.Ne1 ½-½ (101) Holtman,T (2557)-Fedorov,V (2553) 3rd Dato Arthur Tan 2006 (8)]
12.Rc1N
[12.b4 Qc7 13.Qb3 a6 14.Rac1 h6 15.h3 Bd6 16.Bd3 Qb8 17.Rfd1 Ne7 18.Ne4 Ned5 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Ne5 b6 21.Bd2 Bb7 22.Bb1 Ne7 23.Qg3 Be4 24.Bxe4 Nxe4 25.Qf3 f5 26.Bf4 Nd5 ½-½ (37) Qiao,L (2342)-Li,S (2505) CHN-chT 4th Chiva 2008 (15) 27.Rc6 Qe7 28.Rdc1 Qh4 29.Nd3 Re8 30.Be5 Ng5 31.Qe2 Nf7 32.f3 Rac8 33.Kh2 Kh7 34.g3 Qh5 35.g4 fxg4 36.fxg4 Qg6 37.Rf1 " -" 12.♗b2 b6 13.♖ad1 ♘e7_1 (2342)-Luminet,D (2505) 56/498 Debrecen 1992 (15)]
12...Nd5 The position is equal. **13.Bd3 Nxc3** 0.51/19
[13...e5= 0.01/17]
14.Rxc3± Bf6 1.01/20
[14...Qd5± 0.60/17]
15.Qc2 g6

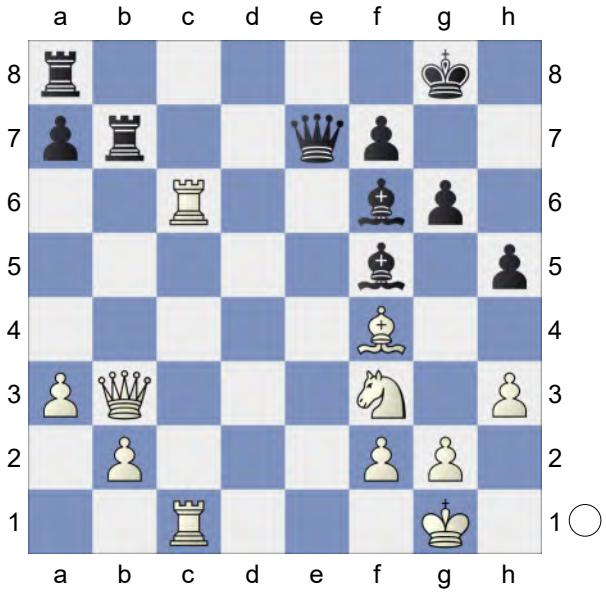
(Diagram)



16.Rc1 Bd7 17.Rc5 Qc7 18.Be4 Qd6 19.d5 0.26/19
[19.Qd2± 0.84/18]
19...exd5= 20.Bxd5 Bf5 0.72/19
[20...Rac8!= -0.01/20]

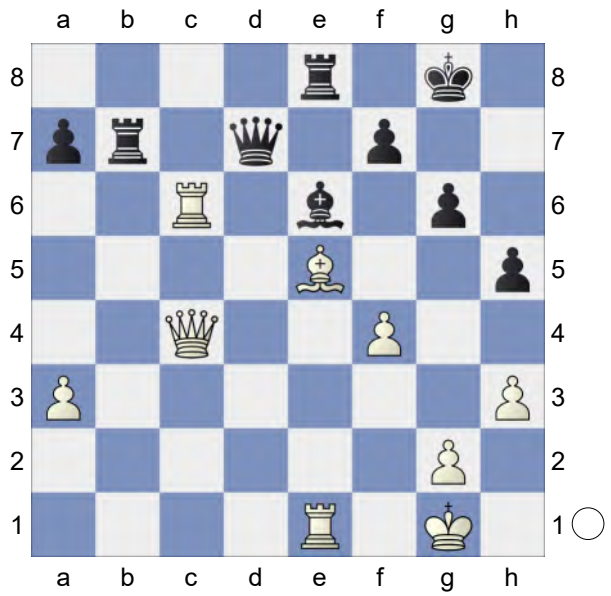


21.Qb3 0.35/20
[21.Qc4± 0.72/19]
21...Rd7± 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rxc6 Qe7 24.h3 0.00/20
[24.Rc8+± 0.49/20 Rd8 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Bd4]
24...h5 0.99/20
[24...Rb7!= 0.00/20 25.Qd5 Bxb2]
25.Bf4 0.01/21
[25.Re1± 0.99/20]
25...Rb7=

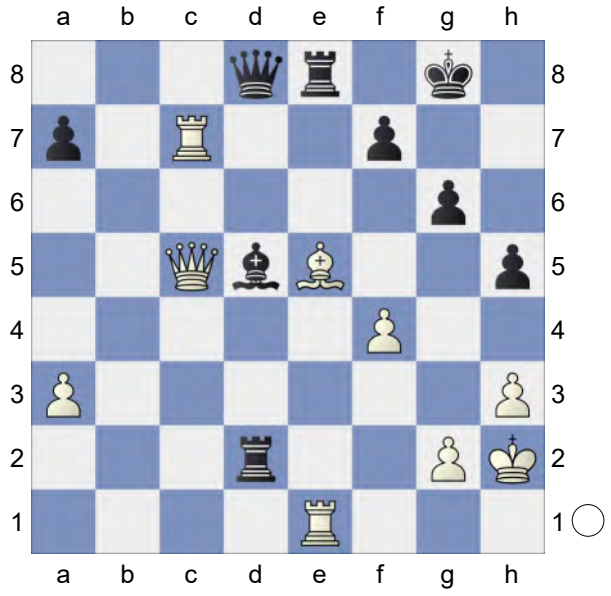


26.Qc4 Bxb2 This pair of bishops is nice. **27.Re1 Qd7** 0.11/19
[27...Qxa3∓ -0.38/22 28.Be5 Bxe5 29.Rxe5 Qb4]
28.Ne5 Bxe5 0.64/19
[28...Qd4= 0.01/21]
29.Bxe5 Re8 Black is weak on the dark squares **30.f4** 0.01/21
[30.Kh2± 0.83/21]
30...Be6 0.45/18
[30...Qd2= 0.01/21 31.Qc1 Rd7]

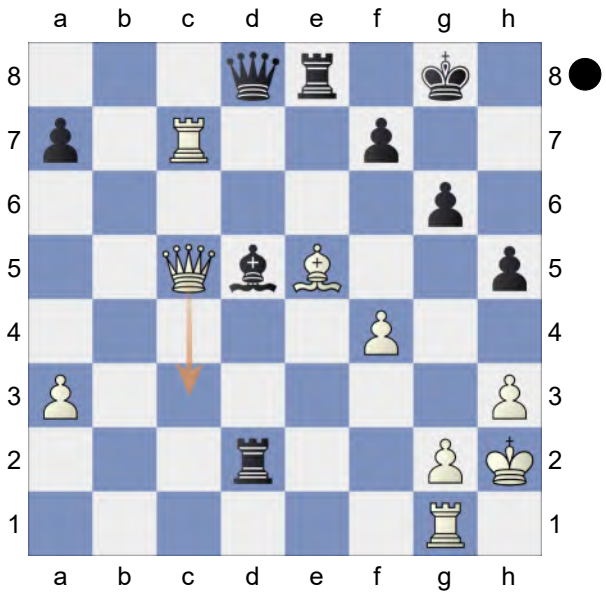
(Diagram)



31.Qc3 0.01/20
[31.Qc2± 0.45/18 is more appropriate.]
31...Rb3 32.Qc2 Rd3 Inhibits Rd1.
33.Rc7 Qd8 34.Kh2 -0.08/21
[34.Rxa7 Rd2 35.Qc3 Qd5∓]
[34.Bf6± 0.31/23 Qd6 35.Rc6 *(35.Rxa7? Rd2-+)*]
34...Rd2 35.Qc5 Black must now prevent Bc3! **35...Bd5** 0.34/22
[35...Qd5= -0.02/20 should be considered. 36.Rg1 Qa2]

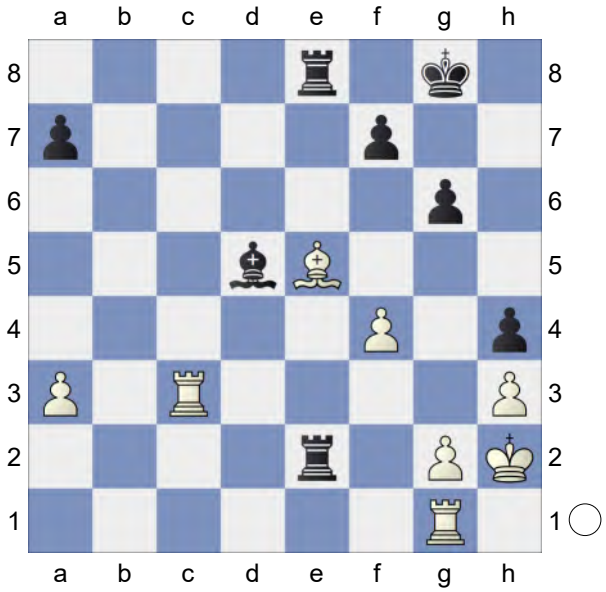


36.Rg1!±
[36.Qxa7 is a self mate. Rxg2+ *(36...Bxg2? 37.Qe3-+)* 37.Kh1 Qh4 38.Re3 Rg5+ 39.Kh2 Qf2#]



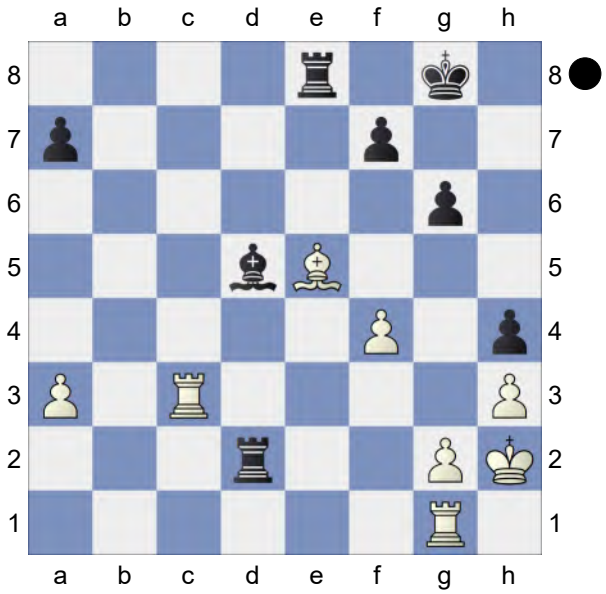
And now Qc3! would win. **36...Qh4** 0.75/22
[36...Be4± 0.31/21]
37.Qc3 -0.18/24
[37.Qxa7 gets mated. Rd3 38.f5 Bxg2 *(38...Rxe5? 39.Qb8+ Kg7 40.Rxf7+ Kxf7 41.fxg6+ Kf6 42.Rf1+-+)* 39.Rb1 Qxh3+ *(39...Rxh3+ 40.Kg1 Be4 41.Kf1 Bd3+ 42.Kg2 Qg4+ 43.Kf2 Qf3+ 44.Kg1 Rh1#)* 40.Kg1 Rd2 *(40...Rxe5 41.Qb8+ Kg7 42.Rxf7+* Remove Defender *Kxf7 43.fxg6+ Kf6 44.Qh8+ Kf5 45.Qc8+ Re6 46.Qf8+ Kg5 47.Rb5+ Rd5 48.Qd8+ Kg4 49.Rb4+ Be4 50.Rxe4+ Rxe4 51.Qc8+ Kh4 52.Qxh3+ Kxh3 53.g7 Rf4 54.g8Q Rd1#; 40...Qh1+ 41.Kf2 Qh4+ 42.Kxg2 Rd2+ 43.Kf3 Qh3+ 44.Kf4 Qxf5+ 45.Ke3 Qf2+ 46.Ke4 f5#)* 41.Bh2 Bf3 *(41...gxf5? 42.Rxf7 Qg4 43.Rg7+ Qxg7 44.Qxg7+ Kxg7 45.Bf4-+; 41...gxf5? 42.Rxf7 Qg4*

43.Rg7+ Qxg7 44.Qxg7+ Kxg7 45.Bg3-+)]
[Better is 37.Rc8± 0.75/22 Rd8 38.Qc3]
37...Qf2→ Black is up to no good. Really sharp! **38.Qg3 h4** 0.47/23
[Black should play 38...Qxg3+= -0.16/19 39.Kxg3 a6]
39.Qxf2± Rxf2 40.Rc3 -0.01/22
[40.Rxa7± 0.37/23 is superior. Ra2 41.Rd7]
40...Re2

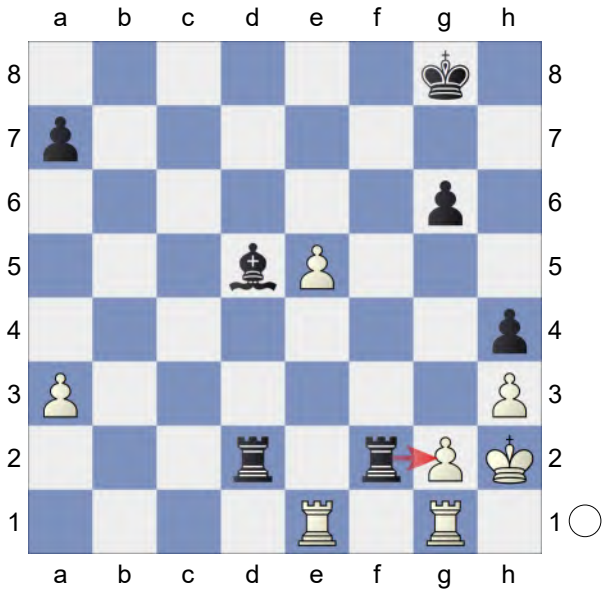


41.Bd4 Rd2 42.Be5 -2.05/23
[42.Bf6= -0.01/22 and White has nothing to worry.]

(Diagram)

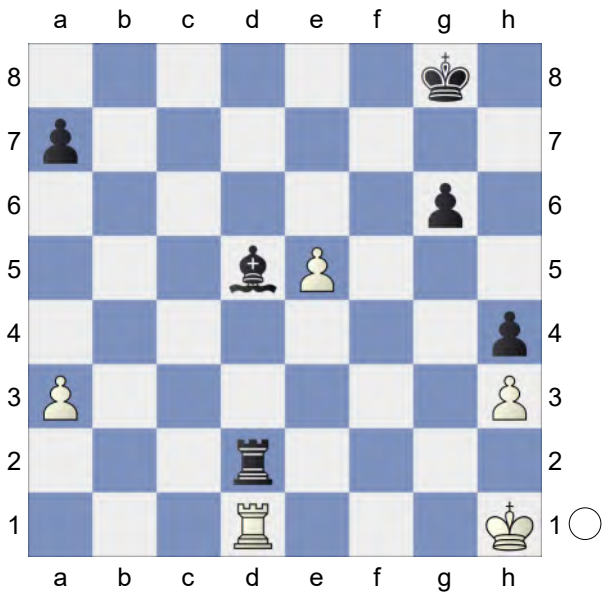


This costs White the game. **42...f6!-+**
43.Re3 -8.30/24
[43.Bxf6 -2.21/25 Ree2 44.Rc8+ Kf7 45.Bc3 Bxg2 *(45...Rxg2+? 46.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 47.Kh1∓)* 46.Rc7+ Ke6 47.Re1 *(47.f5+? Kd6-+)* 47...Be4+ 48.Rxe2 Rxe2+ 49.Kg1]
43...fxe5 44.fxe5 Rf8 45.Ree1 Rff2



46.Rd1 Rxg2+ 47.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 48.Kh1 Rd2+

(Diagram)



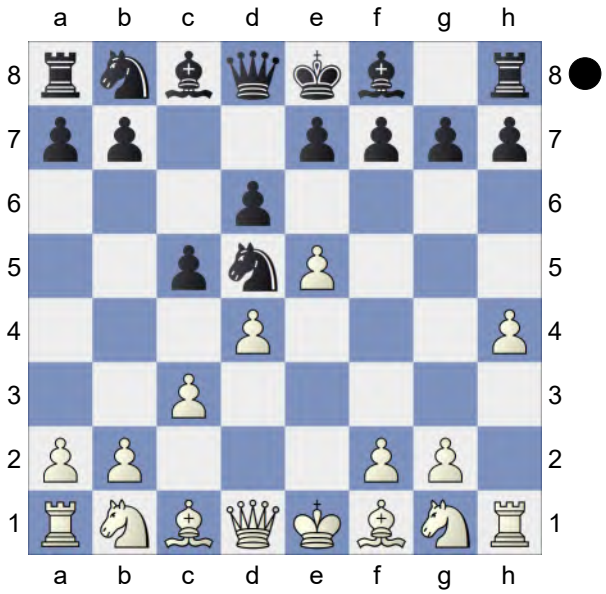
Weighted Error Value: White=0.72/ Black=0.33

0-1

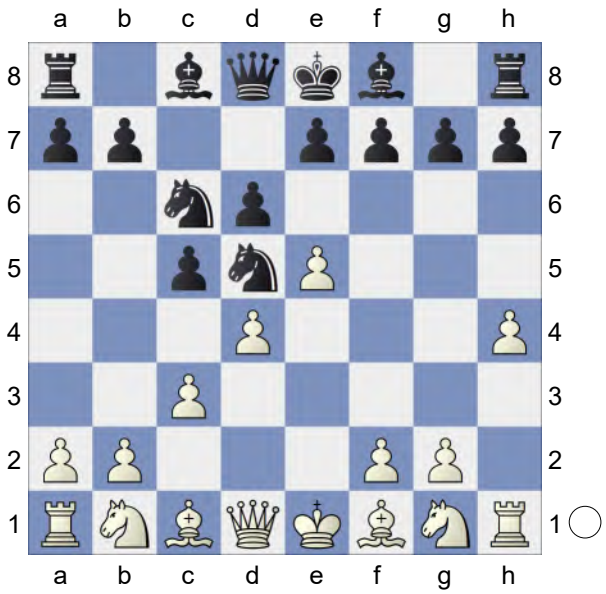
54 **B22**
□ **Faith** **2837**
■ **Raspfish** **2892**
Rapid 21.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.c3 c5 2.e4 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.h4N
[4.d4 cxd4
A) 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 *(7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Nb1 h6 12.Nc3 0-0 13.a3 e5 14.d5 e4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.h3 Qf6 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 Bb7 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.Rac1 Nf6 22.Nb3* 1-0 (28) Duboue,P (2067)-Sola,F (1903) Rohde op 10th 2010 (2) *)* 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.d5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Re1 Kf7 16.a4 a6 17.b3 e4 18.Qh3 Rc8 19.Ba3 Qh6 1-0 (41) Bedouin,X (2334)-Gely,Y (1897) Sautron op 15th 2015 (2.69);
B) 5.Nf3 e6 *(5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.a4 a6 15.Qb3 Rd6 16.a5 Rg6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Be3 e5 19.c4 Bc5 20.Bxc5* ½-½ (22) 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6 (2512)-Duhm,H (2616) 55/51 Armenia 1992 *Nxc5 21.Qe3 0-0 22.Nc3* ½-½ 16.Nb3 Re8 17.Bh6-Duhm,H (open) 49/165 1990*)* 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 d6 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qg4 Bxe5 17.dxe5 h5 18.Qb4+ Qe7 B 22/46 2000]

4...d6 5.d4

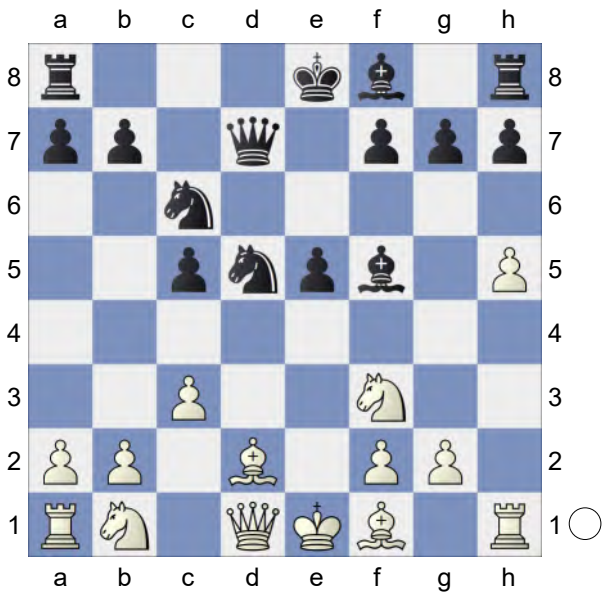


Nc6 -0.08/17
[Black should try 5...Bd7!∓ -0.78/18]

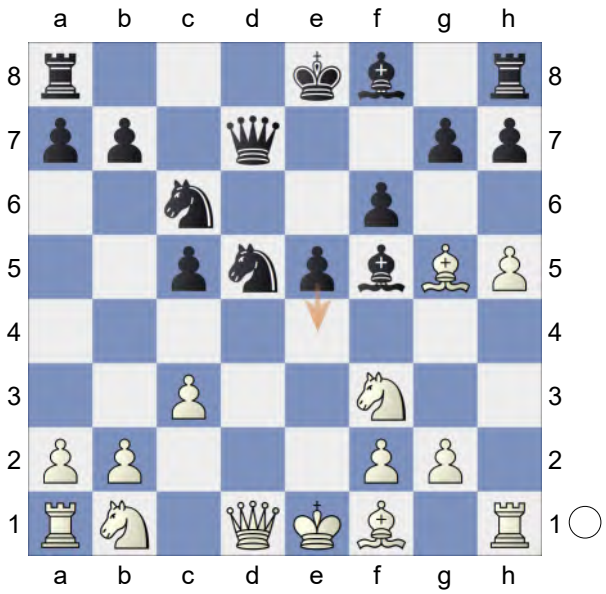


6.e6 Bxe6
[Don't play 6...fxe6?! 7.c4±]
7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Bd2 Black is better.
8...Qd7 9.h5 Bf5 10.Nf3 e5

(Diagram)

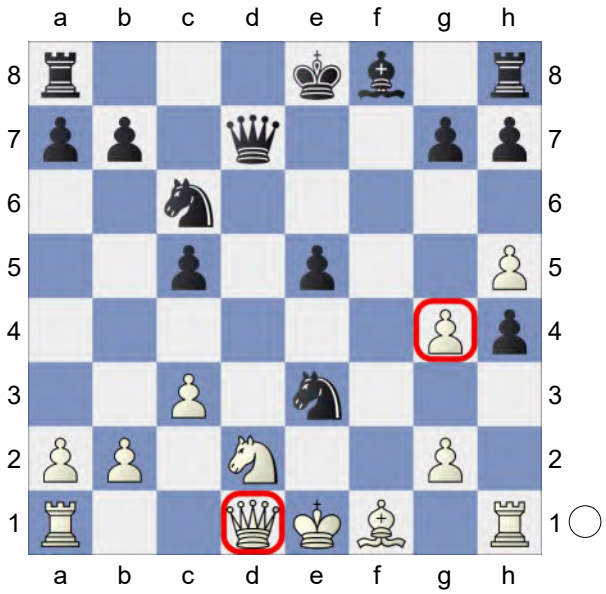


Black is more active. **11.Bg5** -1.73/18
[11.Na3∓ -1.03/16 was called for.]
11...f6-+

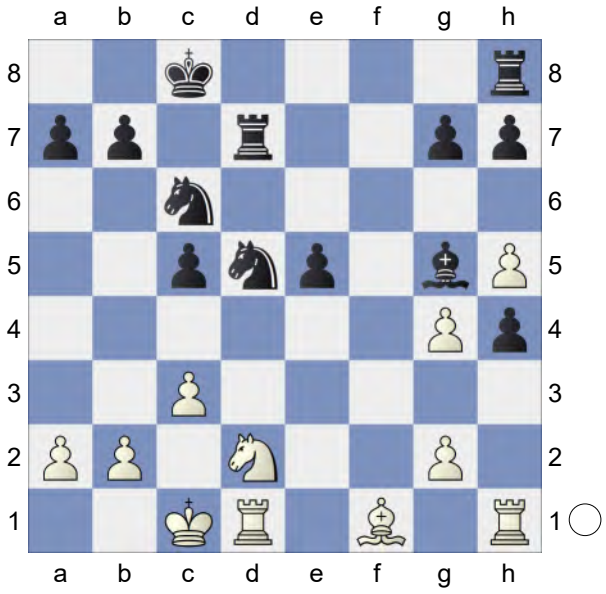


...e4! would now be deadly. **12.Nh4?** -4.26/19
[12.Bc1 -1.70/16]
12...Bg4
[Less strong is 12...fxg5 13.Nxf5 Qxf5 14.Qxd5∓]
13.f3 fxg5 14.fxg4 White is weak on the dark squares **14...gxh4 15.Nd2** -6.93/18
[⌓15.Na3 -4.71/17]

15...Ne3

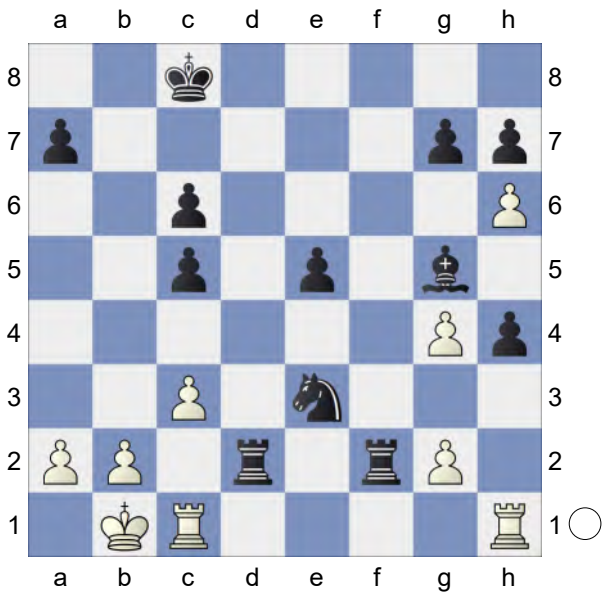


16.Qb1 0-0-0 17.Qd3 Nd5 -4.69/19
[17...Qxg4? 18.Qxe3 Qxh5 19.Be2-+]
[⌓17...Nxg2+ -11.44/21 18.Kf2 Qxd3 *(18...Qxg4? 19.Be2-+)* 19.Bxd3 Rxd3]
18.Qf5 Be7 19.Qxd7+ Rxd7 20.0-0-0 Bg5

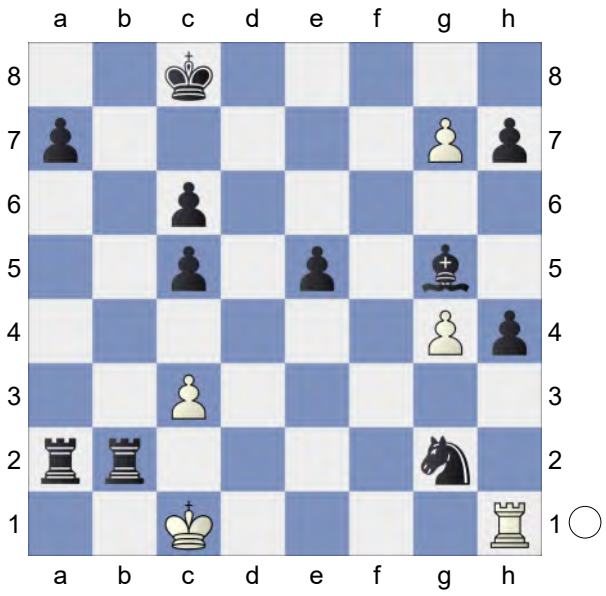


21.Kb1 Ne3 22.Rc1 Rxd2 23.Bb5 Rf8 (-> ...Rff2) **24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.h6 Rff2**

(Diagram)

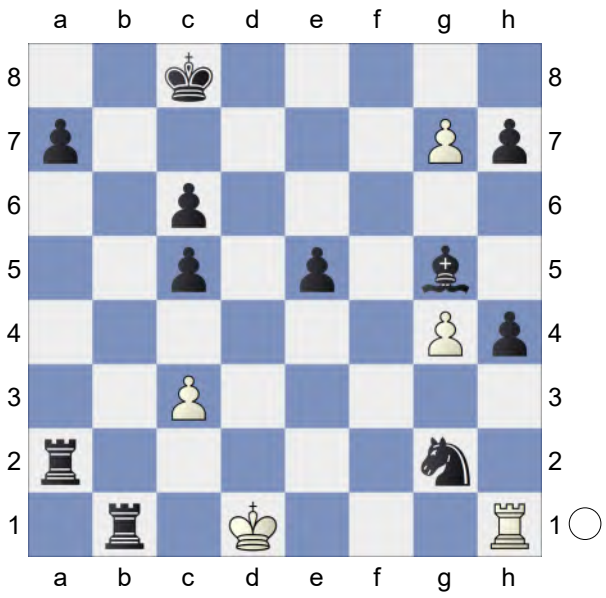


Black mates. **26.Rc2 Rxc2 27.hxg7 Rxb2+ 28.Ka1 Rxa2+ 29.Kb1 Rfb2+ 30.Kc1 Nxg2+**



31.Kd1 Rb1#

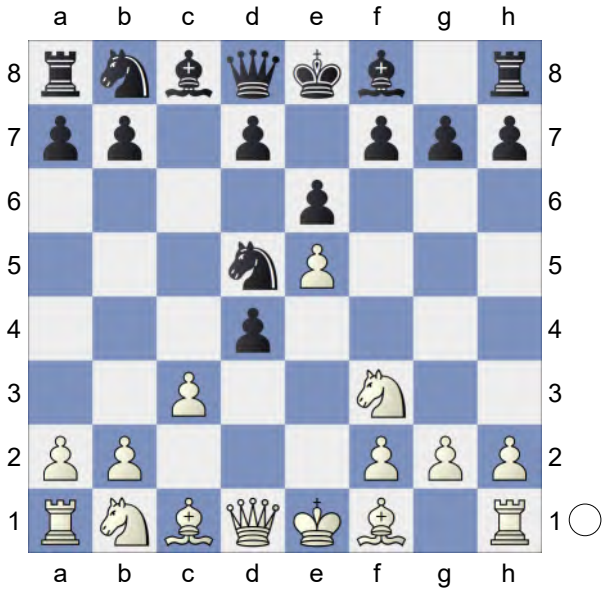
(Diagram)



White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=1.18/ Black=0.65
0-1

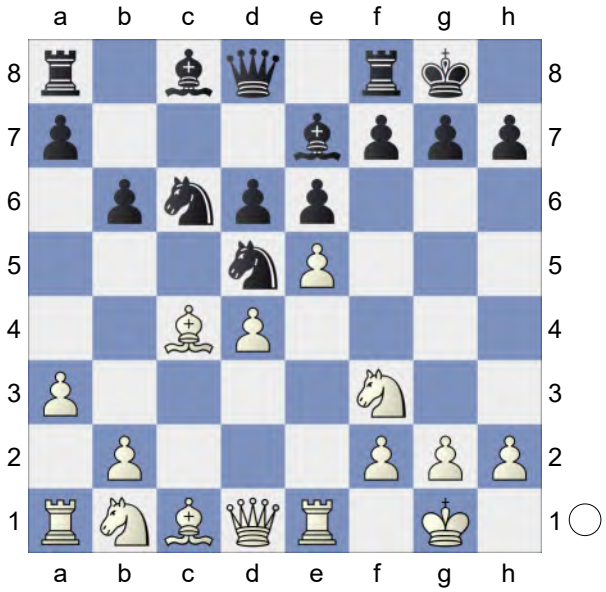
55 **B22**
□ **Hansschmidt** **2837**
■ **Creep30** **2866**
Blitz 19.06.2020
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4



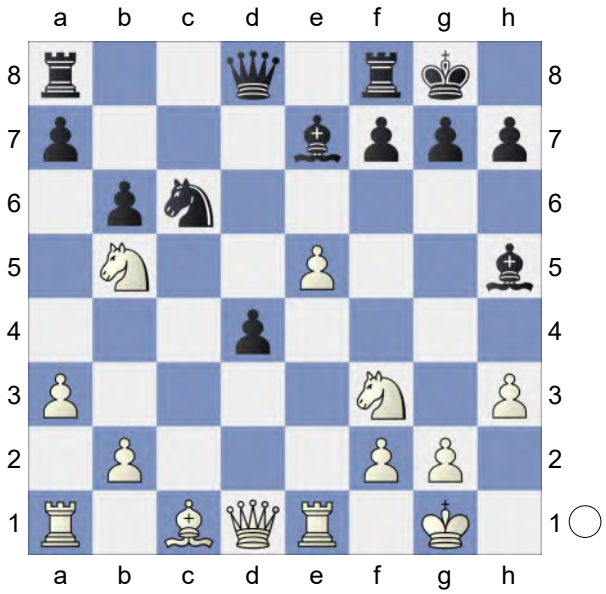
6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.a3
[10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Nc3 b6 *(11...Rd8 12.Bb3 a6 13.g3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.Qd3 Rac8 16.Ng5 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Re8 18.Bc2 f5 19.Bf4 e5 20.Qc4+ Be6 21.dxe5 Qa3 22.Qd3 Na5 23.c4 Qxd3 24.Bxd3 Nxc4* ½-½ Stevic,H (2580)-Fedorov,A (2566) FRA-chT Top 12 2019 (11.1)*)* 12.Bb3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bb7 14.Bc2 Qd5 15.Be4 Qh5 16.Bf4 Rfd8 17.Qd2 Na5 18.Bxb7 Nxb7 19.Ne5 Rac8 20.g4 Qh4 21.Bg3 Qh3 22.Qe2 Nd6 23.d5 Re8 24.dxe6 fxe6 1-0 (54) Mendez Fortes,E (2660)-Pires,A (2716) Chiasso op 1991 (9)]

10...b6N
[10...Bd7 11.Nbd2 *(11.Bd3 Rc8 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 dxe5 14.dxe5 Na5 15.Qe2 Nb3 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Qc2+ Kg8 18.Qxb3 Bc6 19.c4 b6 20.Rd1 Qc7 21.Bf4 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Qxc4 23.g3 Qc3 24.Qg4 Bc5 25.Ra2 Rfd8* 0-1 (52) Van Oosterom,C (2295)-Solodovnichenko,Y (2585) Neckar op-A 11th 2007 (7)*)* 11...Rc8 12.exd6 Bxd6 13.Ne4 Bf4 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Bxf4 dxe4 16.Rxe4 Be6 17.Re3 Qd5 18.Rc3 Rcd8 19.Be3 Bg4 20.h3 Bh5 21.Rac1 f5 22.Rc5 Qf7 23.g4 Bg6 24.Ng5 Qf6 25.Qb3+ 1-0 (32) Madras (2609)-Palejko,M (2642) EM/M/A109 ICCF Email 2000 (5) Kh8 26.Qxb7 Nxd4 27.Bxd4 Rxd4 28.Rc8 Rdd8 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.h4 fxg4 31.Rc8 h6 32.Qb8 1-0 Hess,R (2609)-Negi,P (2642) World Team Ch., Ningbo 2011 (5)]

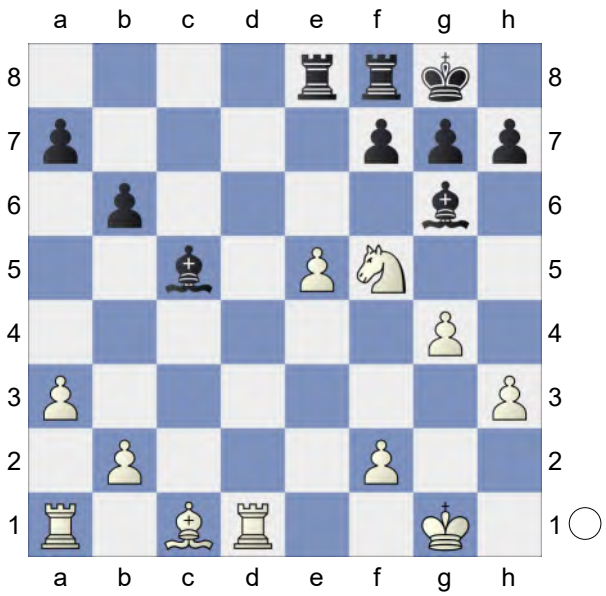


11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 The position is equal. **12...dxe5 13.dxe5 d4 14.Nb5 Bg4** 0.40/18
[14...d3= -0.01/18]

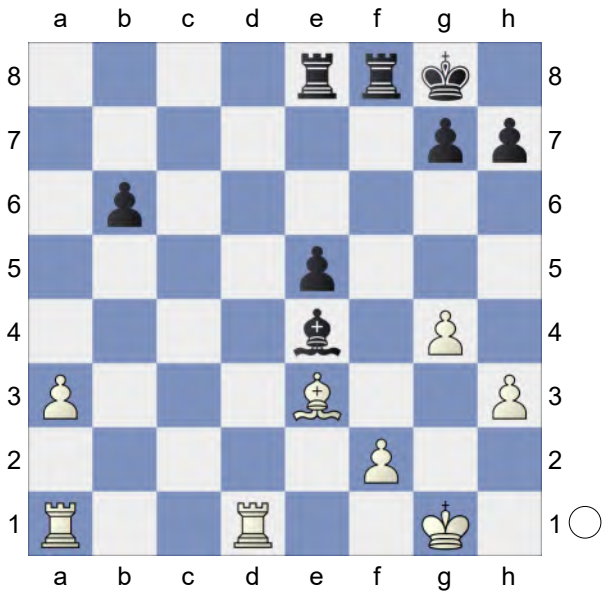
15.h3 Bh5



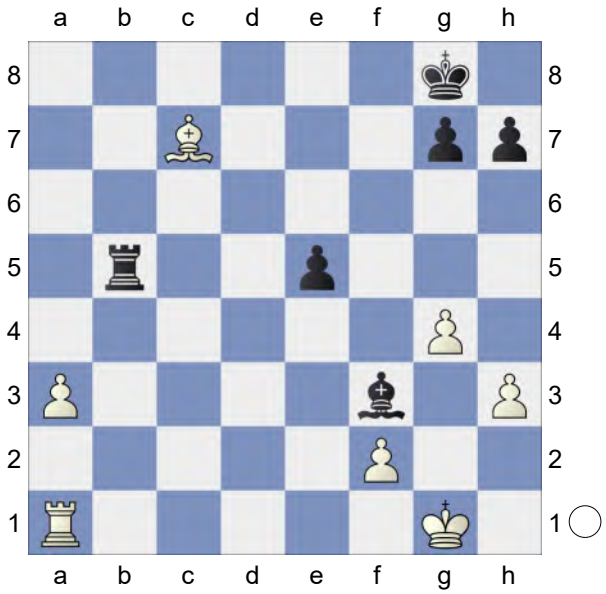
16.g4 White is more active.
[16.Nbxd4 simplifies Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Bxf3 18.Qxd8 Raxd8 19.gxf3 Rd5 20.Kg2]
16...Bg6 17.Nbxd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bc5 19.Nf5 Qxd1 0.90/22
[19...Bxf5± 0.52/20 20.gxf5 Qd4]
20.Rxd1± Threatens to win with b4.
20...Rae8 1.94/21
[20...a5± 0.90/22]



21.Bf4 0.73/22
[21.b4+- 1.94/21 Bxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Bxf5 23.gxf5 Rxe5 24.Rd3]
21...f6 22.b4! fxe5 23.bxc5 Bxf5 Black is now going downhill. **24.Be3 Be4 25.cxb6 axb6**

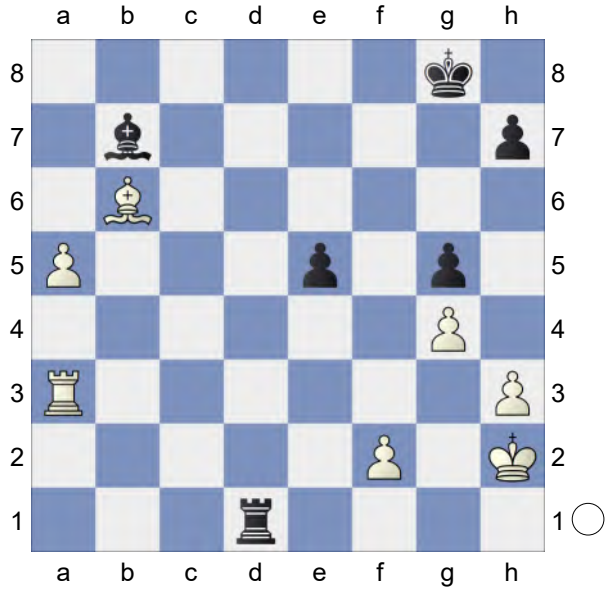


26.Bxb6 Rf3 1.06/21
[26...Rf6± 0.70/20 27.Re1 Bf3]
27.Re1 Ba8 28.Re3 Rb8 1.57/21
[⌓28...Re6 1.16/21 29.Rxf3 Bxf3]
29.Rxf3 Bxf3 Endgame. KRB-KRB
30.Bc7 Rb5

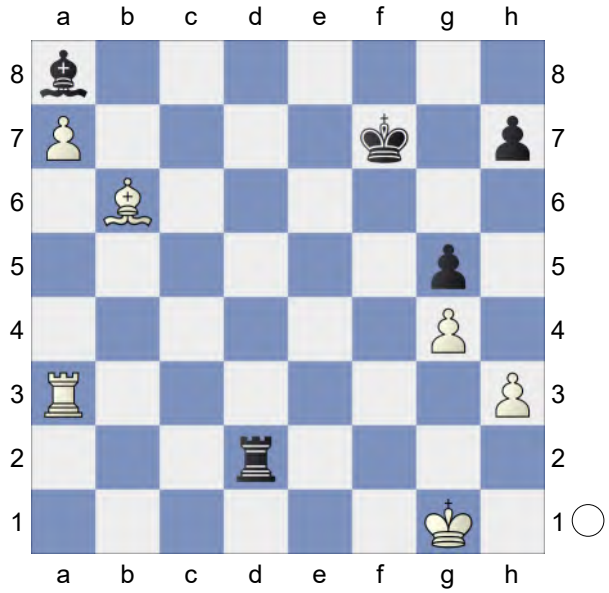


31.a4 Rc5 32.Bb6 Rd5 2.03/22
[⌓32...Rc6 1.66/23]

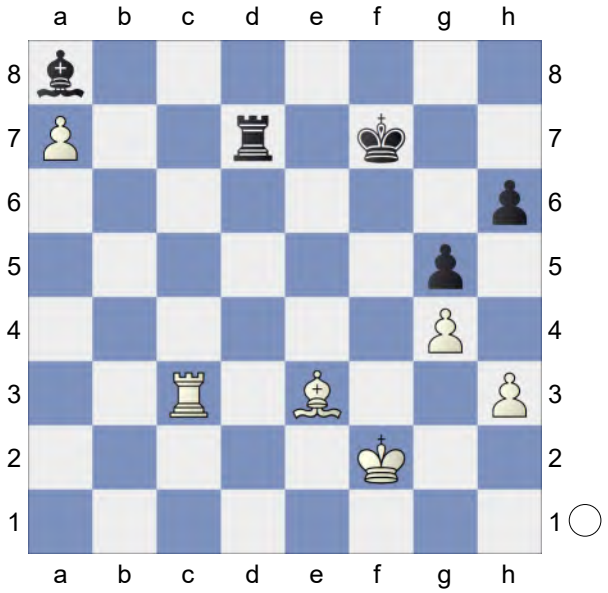
33.Kh2 Rd1 34.Ra3 1.31/23
[Better is 34.Rxd1+- 1.94/22 Bxd1 35.a5]
34...Bb7 1.67/20
[34...e4± 1.31/23 was worth a try.]
35.a5+- g5



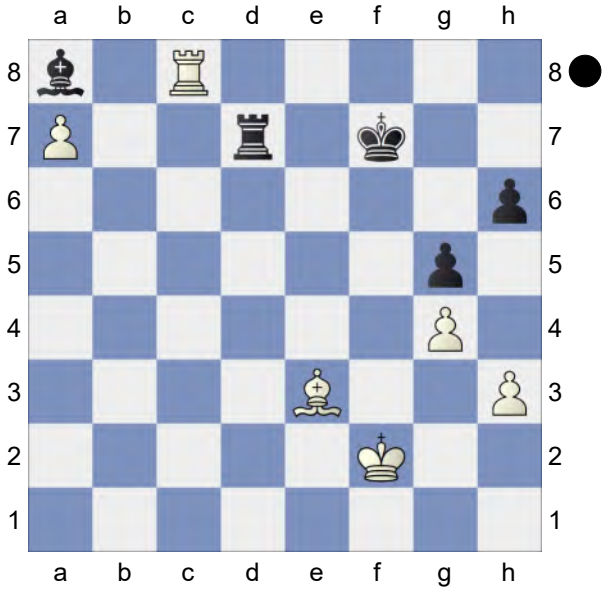
White must now prevent ...Rh1+. **36.f3!**
Rd2+ 2.87/22
[⌓36...Ba6 1.98/22 37.Kg3 Kf7]
37.Kg1 Hoping for a6. **37...e4** 3.32/21
[⌓37...Rd1+ 1.92/19 38.Kg2 Ba6]
38.fxe4 Bxe4 39.a6 aiming for a7.
39...Kf7 40.a7 Ba8



41.Be3 Rd1+ 42.Kf2 h6 43.Rc3 Rd7? 5.09/25
[43...Ra1 2.55/20 44.Rc7+ Ke6]



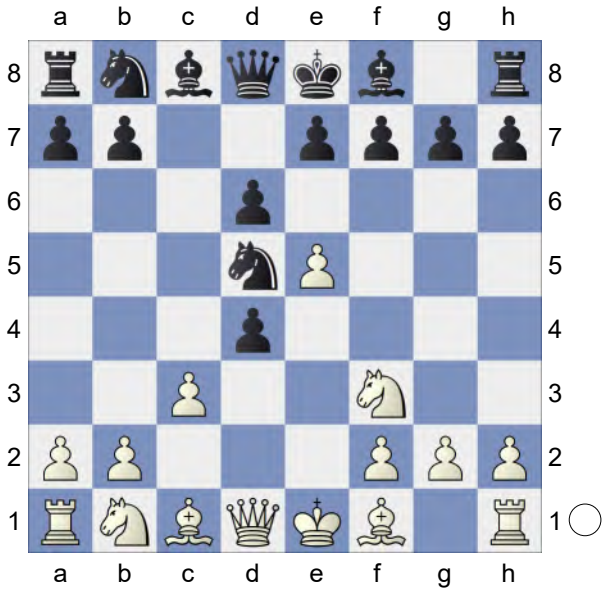
44.Rc8



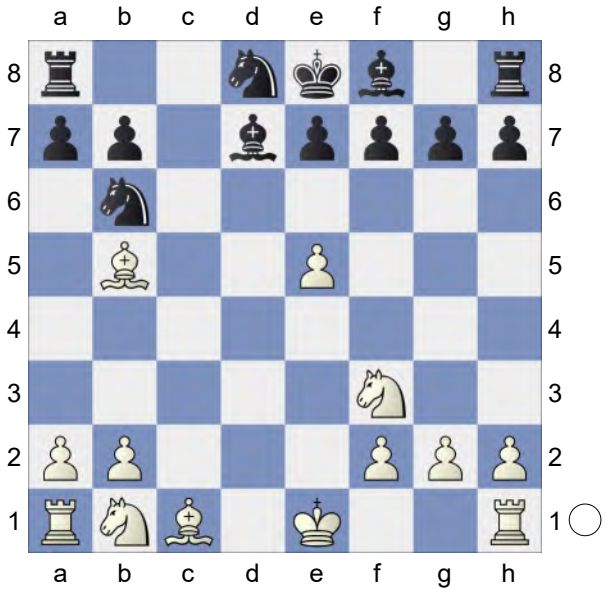
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.36
1-0

56 **B22**
□ **Jenna Raine** **2837**
■ **Wollongong2021** **3053**
Blitz 25.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 d6

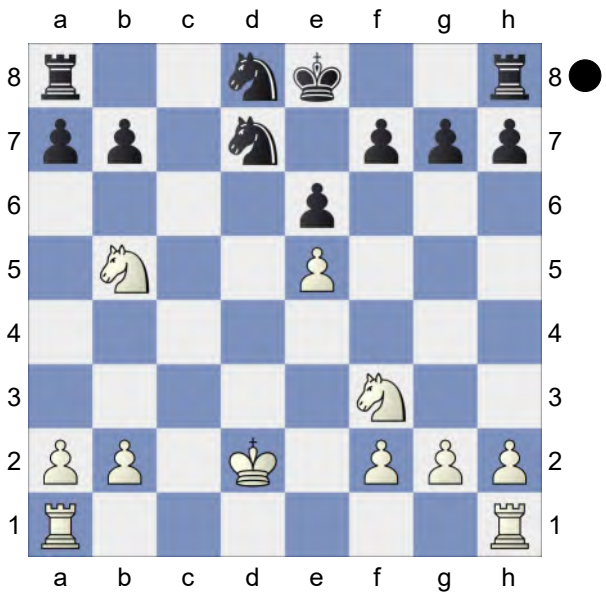


6.cxd4 dxe5 7.dxe5 Nc6 8.Bc4 Nb6
[8...Ndb4 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Na3 a6 11.0-0 Bg4 12.Nd4 e6 13.Be3 Ndc6 14.Nxc6 Nxc6 15.f4 Bxa3 16.bxa3 0-0 17.Bb6 Rfc8 18.Rac1 Ne7 19.Bb3 h5 20.Rc5 Ng6 21.g3 Rxc5 22.Bxc5 Rd8 23.Bb4 ½-½ (52) 4 Nxe4 Nd7: Mainline (2268)-21.Qc4 (2545) 77/71 Gladenbach 1999 (5)]
9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Bb5+N Black is weak on the dark squares
[10.Bb3 g6 11.Nc3 Bg7 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.0-0 Bg4 14.e6 Bxe6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Rac1 h6 17.Bh4 Kf7 18.b3 Rac8 19.Ne4 Nb4 20.a4 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8 Nxc8 23.Bg3 Nd3 24.Bc7 Ke8 0-1 (40) Delaplace,T (2596)-4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2758) 40/635 Dortmund 1985 (4) 25.g4 Kd7 26.Bg3 Nd6 27.Ned2 e5 28.Kf1 e4 29.Ne1 Bc3 30.Ndf3 Ke6 31.Nxd3 exd3 32.Bf4 h5 33.gxh5 gxh5 34.Bd2 Bxd2 35.Nxd2 Kd5 36.Ke1 Kd4 37.Kd1 Ne4 38.Nf3+ Kc3 39.Ke1 d2+ 0-1 Delaplace,T (25 T (2596)-4.d4 ♘f6 5. ♗c4 (2758) 40/635 Dortmund 1985 (4)]
10...Bd7

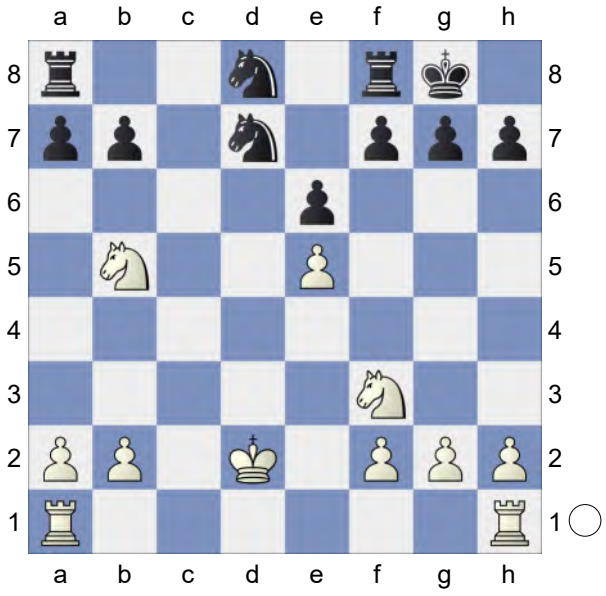


White has an edge. **11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.Nc3 e6 13.Nb5 Bb4+ 14.Bd2** 0.01/22
[14.Ke2± 0.45/22 is superior. Rc8 15.Be3]
14...Bxd2+= 15.Kxd2

(Diagram)



Strongly threatening Nc7+. **15...0-0**

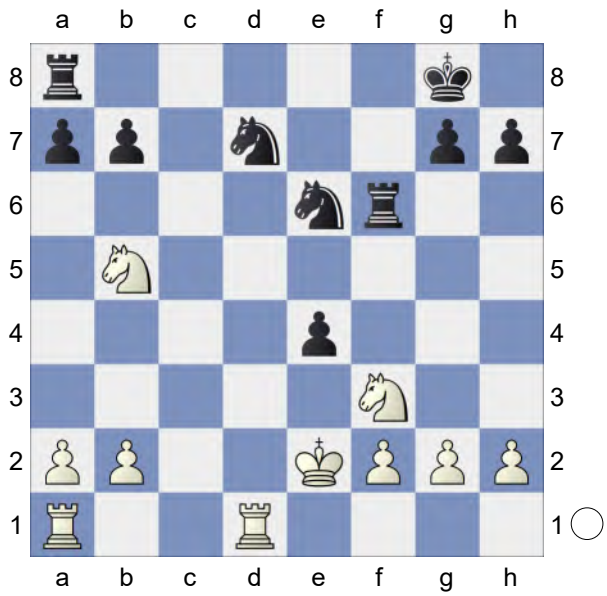


16.Nbd4 f6 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Ke2 e5 19.Nb5 -0.57/20

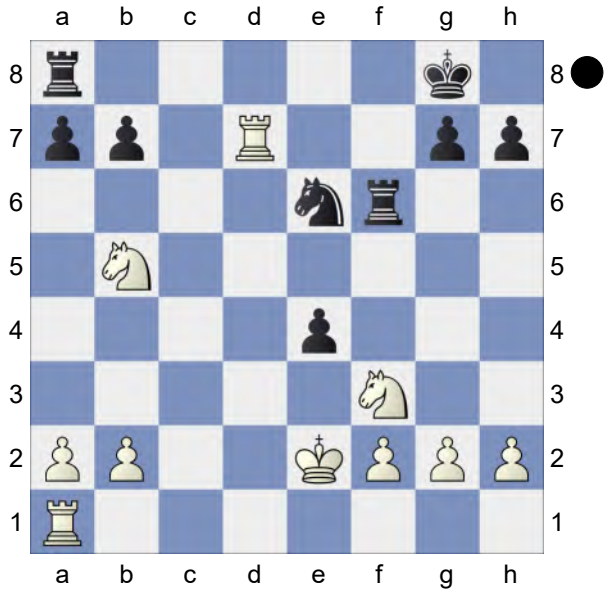
[19.Nb3= -0.11/18 might be stronger.]

19...Ne6 Threatening ...e4. **20.Rhd1 e4**

(Diagram)

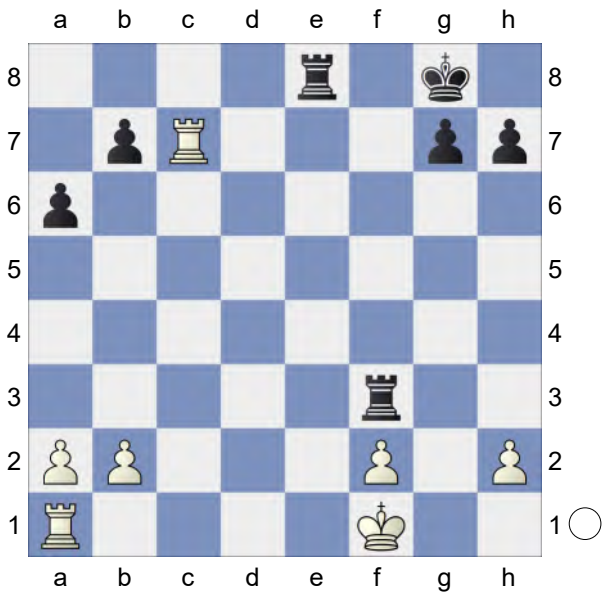


21.Rxd7

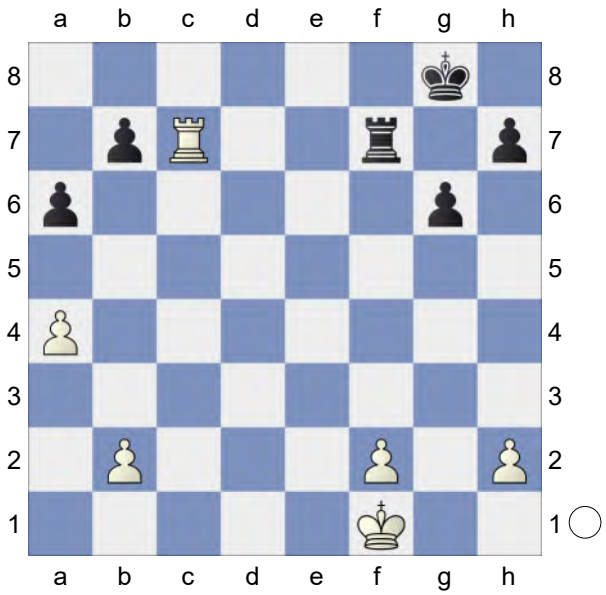


Nd2 would now be deadly. **21...exf3+ 22.gxf3 a6 23.Nc7 Nxc7 24.Rxc7** Endgame. KRR-KRR **24...Re8+! 25.Kf1 Rxf3**

(Diagram)



26.Re1 Ref8 27.Re2 R3f7 28.Rec2 g6 29.a4 Rxc7 30.Rxc7 Rf7



31.Rxf7 Kxf7 KP-KP **32.Ke2 Ke6 33.Ke3 Ke5 34.f4+ Kd5** 0.44/23

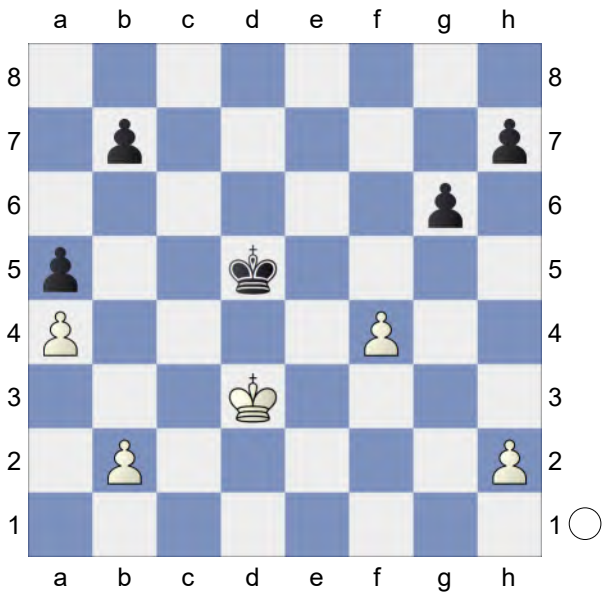
[34...Kf5= 0.01/21 35.a5 Kg4]

35.Kd3 -0.01/21

[35.a5± 0.44/23]

35...a5

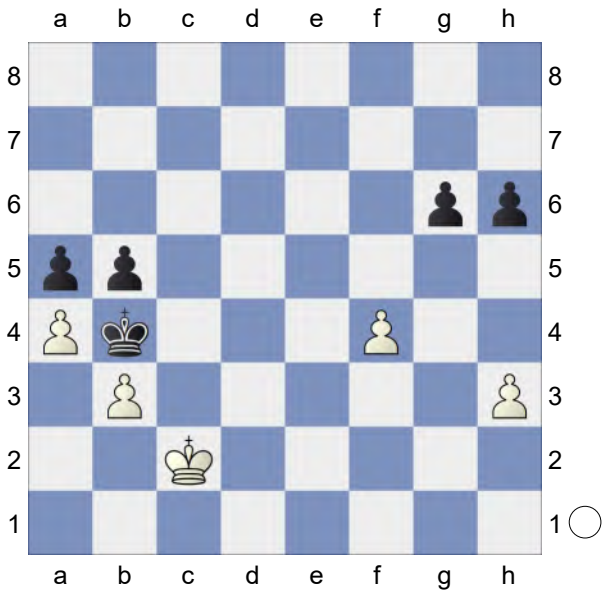
(Diagram)



36.h3 b6 37.b3 Kc5 38.Kc3 h6 39.Kd3!

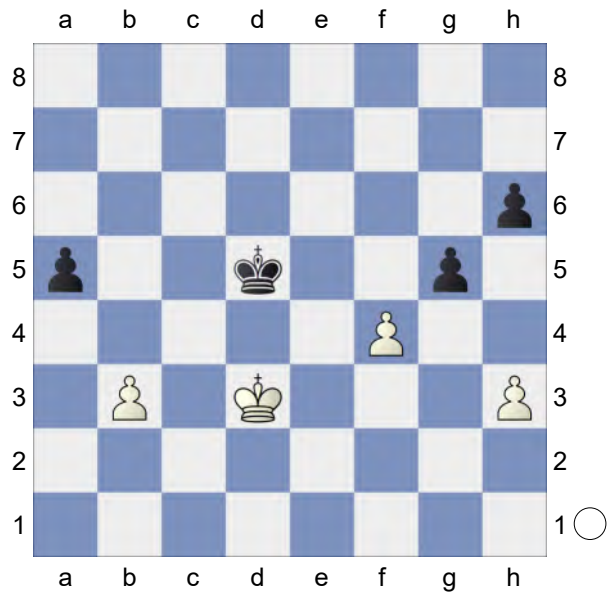
[39.h4? Kd5 40.Kd3 Ke6∓]

39...Kb4 40.Kc2 b5



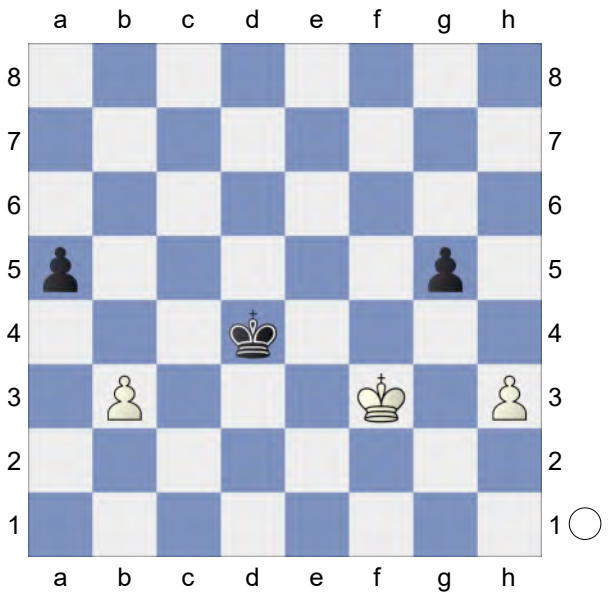
41.axb5 Kxb5 K3P-K3P **42.Kd3 Kb4 43.Kc2 Kc5 44.Kc3 Kd5 45.Kd3 g5**

(Diagram)

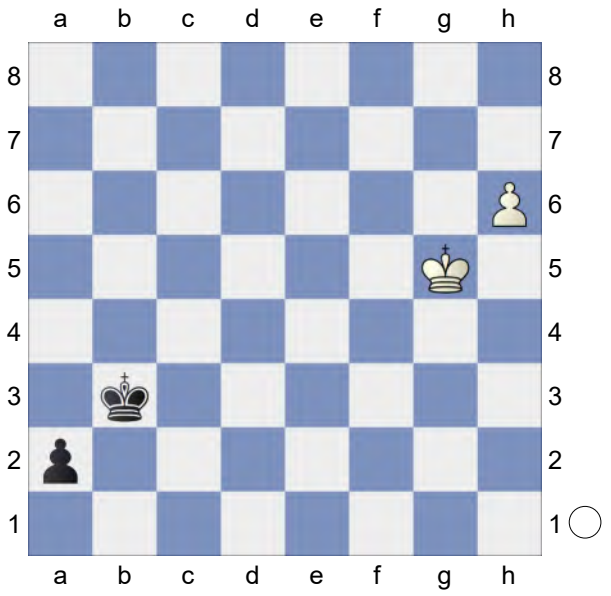


46.fxg5 hxg5 KPP-KPP **47.Ke3?** -19.14/29
[47.Kc3= -0.01/33]
47...Kc5? -0.01/33
[Black should try 47...Ke5-+ -19.14/29 48.Kd3 Kf4 49.Kc4 Kg3 50.Kb5 Kxh3 51.Kxa5 g4 52.b4 g3 53.b5 g2 54.b6 g1Q *(54...g1B 55.b7=)* 55.Ka6 Qa1+ 56.Kb7 Kg4 57.Kc8 Qa8+ 58.Kc7 Kf5 59.b7 Qa7 60.Kc6 Ke5 61.b8R Qxb8 62.Kc5 Qc7+ 63.Kb4 Kd4 64.Kb3 Qc3+ 65.Ka4 Qb2 66.Ka5 Kc5 67.Ka6 Qb6#]
48.Kd3! Kd5
[48...Kb4!? 49.Kc2□ Kc5=]
49.Ke3 Ke5 50.Kf3 Kd4

(Diagram)

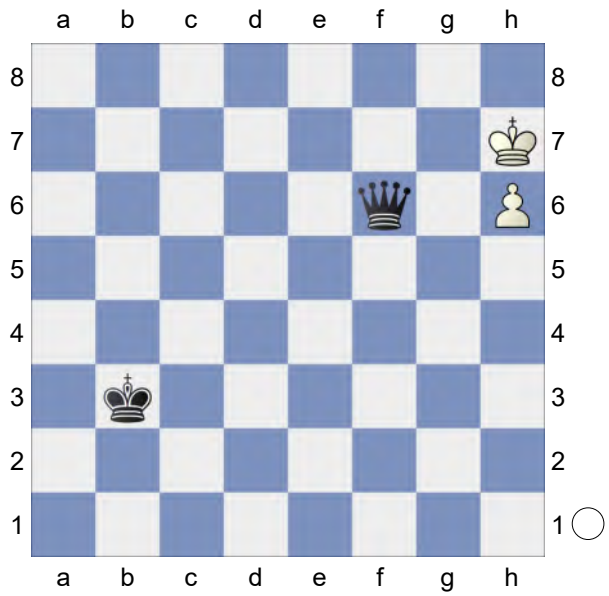


Black mates. **51.Kg4 Kc3 52.Kxg5 Kxb3** KP-KP **53.h4 a4 54.h5 a3 55.h6 a2**



56.Kg6 a1Q
[Not 56...a1B 57.h7=]
57.Kh7 Qf6

(Diagram)

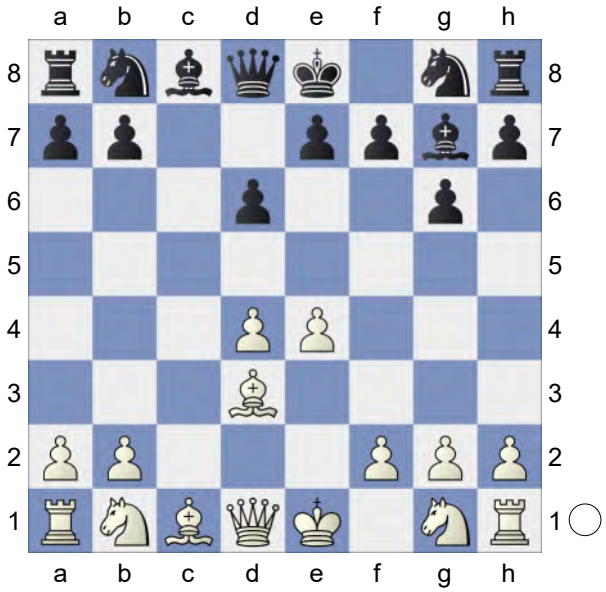


Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.22 (precise)

0-1

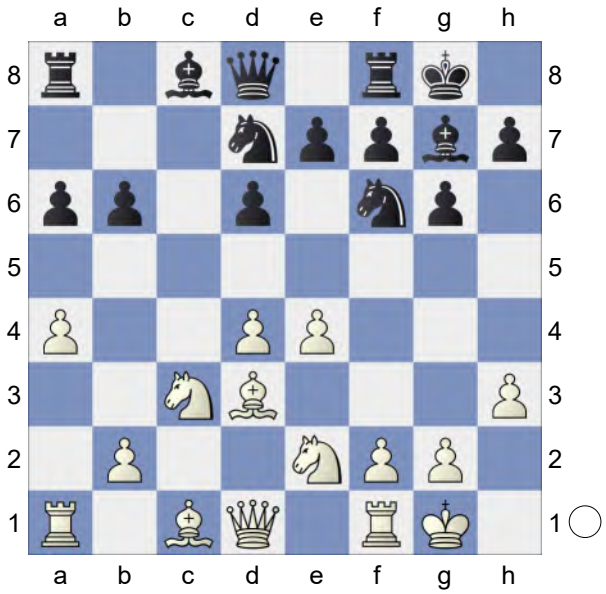
57 **B22**
□ **Chessed70** **2836**
■ **Jurgensanchez97** **2788**
Blitz 03.04.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 g6 5.Bd3 Bg7

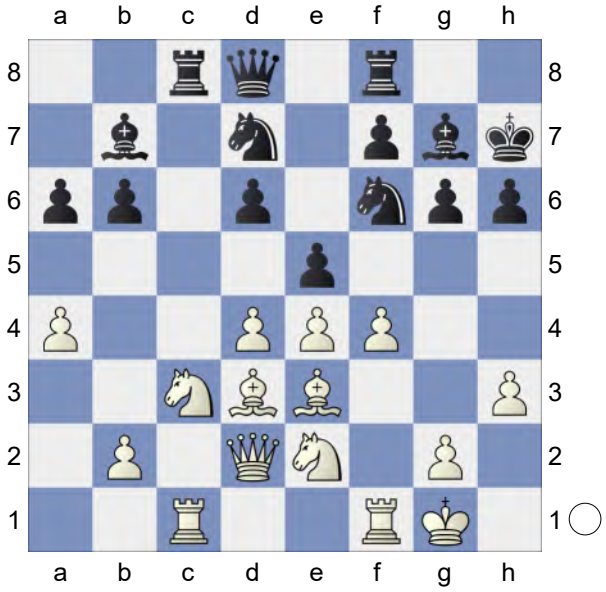


6.Ne2 Nf6 7.Nbc3 0-0 8.0-0 a6N
[8...e5 9.Kh1 Ng4 10.h3 exd4 11.Nb5 Ne5 12.Nbxd4 Nbc6 13.Bb5 Qh4 14.f4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxh3 16.Qe1 Qh5 17.gxh3 Qxh3+ 18.Kg1 Ng4 0-1 De Vita,I-Zoldan,M Verona op 1997]
9.a4 Nbd7 10.h3 b6

(Diagram)

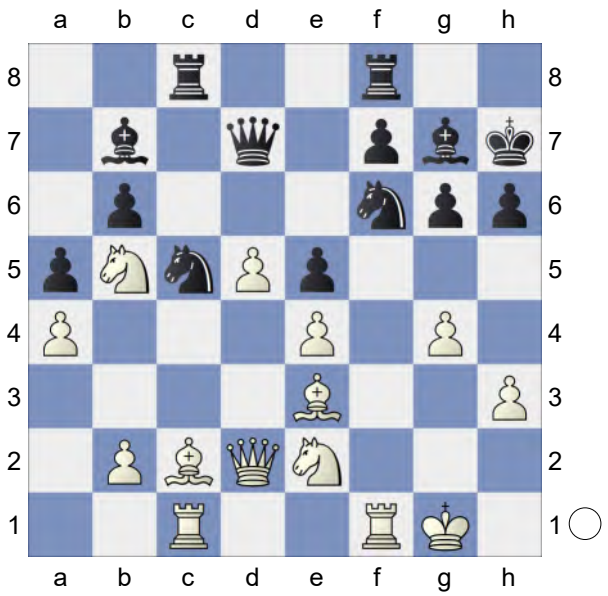


11.Bg5 White is slightly better. **11...Bb7**
12.Rc1 White is more active. **12...h6**
13.Be3 Rc8 14.Qd2 Kh7 15.f4 0.47/19
[15.b4± 0.86/16]
15...e5±

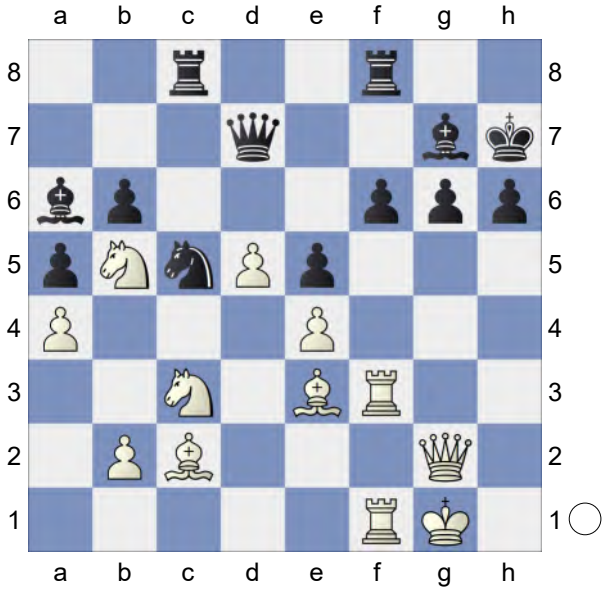


16.fxe5 dxe5 17.d5 Nc5 18.Bc2
Prevents Nb3. **18...Qd6 19.g4 a5 20.Nb5 Qd7**

(Diagram)

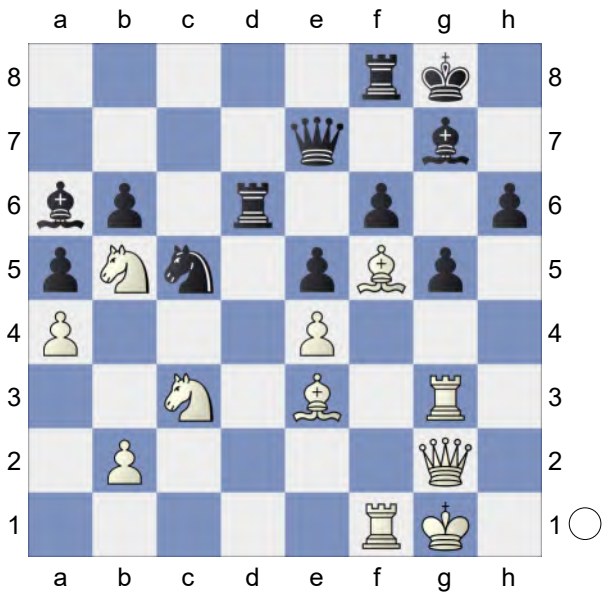


21.Nec3 Ba6 22.Rf3
[22.Qg2 simplifies Ne8 23.Rf3 Nd6 24.Nxd6 Qxd6 25.Qf2]
22...Nxg4? 2.25/21 **23.hxg4+- Qxg4+ 24.Qg2 Qd7 25.Rcf1 f6** 3.68/20
[⌓25...Rcd8 2.46/17 26.Kh1 Rde8]



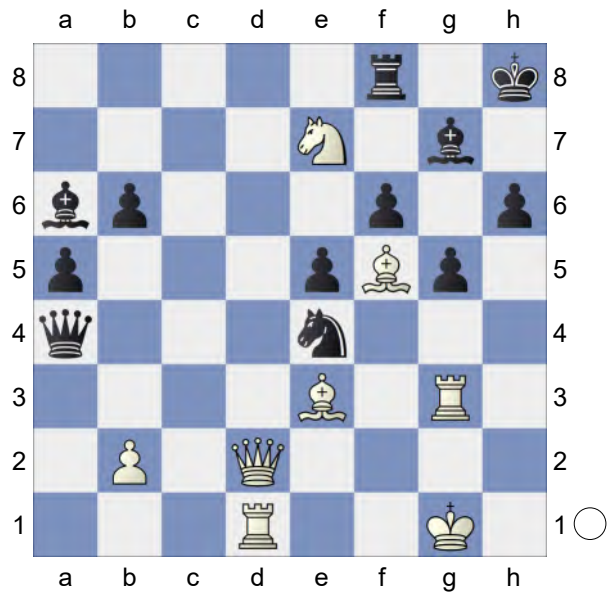
26.Rg3 g5 27.Bd1 Rcd8 28.Bg4 Qe7 29.Bf5+ Kg8 30.d6 Rxd6

(Diagram)



31.Nxd6 Qxd6 4.36/22
[31...Bxf1 3.09/23 was necessary. 32.Qd2 *(32.Qxf1 Qxd6 33.Qc4+ Kh8+-)* 32...Ba6 33.Qd5+ Kh8 34.Bxc5 bxc5]
32.Rd1 Qc6 33.Nd5 Qxa4 34.Qd2
[34.Nxb6 Qxd1+ 35.Kh2 Nd3∓ *(35...Bf1? 36.Qd2-+)*]
34...Nxe4 #18/19
[34...Kh8+- 4.50/19 35.Ne7 *(35.Nxb6 Qb5+-)* 35...Nd3 36.Ng6+ *(36.Bxb6 Nf4+-)* 36...Kg8 37.Bxb6 Qb5 38.Rxd3 *(38.Qxd3 Qxb6+ 39.Qe3 Qxe3+ 40.Rxe3 Rf7+-; 38.Qxa5 Nf4+-)* 38...Qxb6+ 39.Qe3 Qxe3+ 40.Rxe3 Bc8 41.Bxc8 *(41.Nxf8 Bxf8 42.Rc3 Bxf5+-)* 41...Rxc8 42.Ne7+ Kf7 43.Nxc8 Bf8 44.Nd6+ *(44.Rd7+ Ke6+-)* 44...Kg6]
35.Ne7+ Kh8

(Diagram)



36.Ng6+ Kg8 37.Qd5+ Rf7 38.Qxe4?? -5.09/20

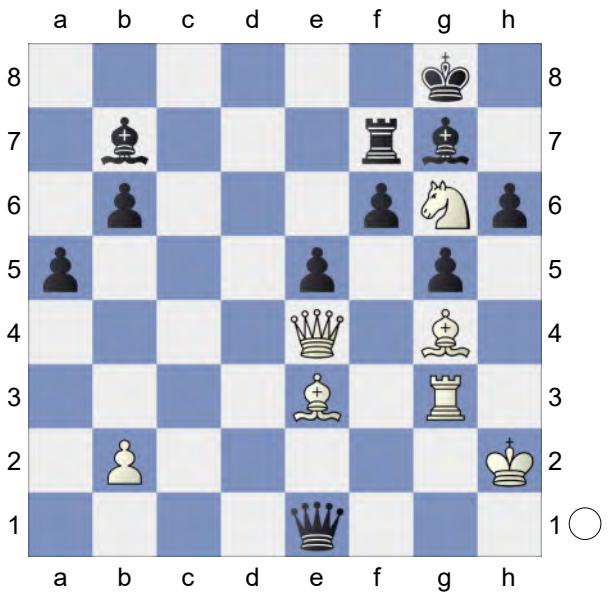
[38.Ne7+ #9/18 avoids the disaster. Kh8 39.Qxf7 Qxd1+ 40.Kh2 *(40.Kg2 Qe2+ 41.Kh3 Nf2+ 42.Bxf2 Qf1+ 43.Kh2 Qxf2+ 44.Rg2 Qf4+ 45.Kh1 Qf1+ 46.Kh2 Qf4+ 47.Kh1 Qf1+ 48.Kh2 Qf4+=)* 40...Qe2+ 41.Rg2 Qh5+ 42.Qxh5 Nd6 43.Qg6 *(43.Bxb6 Bc4 44.Qg6 Bg8 45.Rd2 Nxf5 46.Nxf5 Bf8 47.Bd8 Bh7 48.Bxf6+ Bg7 49.Qxg7#; 43.Ng6+ Kg8 44.Be6+ Kh7 45.Ne7 Kh8 46.Rd2 g4 47.Rxd6 g3+ 48.Kxg3 Bd3 49.Qe8+ Bf8 50.Qxf8+ Kh7 51.Qxh6#)* 43...Nxf5 44.Qe8+ Bf8 45.Qxf8+ Kh7 46.Qg8#]

38...Qxd1+-+ 39.Kh2 Bb7 40.Bg4 -10.34/23

[⌓40.Qb1 -5.20/20 Qh5+ 41.Bh3]

40...Qe1

(Diagram)

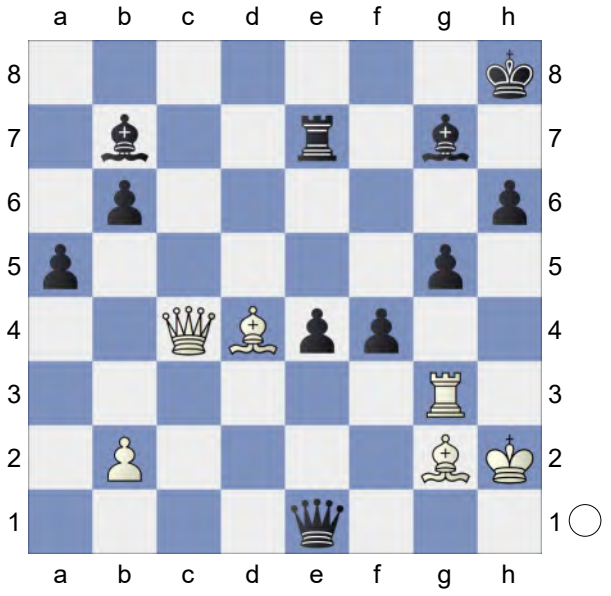


41.Ne7+ Rxe7 42.Qc4+ Kh8 43.Bf3 Dodges Qh1+ **43...e4 44.Bg2 f5** (-> ...Be5) **45.Bd4** -10.54/22

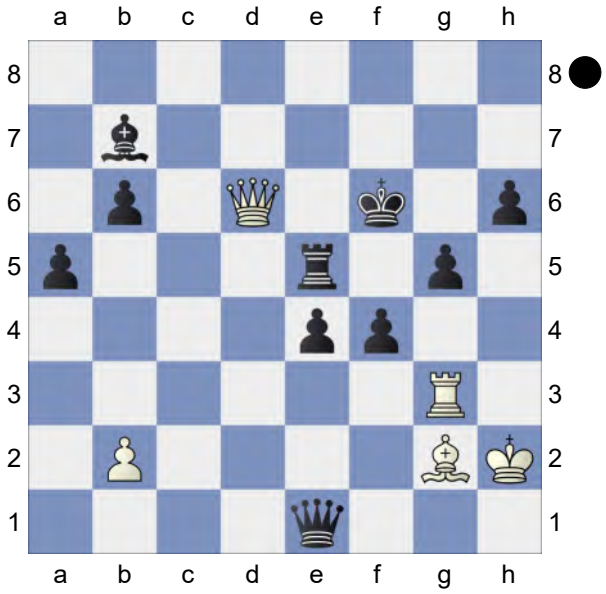
[⌓45.Bxg5 -4.91/21 b5 *(45...hxg5? 46.Rh3+∓; 45...Be5? 46.Bf6+* Deflection *Rg7 47.Bxe5+-* Pin *)* 46.Qc5]

45...f4? -1.40/22

[45...Qb4-+ -10.54/22 has better winning chances. 46.Qxb4 axb4 47.Bxb6 Be5 Pin *(47...Bxb2? 48.Rb3-+)*]

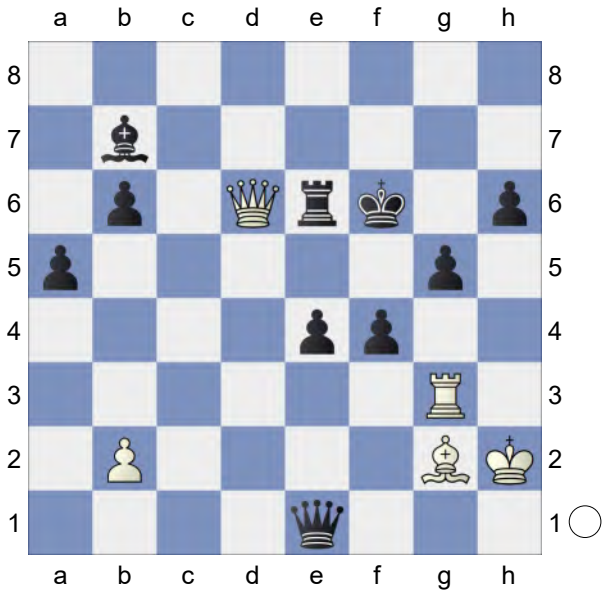


46.Bxg7+?? -5.64/21
[46.Rh3∓ -1.40/22 Kh7 47.Bxg7 Remove Defender]
46...Kxg7
[46...Rxg7 47.Rh3 Qb4 *(47...Kh7 48.Qe6=)* 48.Qe6∓]
47.Qd4+ Kf7 48.Qc4+? -12.47/22
[48.Rh3 -3.05/20 Qb4 49.Qh8]
48...Kf6 49.Qd4+ Re5? -0.01/19
[49...Kf5-+ -7.61/20 50.Bh3+ Kg6 51.Qxb6+ Kf7]
50.Qd6+ -0.86/24
[50.Qd8+!= -0.01/19 was the only way to keep the balance. Kf7 51.Rb3]



50...Re6!∓

(Diagram)



51.Qf8+ Ke5 52.Qg7+! Kd5 0.01/22
[52...Kd6∓ -0.75/23 53.Rc3 Qh4+ 54.Kg1 f3 55.Qc7+ Kd5 56.Qxb7+ Ke5 57.Qc7+ Rd6 58.Qe7+ Re6 59.Qg7+ Kf4 *(59...Kf5 60.Qf7+ Ke5 61.Qc7+ Kf5 62.Qf7+ Rf6 63.Qd7+ Ke5 64.Qc7+ Rd6 65.Qe7+ Re6 66.Qc7+=)* 60.Qf8+ Ke5 61.Qg7+ Kf5 62.Qf7+ Rf6 63.Qd7+ Ke5 *(63...Kf4 64.Bxf3 Qe1+ 65.Kg2=)* 64.Qc7+ Kf5 65.Qd7+ Ke5 *(65...Kf4 66.Bxf3 Qe1+ 67.Kg2=)* 66.Qc7+ Kf5 67.Bxf3 Qe1+ *(67...exf3 68.Qd7+ Ke5 69.Qb5+ Kf4 70.Rc4+ Kg3 71.Rxh4±)* 68.Kh2 Qf2+ *(68...exf3 69.Rxf3+ Kg6 70.Qc2+ Kh5 71.Rh3+ Kg4 72.Qc4+ Kf5 73.Qd3+ Kg4 74.Rg3+ Kh5 75.Rh3+ Kg4 76.Rg3+ Kh5 77.Rh3+ Kg4=)* 69.Bg2 Qf4+ *(69...Qxb2? 70.Qh7+ Rg6 71.Qf7+ Rf6 72.Qd5+ Kg6 73.Qxe4+ Kg7 74.Qe7+ Rf7 75.Qe5+ Kh7 76.Qe4+ Kh8 77.Qd4+ Kh7 78.Kg3+-)* 70.Kg1 Qxc7 71.Rxc7 h5]
53.Qxb7+ Rc6? 9.22/23
[53...Ke5= -0.01/21 54.Qg7+ Rf6 55.Qc7+ Kf5 56.Qd7+ Kg6 57.Qe8+

Kg7]

54.Qd7+? 0.01/23

[Better is 54.Rd3++- 9.22/23 Kc5 55.Rc3+ Skewer Qxc3 56.bxc3]

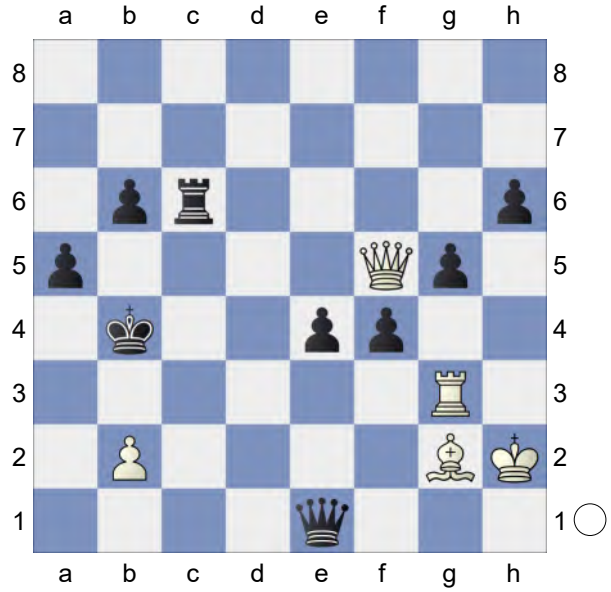
54...Kc5? 11.57/23

[54...Ke5= 0.01/23 55.Rb3 f3 56.Qg7+ *(56.Qxc6 Qh4+ 57.Kg1 Qe1+ 58.Kh2 Qh4+ 59.Kg1 Qe1+ 60.Kh2=)* 56...Kd6 57.Qd4+ *(57.Qxh6+ Kc7∓)* 57...Ke7 *(57...Kc7 58.Qe5+ Kc8 59.Rxf3=* Pin *)* 58.Qg7+ Kd6 59.Qf8+ *(59.Qxh6+ Kc7∓)* 59...Ke5 60.Qe8+ Kd4 61.Qd7+ *(61.Qxc6 Qh4+ 62.Kg1 Qe1+ 63.Kh2 Qh4+ 64.Bh3 Qf2+ 65.Kh1 Qe1+ 66.Kh2 Qd2+ 67.Kg1 Qd1+ 68.Bf1 Qxb3=)* 61...Ke5 62.Qg7+ *(62.Qxc6 Qh4+ 63.Kg1 Qe1+ 64.Bf1 Qg3+ 65.Kh1 Qh4+ 66.Kg1 Qg4+ 67.Kf2 Qh4+ 68.Kg1 Qg3+ 69.Kh1 Qh4+ 70.Kg1=)* 62...Kd6]

55.Qf5+? -0.01/21

[White must play 55.Rc3++- 11.57/23 Qxc3 56.bxc3]

55...Kb4=



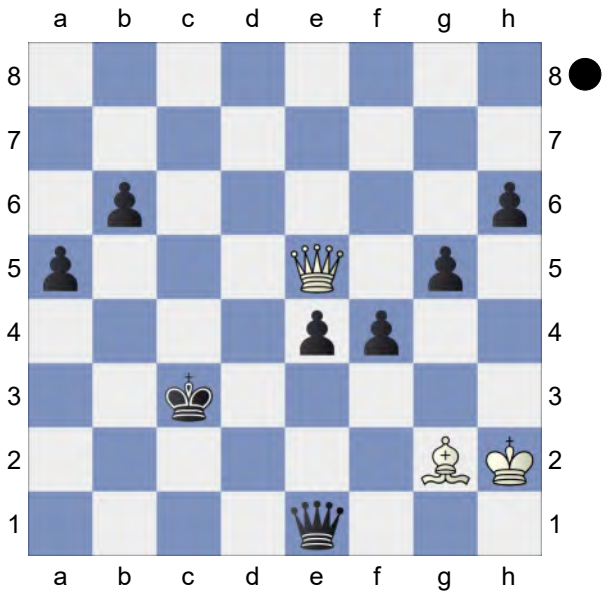
56.Rc3 -4.01/21

[56.Ra3= 0.01/23 f3 57.Qf8+ Rc5 58.Qd6]

56...Rxc3-+ 57.bxc3+ Kxc3 -1.76/20

[⌓57...Ka3 -4.20/20 58.Bxe4 Qg3+ *(58...Qxc3 59.Kh1∓)* 59.Kh1 g4 *(59...Qxc3 60.Bd3∓)*]

58.Qe5+



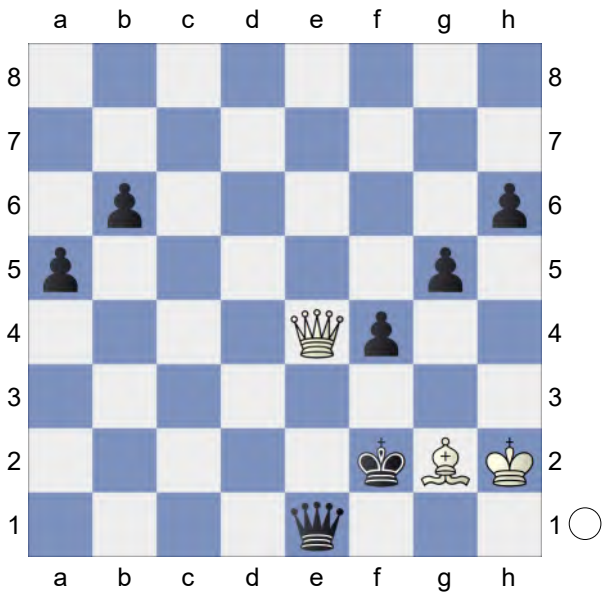
Kd2 0.01/22

[58...Kb4!∓ -1.24/19 aiming for ...f3. 59.Qd6+ *(59.Qxe4+?* loses. *Qxe4 60.Bxe4 a4-+)* 59...Ka4 60.Qxb6 f3 61.Bxf3 Qh4+ *(61...exf3? 62.Qc6+ Kb4 63.Qxf3∓)* 62.Kg2 exf3+ 63.Kxf3 h5]

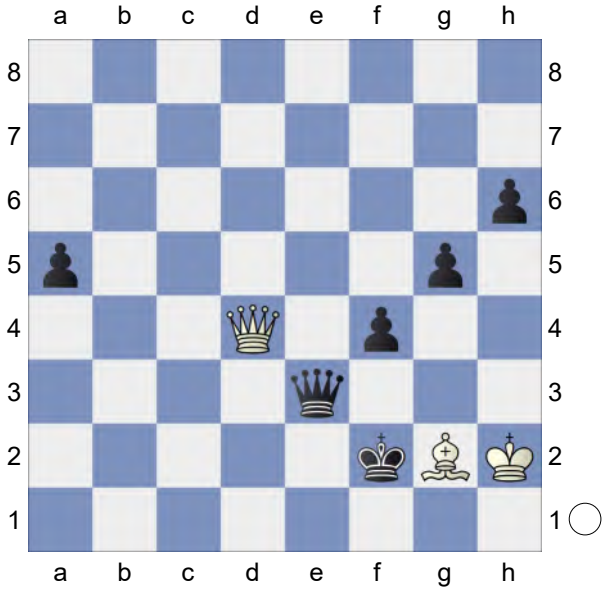
59.Qd4+= Ke2 60.Qxe4+ Kf2? #1/6

[60...Kd1= -0.01/19 61.Qb1+ Ke2 62.Qb5+ Kd2]

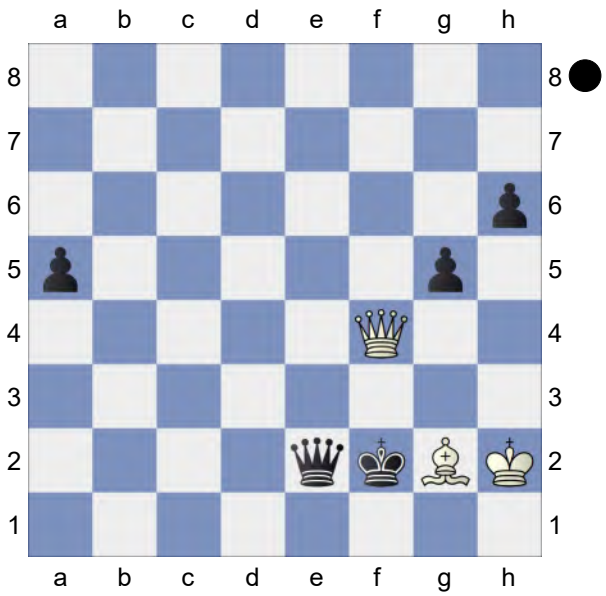
(Diagram)



61.Qd4+? -0.01/24
[61.Qf3# #1/6]
61...Qe3 62.Qb2+ Qe2 63.Qxb6+ Qe3G Black is not keeping still **64.Qb2+ Qe2 65.Qd4+ Qe3**



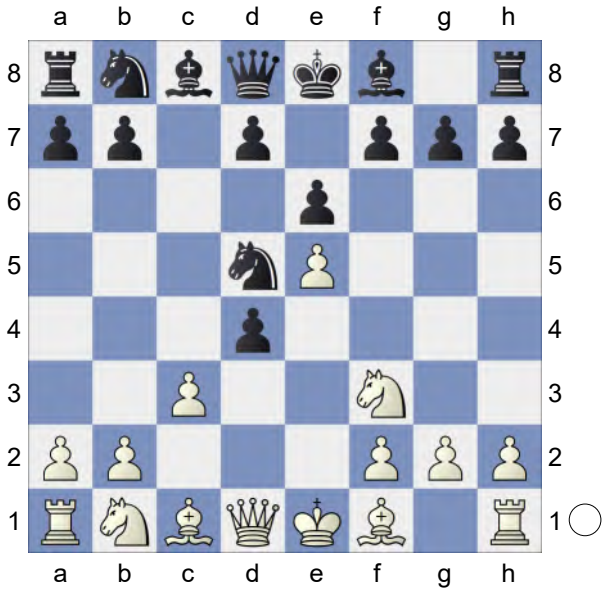
66.Qf6? -#2/6
[66.Qb2+= 0.01/20 Qe2 67.Qb1 Qh5+ 68.Bh3]
66...Qe2? -0.01/27
[66...Qg3+ -#2/6 mates 67.Kh1 Qxg2#]
67.Qxf4+? -#4/10
(Diagram)



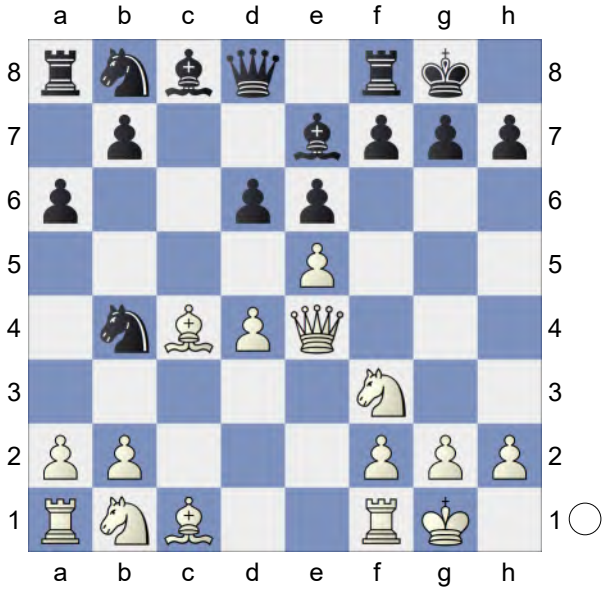
Both players deserved the win here.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/ Black=1.15. Loss on time!?
1-0

58 **B22**
□ **Edwardferrars** **2836**
■ **Vkfan2022** **2815**
Blitz 13.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4

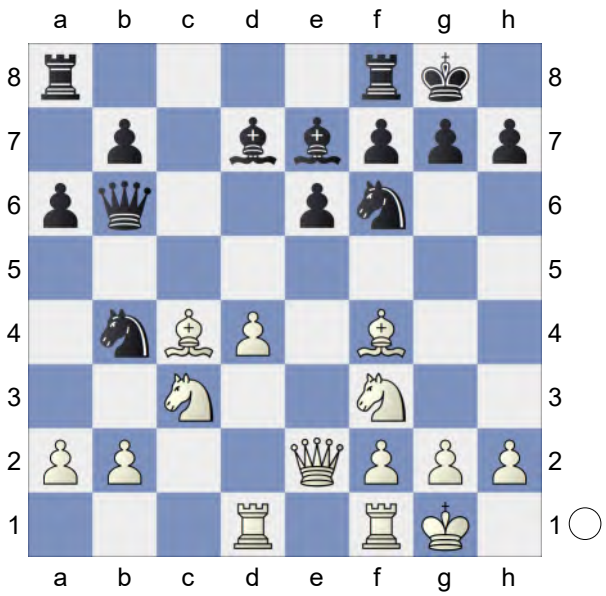


6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 a6
[9...Nc6 10.Rd1 Na5 11.Bxd5 *(11.Bd3 Nb4 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Nc3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Nc6 15.d5 Nb4 16.Qe4 f5 17.Qe2 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Bf4 Qxf4 20.Qxe7 Qe4 21.Re1 Qxe7 22.Rxe7 Rf7 23.Re8+ Rf8 24.Re7 Rf7 25.Re8+* ½-½ Godena,M (2441)-Degraeve,J (2479) Wch Seniors 50 31st 2023 (8)) 11...exd5 12.Nc3 Be6 13.Bf4 a6 14.h3 Re8 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qe5 Nc4 18.Qxd6 Nxd6 19.Ne5 f6 20.Nd3 Kf7 21.Nf4 Rad8 22.Rac1 Nf5 23.Na4 Bd7 24.Rc7 ½-½ (32) Perez Berenguer,V (2672)-Ernst,H (2785) GER-ch U10 Willingen 2005 (9.1)]
10.Qe4N The position is equal.
[10.Nc3 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rd1 22) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4. Nf3 e6-5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Be7]
10...Nb4 0.66/20
[10...dxe5= 0.15/18 11.dxe5 Qb6]

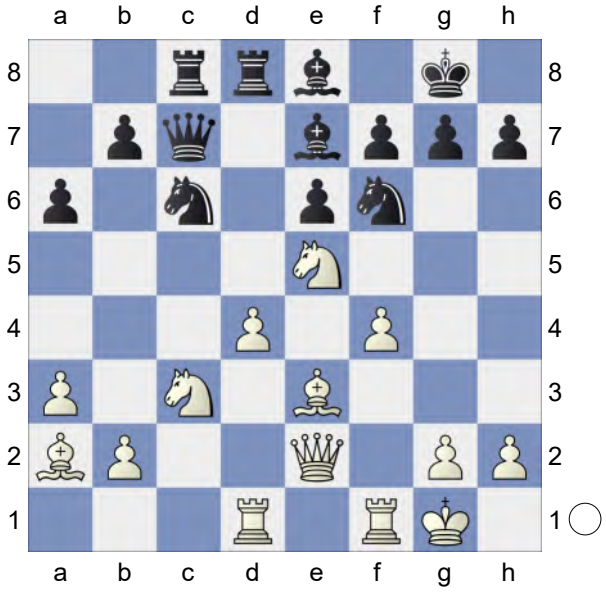


11.exd6± Qxd6 12.Nc3! Nd7 13.Bf4 Qb6 14.Rad1 0.16/20
[14.Qe2± 0.57/21 deserves consideration.]
14...Nf6= 15.Qe2 Bd7 0.99/20
[15...Qd8= 0.06/18]

(Diagram)

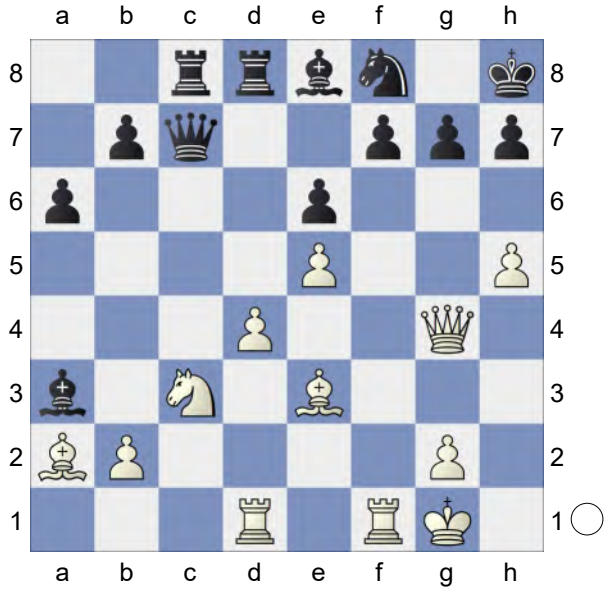


16.a3 Nc6 17.Ne5 Rfd8
[17...Nxd4? 18.Qe3+-]
18.Be3 0.14/21
[18.Nxf7!± 0.92/20 Kxf7 19.d5]
18...Qc7 19.f4 Be8 20.Ba2 Rac8



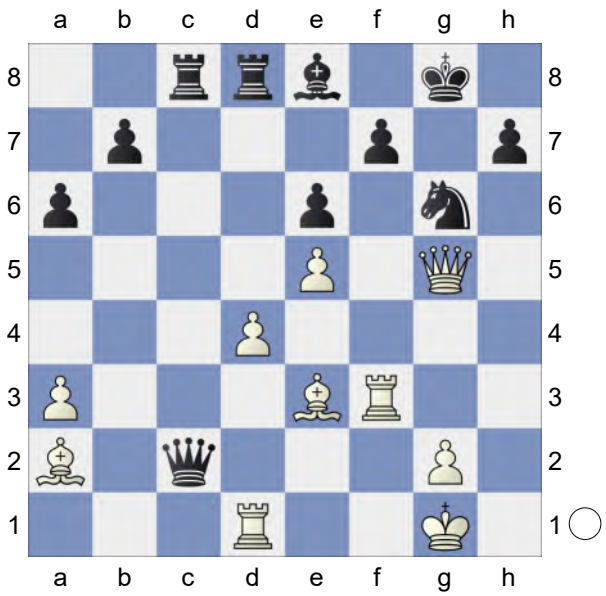
21.Qf3
[21.g4 simplifies Nxe5 22.dxe5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nd7 24.Ne4]
21...Nxe5 0.55/20
[21...Bd6= 0.01/18]
22.fxe5± Nd7 23.Qg4 Nf8 1.31/20
[Black should play 23...Qb6± 0.48/20]
24.h4→ White goes for the king.

24...Bxa3 2.22/21
[24...Kh8± 1.37/20]
25.h5+- Kh8? 3.88/23
[25...Bxb2? 26.Ne4+-]
[25...Be7± 1.57/19 was called for. 26.Bh6 g6]

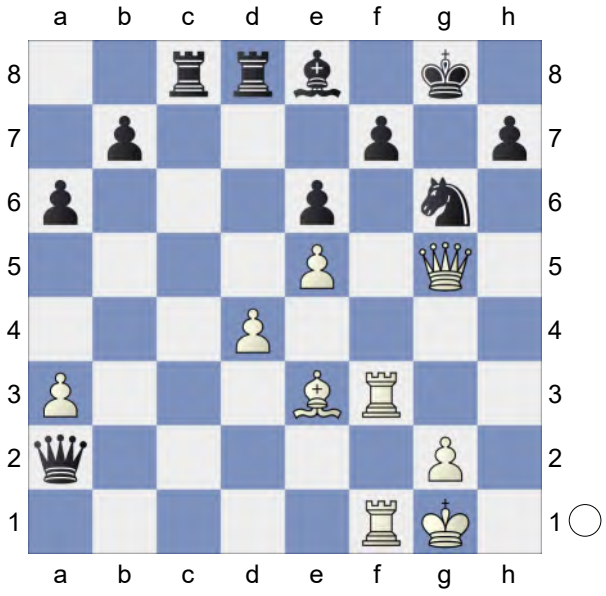


26.h6 Ng6 27.hxg7+ Kxg7 28.bxa3 Qxc3 29.Qg5 0.95/23
[29.Rf3+- 3.23/21 is more deadly. Qc2 30.Bb3 *(30.Rf2 Qa4±)* 30...Qxb3 31.Bh6+ Discovered Attack Kxh6 32.Rxb3]
29...Kg8± 30.Rf3 And now Qf6 would win. **30...Qc2?** 6.10/21
[30...Qxa3± 0.92/22 31.Rd2 Bc6]

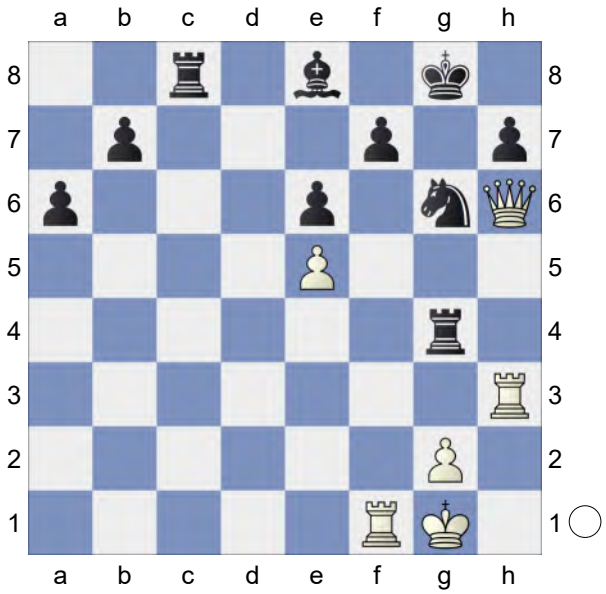
(Diagram)



31.Rdf1!+- Qxa2

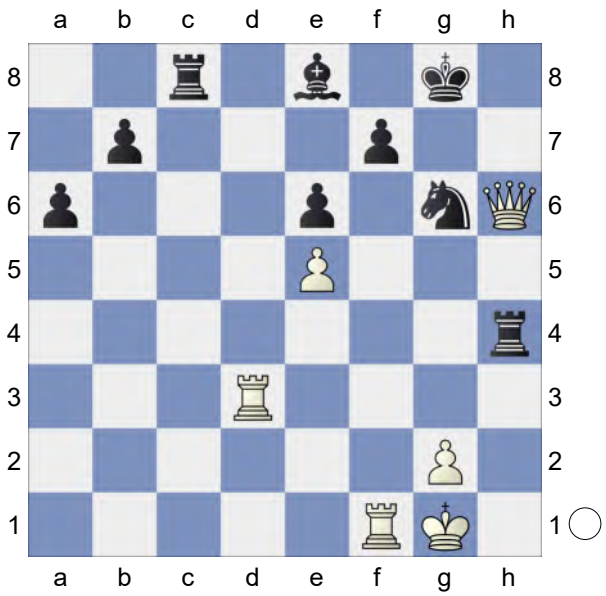


32.Qh6?? -4.63/21
[32.Qf6!+- 5.82/23 Bh6 would kill now. Qxa3 33.Bh6]
32...Qxa3? 1.13/22
[32...Rc2-+ -4.63/21 33.Rg3 Bc6 *(33...Qxa3 34.Rh3±)*]
33.Rh3± Qxe3+? 5.15/25
[33...Nf8 2.22/23]
34.Rxe3 2.09/21
[⌓34.Qxe3 5.15/25 Rc7 35.Qh6]
34...Rxd4+- 35.Rh3 Rg4? 8.39/25
[35...Nf8 2.06/24 36.Qg5+ Ng6]

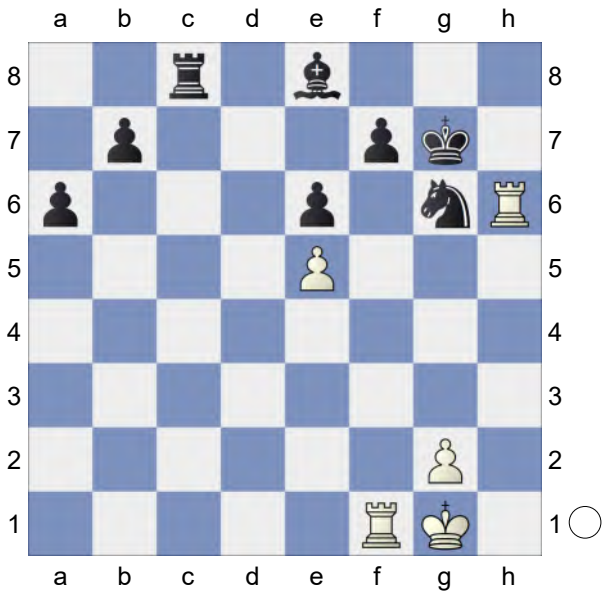


36.Qxh7+ Kf8 37.Qh6+ Kg8 38.Rd3? -0.96/24
[38.Rf6 #11/21 mates Rc1+ 39.Qxc1 Kf8 40.Qc5+ Kg7 41.Qc8 Nxe5 42.Rf2 Rc4 43.Rg3+ *(43.Qxe8 Rc1+ 44.Kh2 Ng4+ 45.Kg3 Nxf2 46.Qh8+ Kg6 47.Qh6+ Kf5 48.Qf4+ Kg6 49.Rh6+ Kg7 50.Qg5+ Kf8 51.Rh8#)* 43...Rg4 44.Qc7]
38...Rh4? 2.92/24
[38...Bb5!∓ -0.96/24 stays on course. 39.Qh3 Bxd3 *(39...Nxe5 40.Re3±; 39...Rh4 40.Qe3∓)* 40.Qxd3 b5 *(40...Nxe5 41.Qe2=; 40...Nf4? 41.Rxf4 Rc1+ 42.Kh2+-)*]

(Diagram)

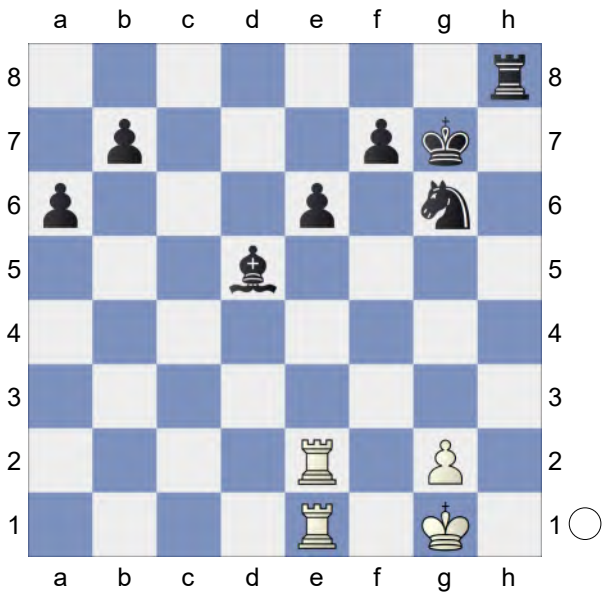


Dancing on a razor blade. **39.Rh3** -8.43/25 **Rxh6-+ 40.Rxh6 Kg7**

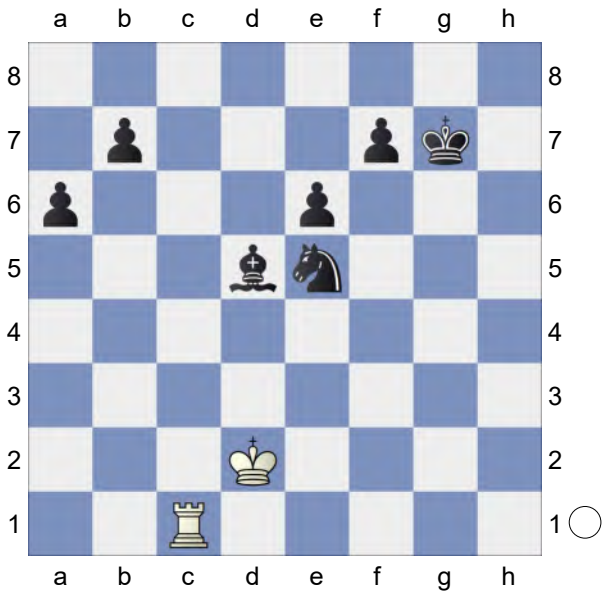


41.Rh3 Nxe5 42.Re3 Ng6 43.Ree1 Bc6 44.Rf2 Bd5 45.Rfe2 Rh8

(Diagram)



46.Rd2 Rh5 47.Kf2 Rg5 48.Rc1 Rxg2+ 49.Ke3 Rxd2 50.Kxd2 Ne5



51.Ke3 Nc4+ 52.Kd4 f5 53.Rg1+ Kf6 54.Rb1 e5+ -4.01/22

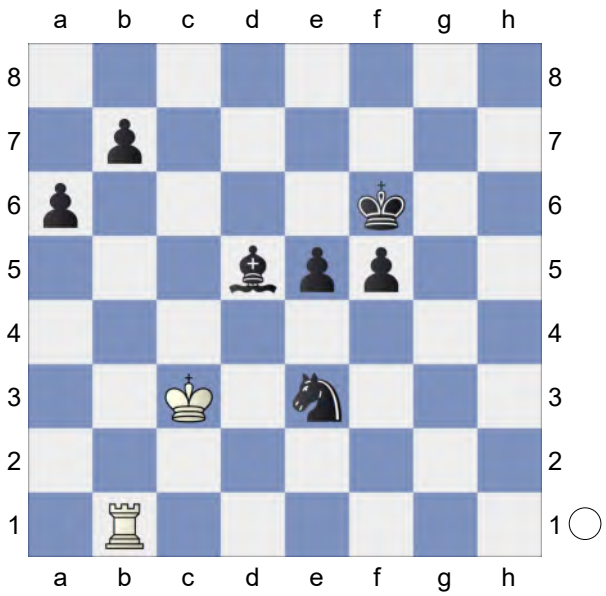
[⌓54...f4 -14.94/25 55.Rf1 e5+ 56.Kc3 a5]

55.Kc3 -18.40/23

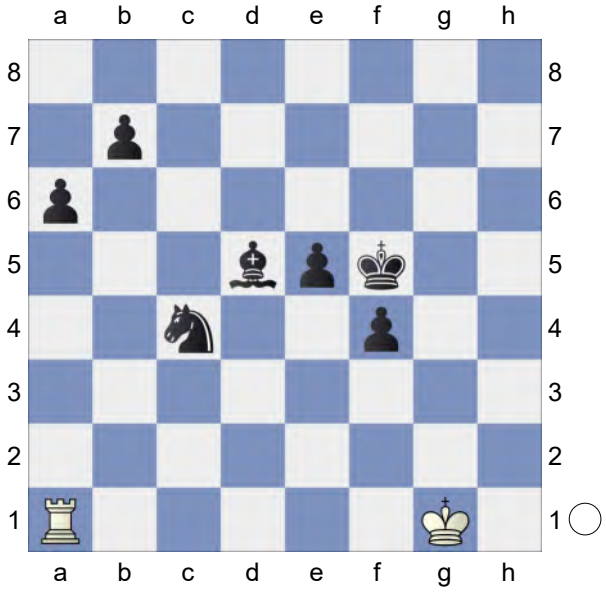
[⌓55.Kxd5 -4.01/22 b5 56.Re1]

55...Ne3

(Diagram)

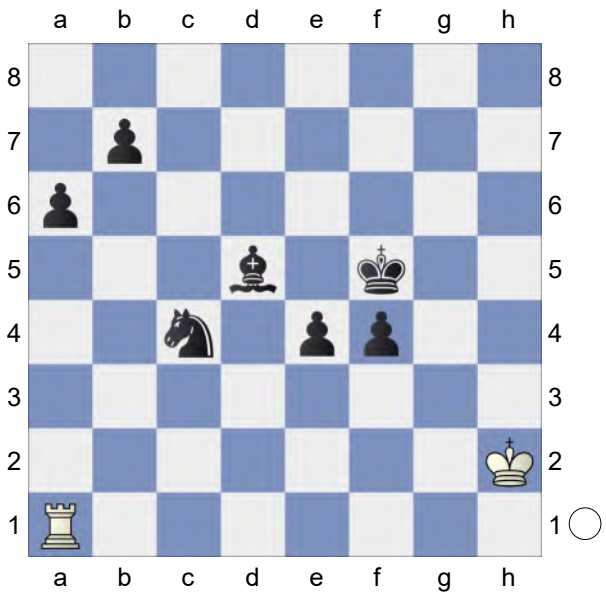


...f4 is the strong threat. Black is clearly winning. **56.Ra1 f4 57.Kd2 Kf5 58.Ke2 Ke4** Hoping for ...f3+. **59.Kf2 Nc4** ...Kd4 would now be deadly. **60.Kg1 Kf5**



Threatens to win with ...e4. **61.Kh2 e4**

(Diagram)



Never resign too early!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.72/ Black=0.96
0-1

59 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2782**
Julius Baer Rapid Div 1 W (2.3) 31.08.23
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Inf 63/(124) Inf 40/(171) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6**

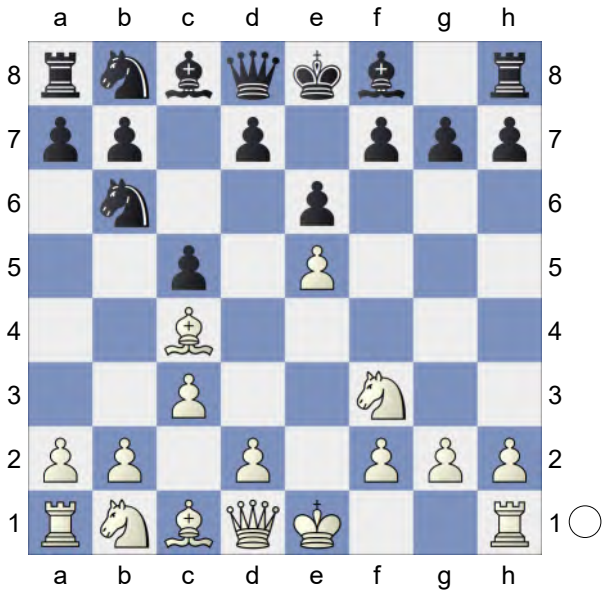
[4...Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Re1 e6 11.h3 Bh5 12.b3 Bg6 13.Ba3 Qd5 14.Bxf8 Kxf8 15.Na3 Rd8 16.bxc4 Nxc4 17.Bb3 Bd3 18.Nxc4 Bxc4 19.d4 (45) Nunn,J (2605)-Anand,V (2715) Monaco (rapid) 1994]

5.Bc4N

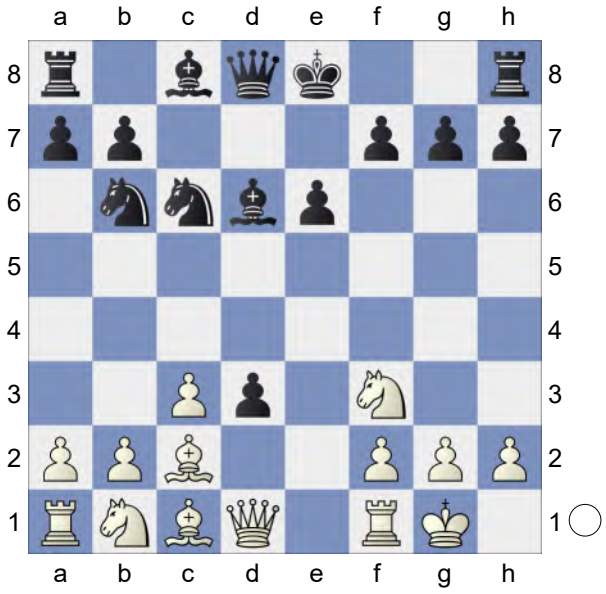
[5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 *(6...Nc6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 d6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Qe2 a6 11.Bd3 Qa5 12.Bd2 dxe5 13.c4 Bb4 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Bxd2+ 16.Ke2 Qxe5+ 17.Nxe5 Bc3 18.Nxd7 Kxd7 19.Rab1 Rab8 20.Rb3 Bd4 21.Rhb1* ½-½ (53) Wang,Y (1186)-Mohd Tarmizi,N (1479) World ol U16 2023 (3.30)*; 6...b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nd2 d6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Qg4 g6 14.Nc4 Qd5 15.Bh6* Smagin,S-Velikov,P Naleczow Naleczow 40/(171) 1985*)* 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Nc3 dxe5 11.dxe5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd2 Bd7 14.Rfe1 Rfd8 15.Rab1 Rab8 16.Qe4 Be8 17.Ng5 g6 18.Qh4 h5 19.Qf4 Rxd2 1-0 (49) Sofronie,I (2502)-Miller,B (2627) APCT 1994 (1.6)]

5...Nb6

(Diagram)

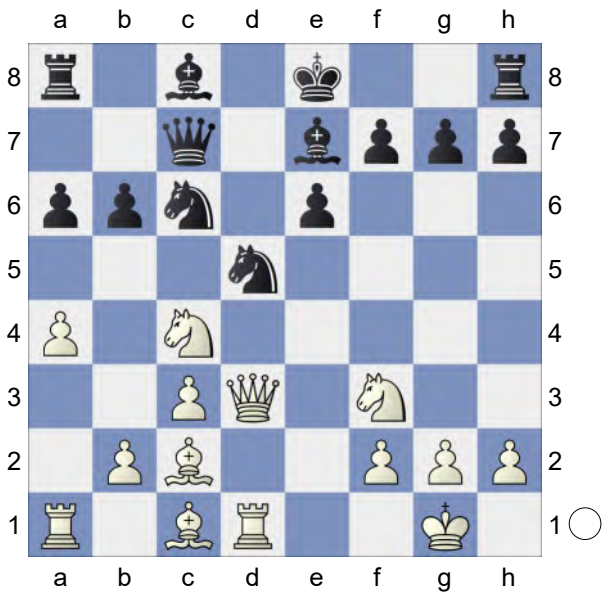


6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.0-0 Nc6 White is slightly better. **10.d4 cxd3**

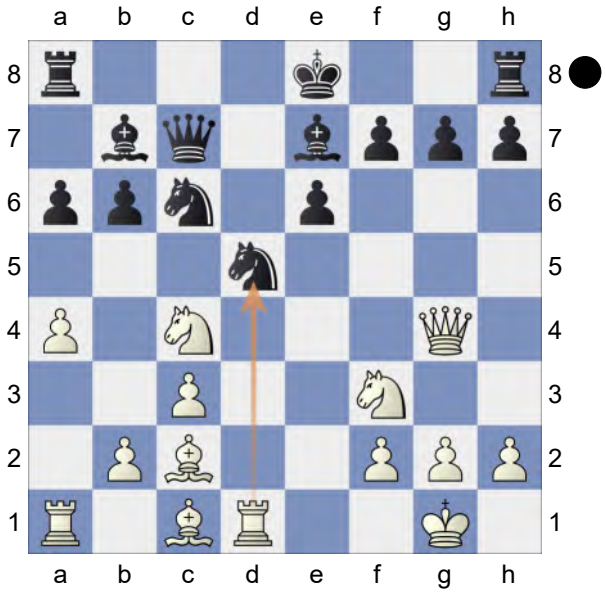


11.Qxd3 Qc7 12.Rd1 Be7 13.Na3 a6 Prevents Nb5. **14.Nc4 Nd5** Repels Bf4 **15.a4 b6**

(Diagram)

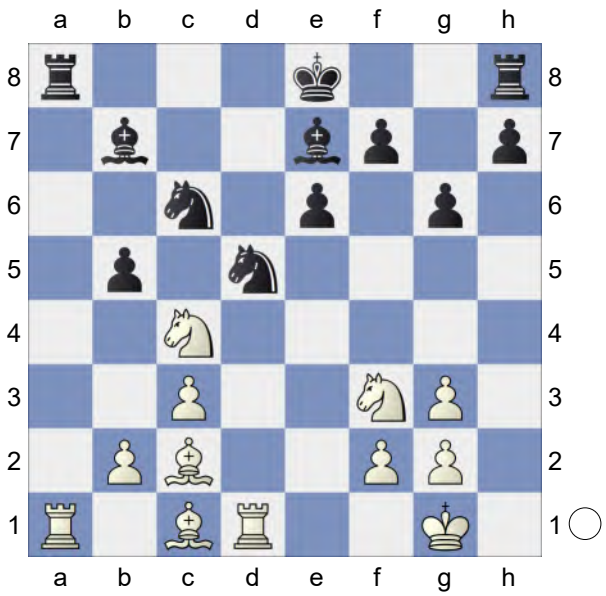


16.Qe4 Bb7 17.Qg4



Rxd5! would now be deadly. **17...g6 18.Qg3 Qxg3 19.hxg3 b5! 20.axb5 axb5**

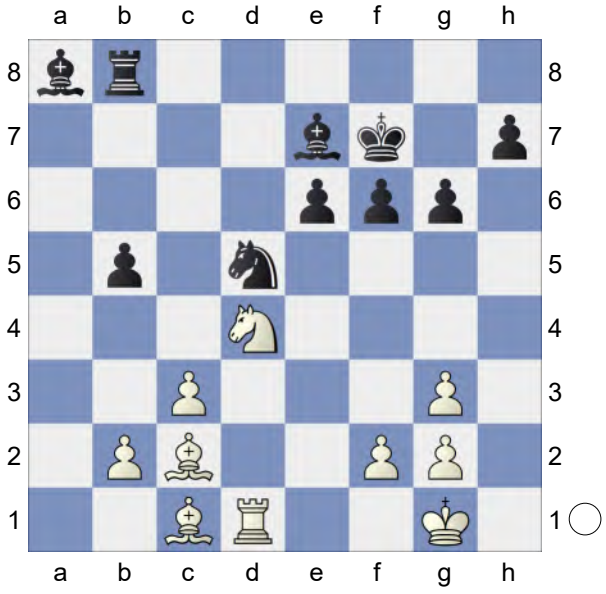
(Diagram)



21.Rxa8+ Bxa8 22.Nce5 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 f6 24.Nf3 Kf7 25.Nd4 -0.19/21

[⌓25.g4 0.22/21]

25...Rb8

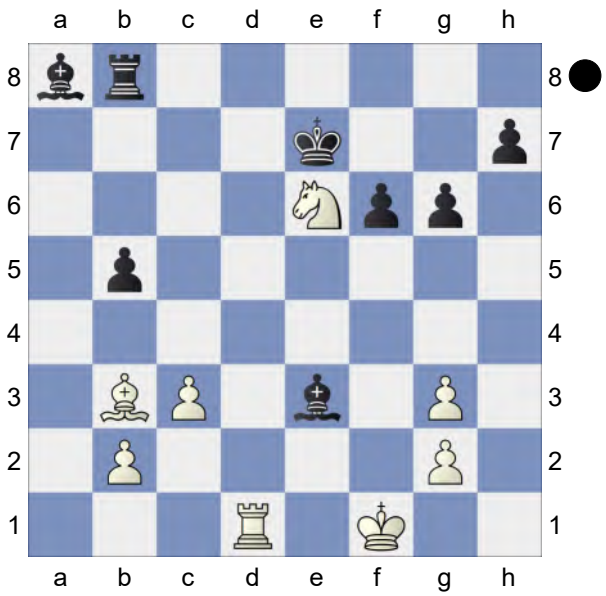


26.Bb3 Bc5 27.Be3 -0.63/23

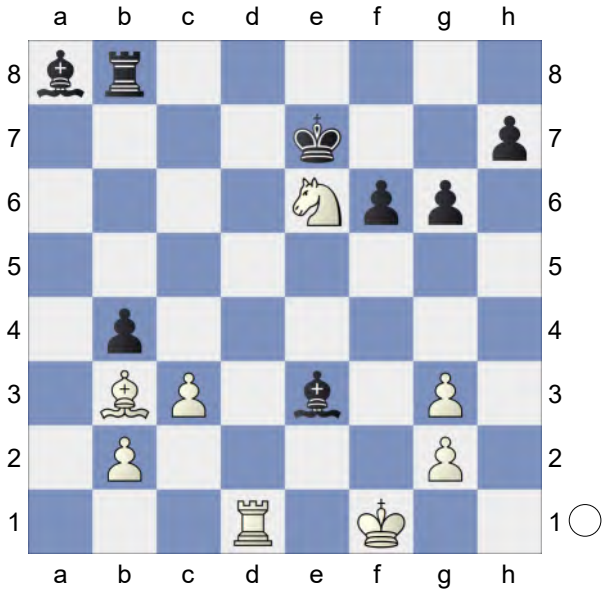
[27.Bf4= 0.05/19 Nxf4 28.gxf4 Bxd4 29.Rxd4]

27...Nxe3∓ 28.fxe3 Ke7 29.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 30.Kf1

(Diagram)

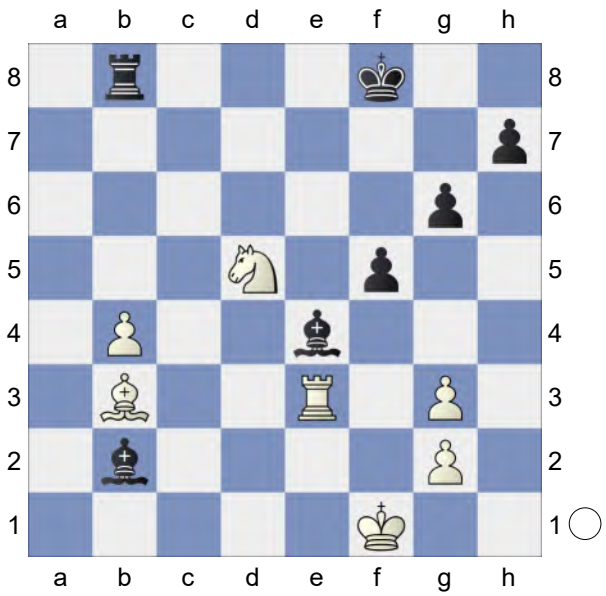


b4!

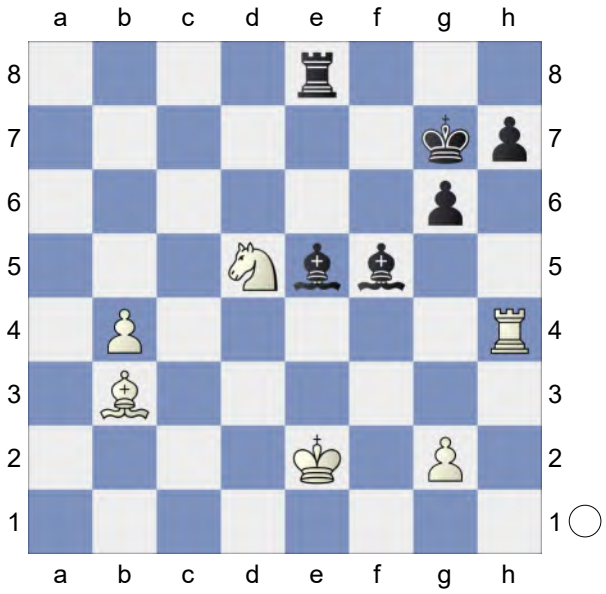


31.Rd3 Bc1 -0.31/24
[31...Ba7∓ -0.93/21 White must now prevent ...Be4. 32.cxb4 Rxb4]
32.cxb4 -0.82/25
[White should try 32.Nc5∓ -0.31/24 Bc6 *(32...Bxb2? perishes. 33.Rd7+* Skewer *Kf8 34.Ne6+ Ke8 35.Ba4+-)* 33.Ba4 Bxa4 34.Nxa4]
32...Bxb2 33.Nc7 Be4 34.Nd5+ Kf8 35.Re3 f5

(Diagram)



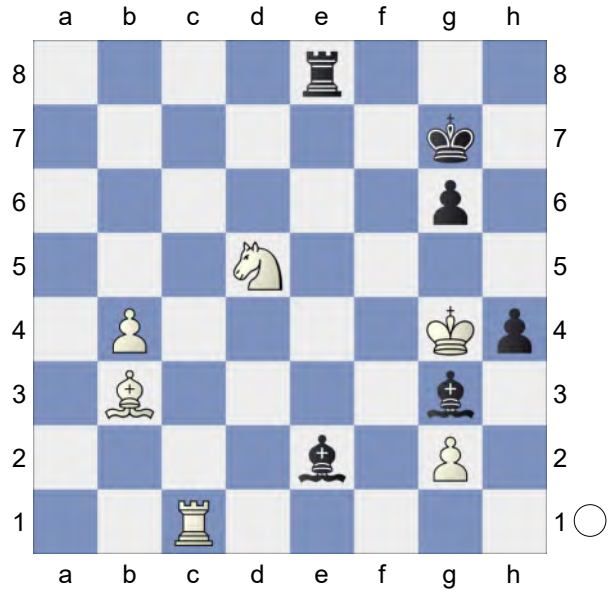
Hoping for ...Bd4. **36.g4 Bd4 37.Rh3 Kg7** Black is more active.
[37...fxg4 38.Rxh7 Bd3+ 39.Ke1=]
38.gxf5 Bxf5 A strong pair of Bishops.
39.Rh4 Be5 40.Ke2 Re8



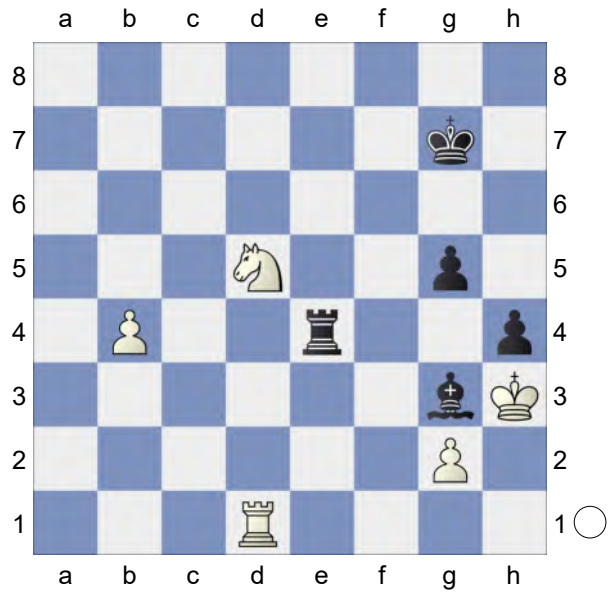
41.Kf2 -1.44/22 Against Bg3+
[⌓41.Rc4 -0.99/20]
41...h5∓ 42.Rc4 Bd3 43.Rc1 h4 Strongly threatening ...Bd4+. **44.Kf3** -2.09/20
[44.Kg1∓ -1.44/22]
44...Bg3-+ 45.Kg4? -9.70/22
[45.Nf4 -2.12/23 Be4+ *(45...Bxf4*

46.Kxf4 Re4+ 47.Kg5∓) 46.Kg4]

45...Be2+



Black is clearly winning. **46.Kh3 Re4 47.Bd1 Bxd1 48.Rxd1 g5**



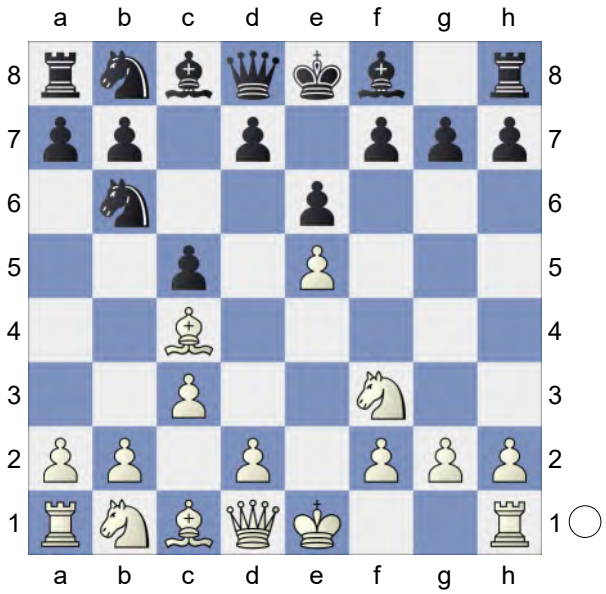
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.13 (very precise)

0-1

60 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2782**
Julius Baer rapid 25.08.2023
[Daniel Fernandez]

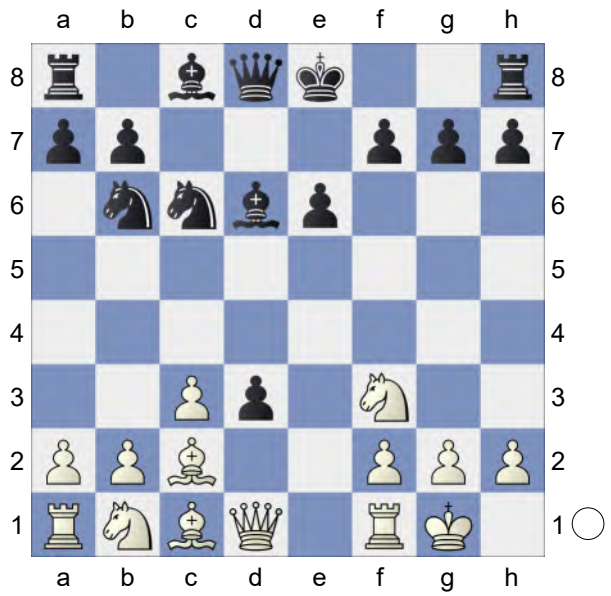
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
RR: 'Inf 63/(124)' Smagin,S: 'Inf 40/(171)'
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6
[One of the main lines of the Alapin is 4...Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d5 and this is considered one of the best paths to neutralisation. *(7...d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Re1 e6 11.h3 Bh5 12.b3 Bg6 13.Ba3 Qd5 14.Bxf8 Kxf8 15.Na3 Rd8 16.bxc4 Nxc4 17.Bb3 Bd3 18.Nxc4 Bxc4 19.d4 g6 20.Rb1 Bxb3 21.Rxb3 b6 22.Qe2* (45) Nunn,J (2605)-Anand,V (2715) Monaco (rapid) 1994 *)*]
5.Bc4N
[5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 *(6...Nc6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 d6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Qe2 a6 11.Bd3 Qa5 12.Bd2 dxe5 13.c4 Bb4 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Bxd2+ 16.Ke2 Qxe5+ 17.Nxe5 Bc3 18.Nxd7 Kxd7 19.Rab1 Rab8 20.Rb3 Bd4 21.Rhb1* ½-½ (53) Wang,Y (1186)-Mohd Tarmizi,N (1479) World ol U16 2023 (3.30)*; 6...b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nd2 d6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Qg4 g6 14.Nc4 Qd5 15.Bh6* Smagin,S-Velikov,P Naleczow Naleczow 40/(171) 1985*)* 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Nc3 dxe5 11.dxe5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd2 Bd7 14.Rfe1 Rfd8 15.Rab1 Rab8 16.Qe4 Be8 17.Ng5 g6 18.Qh4 h5 19.Qf4 Rxd2 1-0 (49) Sofronie,I (2502)-Miller,B (2627) APCT 1994 (1.6)]

5...Nb6



6.Bb3 c4?!
[6...d6 is the main line. A Taimanov structure could result after 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Nc6 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4]
7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Bxd6
[There is no longer an option of ...Qe6 to interfere with White's development, and certainly not of pushing ...e5 in one move, so in this case the variation 8...Qxd6 9.b3± is quite unpleasant for Black.]
9.0-0 Nc6 White is slightly better. **10.d4 cxd3**

(Diagram)



The c4-pawn is likely to be more of a hindrance if it stays on the board, so presumably with some reluctance Caruana helps his opponent develop.

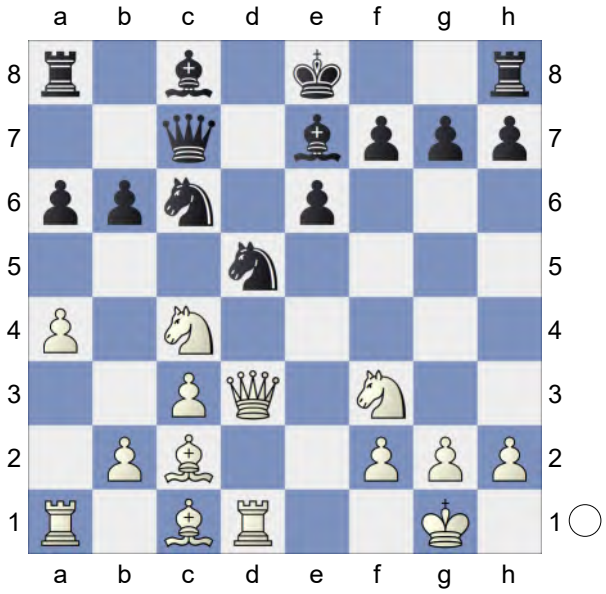
11.Qxd3 Qc7 12.Rd1 Be7 13.Na3 a6 Prevents Nb5

[A very human disaster avoidance strategy would be 13...Bxa3 14.bxa3 f6 15.a4 *(15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 e5v* is the kind of thing Black is going for, where time is running out for White to show dynamic compensation for the strategic shortcomings*)* 15...Bd7 16.Ba3 Simultaneously stopping castling on both sides. Nd5 17.Bb3 0-0-0 18.Qd2± Black is not immediately getting mated, but the queenside situation isn't pretty either.]

14.Nc4 Nd5 Prevents Bf4

[The alternative is 14...Nb4 15.cxb4 Qxc4 , but despite White's doubled pawns somewhat hampering their majority, it is difficult to imagine Black enjoying the endgame after the forcing sequence 16.Ba4+! Kf8 17.Qxc4 Nxc4 18.Bb3 Nb6 19.Be3 Everything with tempo! And after Nd5 20.Bc5 Black is all but obligated to undouble the pawns. Bxc5 21.bxc5±]

15.a4 b6



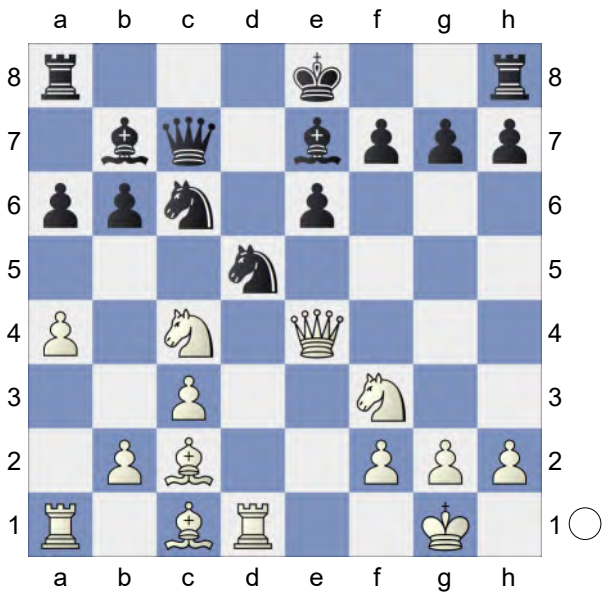
16.Qe4 The start of a queen manoeuvre which, while thematic, is not necessarily that productive.

[The engine suggests such ideas as 16.a5 b5 17.Nb6! Nxb6 18.axb6 Qxb6 19.Bf4 With a nearly unstoppable atttack through the centre (Bd6 etc.) and Black remains unable to castle or develop their c8-bishop. Inhibits Qc7.]

[16.Bg5 Bb7 17.Bxe7 Ncxe7 18.Ng5±]

16...Bb7

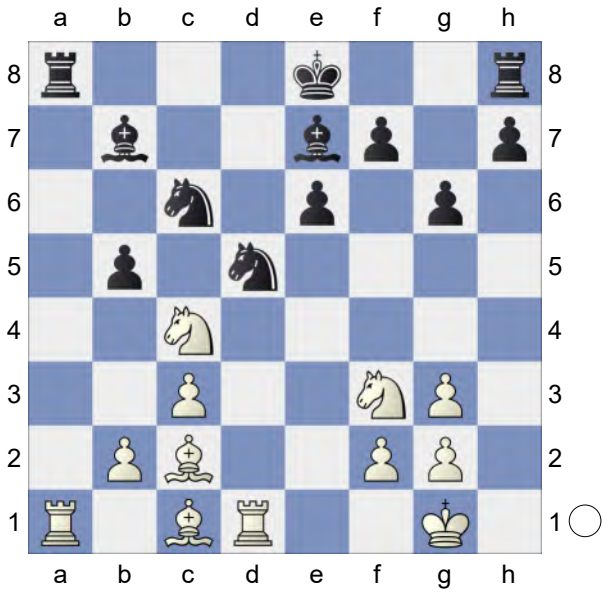
(Diagram)



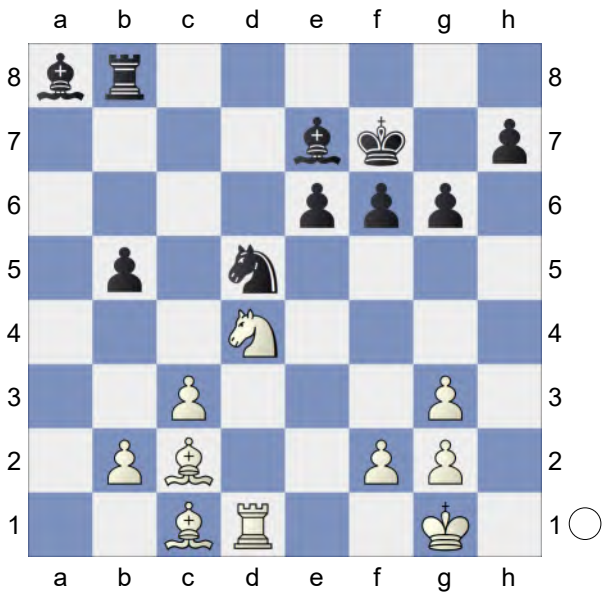
17.Qg4! aiming for Rxd5! **17...g6 18.Qg3?!**

[18.Bh6 is stronger, with followups such as Ng5 likely being quite annoying for the uncastled enemy king.]

18...Qxg3 19.hxg3 b5! Black starts to consolidate. **20.axb5 axb5**



21.Rxa8+ Bxa8 22.Nce5 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 With the idea Bd3. **23...f6=** Black is out of the woods, however this doesn't mean Carlsen stops playing for a win! **24.Nf3 Kf7 25.Nd4 Rb8**



26.Bb3 Bc5 27.Be3!? -0.87/23 Unbalancing the position slightly. Caruana reacts well, however.

[27.Bf4 Rb6 28.Ra1 Inhibits b4. Nxf4 29.gxf4 Bxd4 30.Rxa8=]

[27.g4 is probably the main way White can gain space while retaining the status quo in terms of material it would probably not be great to allow Black time for both ...h5 and ...b4.]

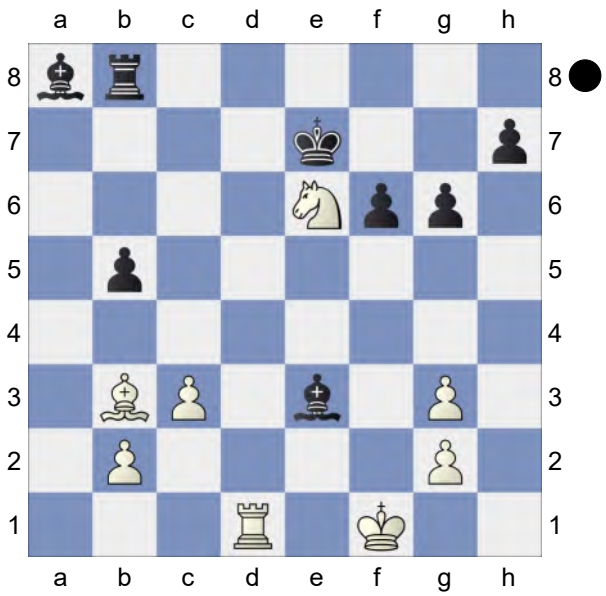
[27.g4= 0.01/22]

27...Nxe3∓ 28.fxe3 Ke7 Retaining the bishop pair. It shouldn't have been too hard to draw even without this, but it's always psychologically nice to have winning chances too. Carlsen soon overpresses.

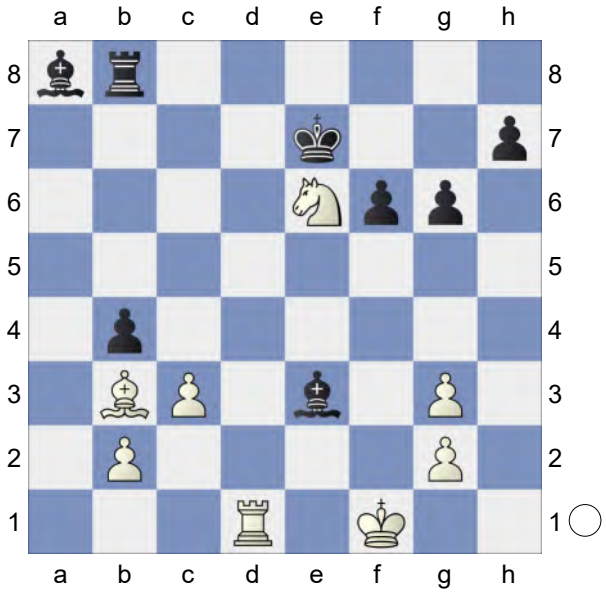
[28...Bxd4 0.01/20 28...Ke7 -0.67 29.exd4 Bd5 30.Bxd5 exd5=]

29.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 30.Kf1

(Diagram)

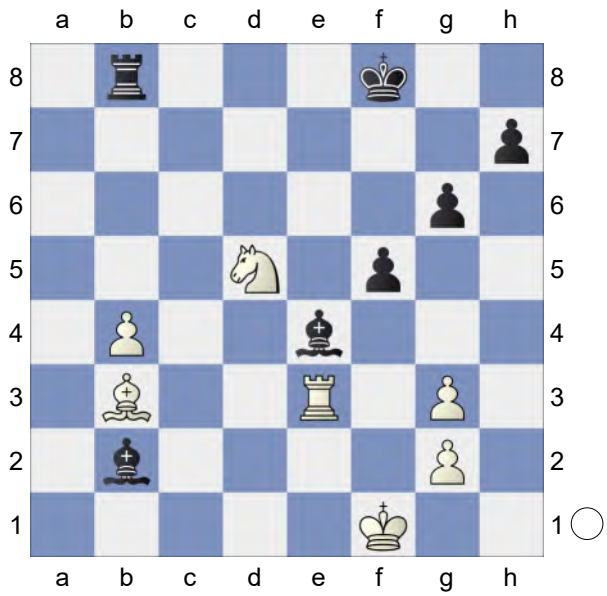


b4!

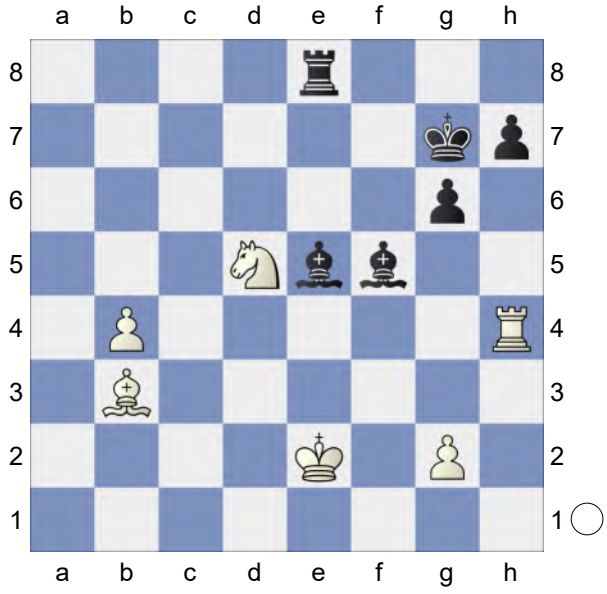


31.Rd3 Bc1 32.cxb4 -0.90/23
[32.Nc5∓ -0.46/23 is more appropriate. Bc6 *(32...Bxb2? perishes. 33.Rd7+* Skewer *Kf8 34.Ne6+ Ke8 35.Ba4+-)* 33.Bd5 Bxd5 34.Rxd5]
32...Bxb2 33.Nc7 Be4 34.Nd5+ Kf8∓
The position has started to become unpleasant, and this impression deepens over the next few moves. **35.Re3 f5**

(Diagram)

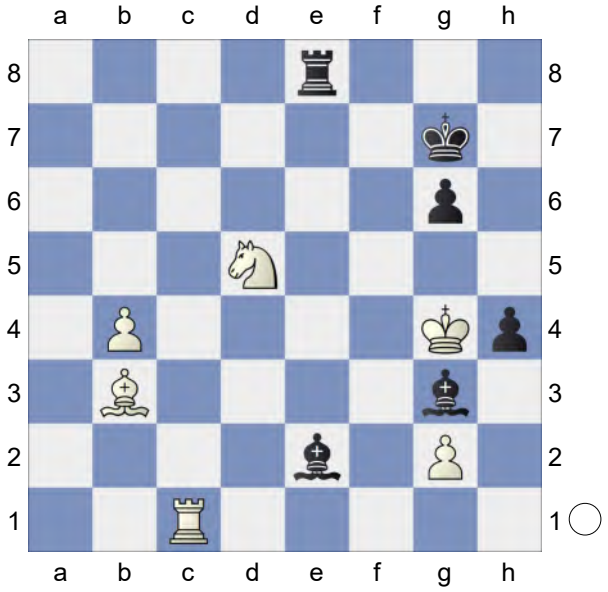


White must now prevent ...Bd4. **36.g4 Bd4 37.Rh3 Kg7** Black is more active.
[37...fxg4 38.Rxh7 Bd3+ 39.Ke1]
38.gxf5 Bxf5 This pair of bishops is nice. **39.Rh4** Against Bg4 **39...Be5 40.Ke2 Re8**

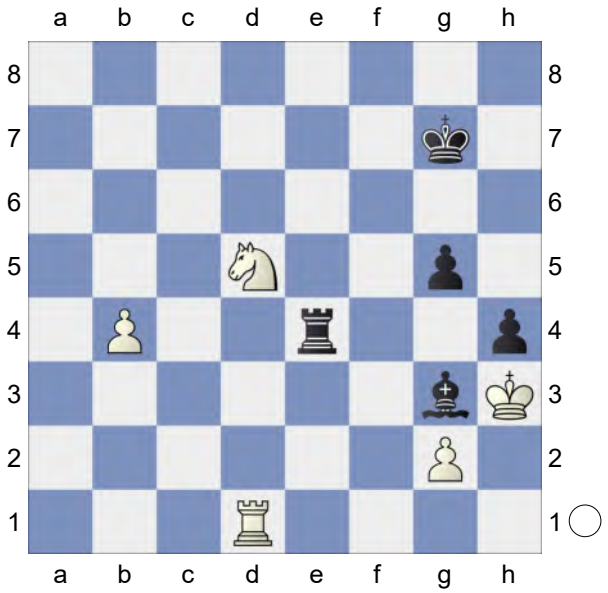


41.Kf2 -1.38/19 Against Bg3+
[White should try 41.Rc4 -0.81/21]
41...h5∓ 42.Rc4 Bd3 43.Rc1 h4
Hoping for ...Bd4+. **44.Kf3?** -2.15/21
[It was already imperative to play the not especially intuitive 44.Kg1]
[44.Kg1∓ -1.52/23 was worth a try.]

44...Bg3-+ Threatening the abrupt ...Be2 mate, and suddenly White is just lost.
45.Kg4? -10.36/23
[45.Nf4 -2.22/22 Be4+ *(45...Bxf4 46.Kxf4 Re4+ 47.Kg5=)* 46.Kg4]
45...Be2+



Black is clearly winning. **46.Kh3 Re4 47.Bd1 Bxd1 48.Rxd1 g5**



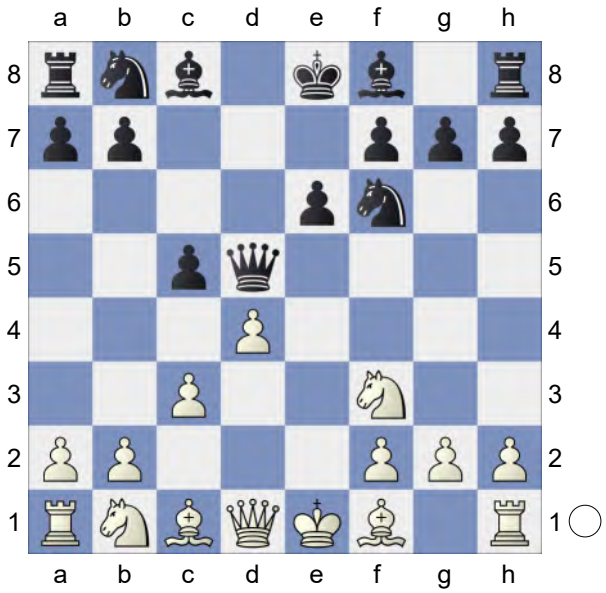
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

61 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
FIDE World Cup (6.2) 16.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6

[5...Bg4 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 a6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qa4+ Nbd7 11.0-0-0 e6 12.g4 Bg6 13.Bg2 Be4 14.Nb5 Qb8 15.Na7 Rxa7 16.Bxa7 Qxa7 17.Rxd7 Nxd7 18.Qxe4 Bc5 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 ½-½ (31) 6. ♘c6 bc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8. ♘d (2645)-Lopez Ziegler,J (2560) 75/461 Israel 1999 (1.1)]

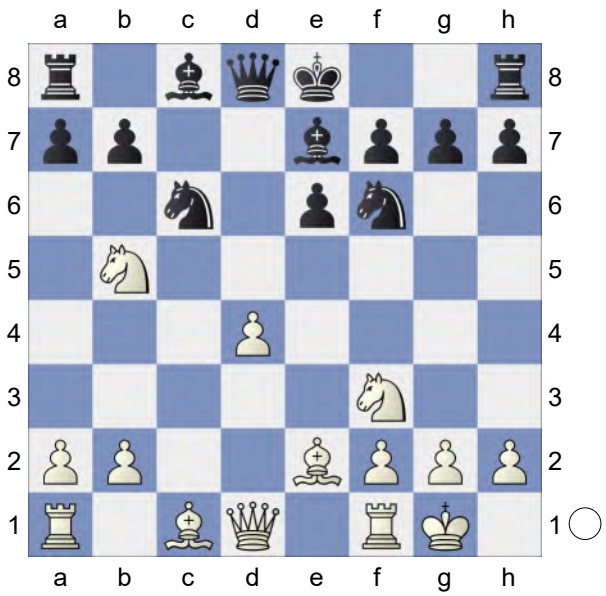


6.Be2 cxd4N

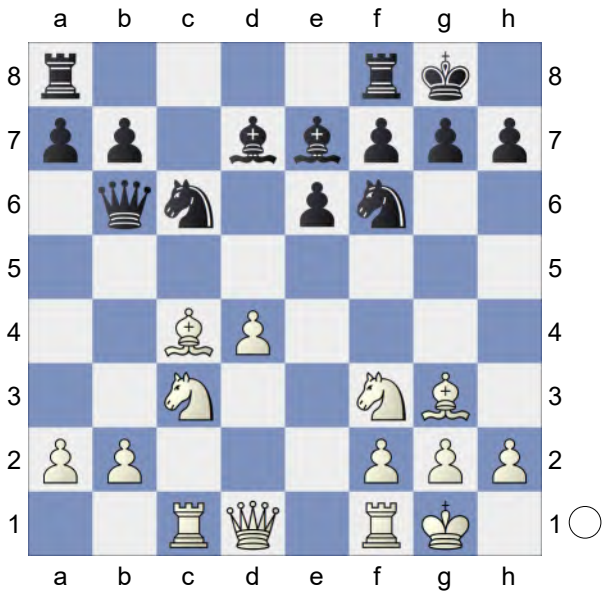
[6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 Qd8 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bd7 11.Ne5 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Be3 Kf8 B 22/31 2000]

7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.Nb5 Qd8

(Diagram)

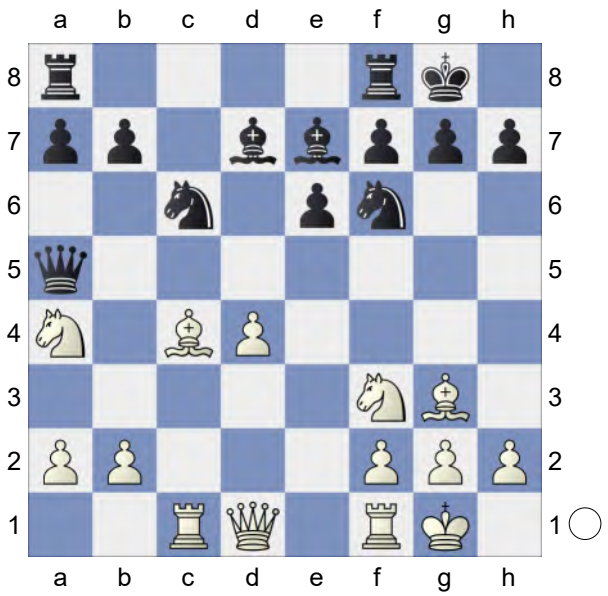


11.Bf4 Nd5 12.Bg3 0-0 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Nc3 Qb6 15.Bc4 Nf6

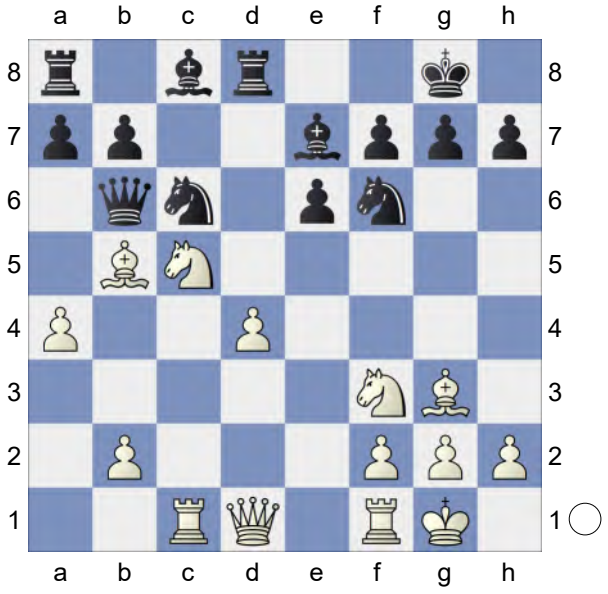


16.Na4 Qa5

(Diagram)

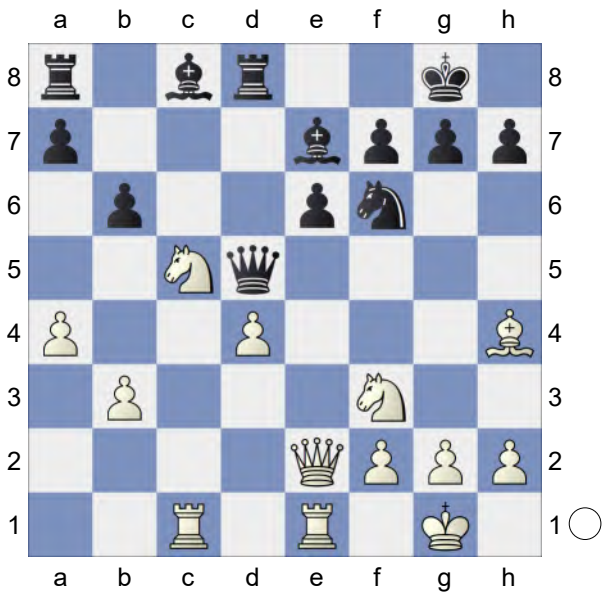


17.Nc5! Bc8 18.a3 Qd8 0.63/19
[18...Nxd4= 0.26/18 19.b4 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Qb6]
19.Bb5 White is more active. **19...Qb6 20.a4 Rd8**

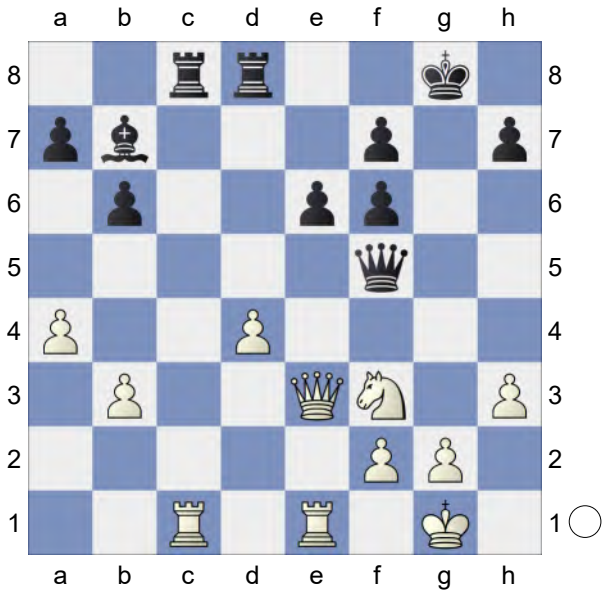


21.Qe2 Rd5
[21...Nxd4?! 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 *(22...Bxc5? 23.a5+-)* 23.Nb3±]
22.Bxc6 Qxc6 23.b3 Rd8 24.Bh4 Qd5 25.Rfe1 b6

(Diagram)



26.Ne4 Bb7 Hoping for ...Qxb3!
[26...Qxb3 27.Ne5 Rxd4 *(27...Qxa4? 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 29.Bxf6+-)* 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 *(28...gxf6? 29.Qh5+-)* 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Ng4±]
27.Bxf6 Bxf6 28.Nxf6+ gxf6 29.Qe3 Rac8 -0.01/22
[29...Qf5∓ -0.49/22]
30.h3 -0.52/19
[Better is 30.Qf4= -0.01/22]
30...Qf5∓



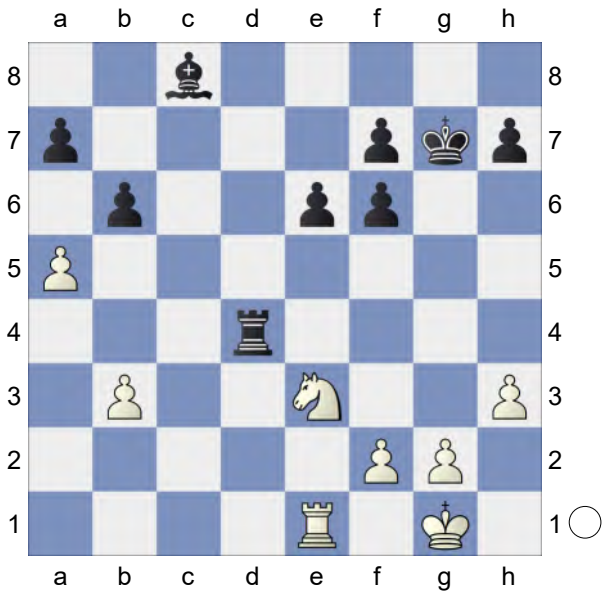
31.Nh2 Qg5 32.Ng4 Kg7 33.a5 Qxe3
[33...bxa5 34.Qxg5+ fxg5 35.Rxc8

Bxc8 *(35...Rxc8 36.Ra1=)* 36.Rc1=]

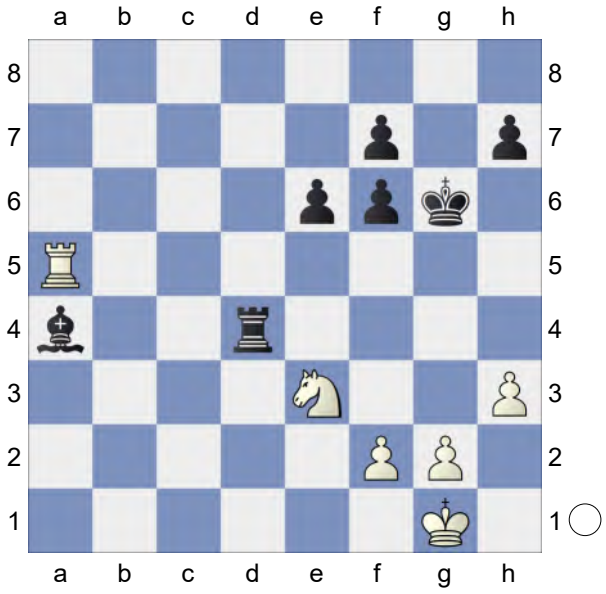
34.Nxe3 Rxd4

[34...bxa5 35.Rxc8 Bxc8 *(35...Rxc8 36.Ra1∓)* 36.Rc1∓]

35.Rxc8 Bxc8∓

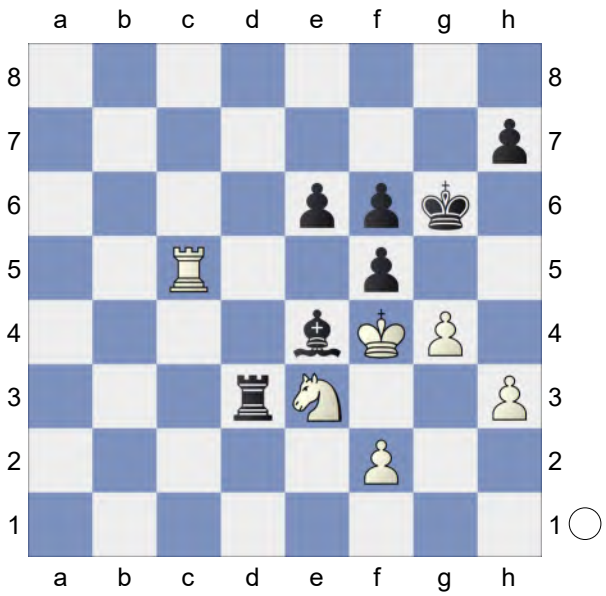


Endgame. K R B - K R N **36.Rc1** Threatens to win with axb6. **36...Bd7 37.Rc7 bxa5 38.Rxa7 a4 39.bxa4 Bxa4 40.Ra5 Kg6**



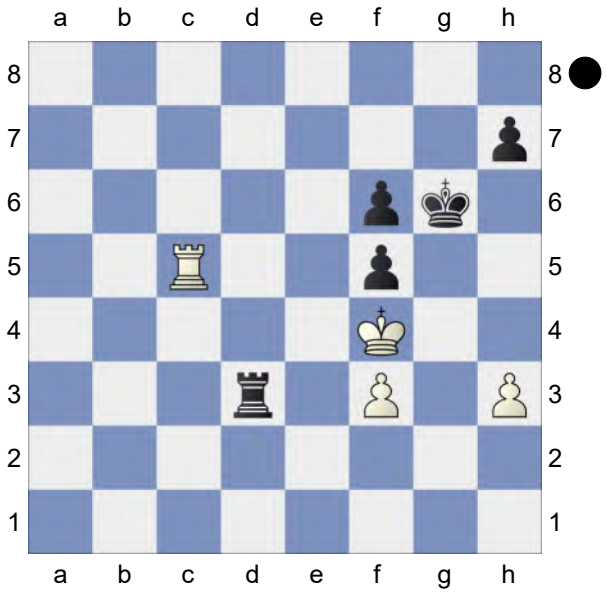
41.g4 Bc6 42.Rc5 Be4 43.Kh2 Rd3 44.Kg3 f5 45.Kf4 f6

(Diagram)



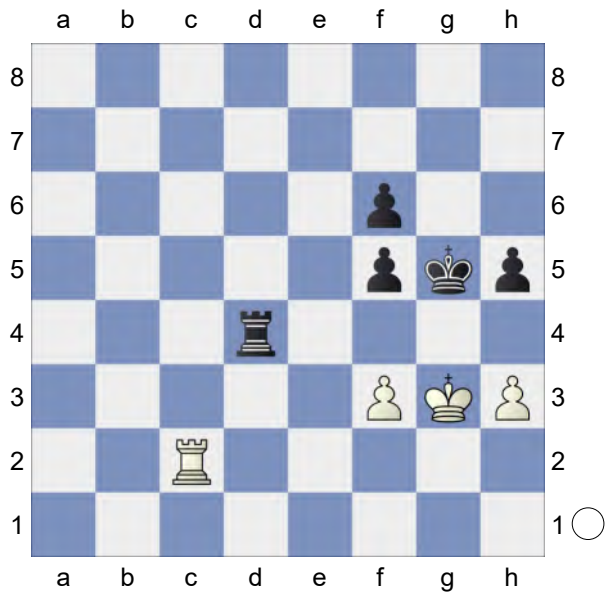
White must now prevent ...e5+. **46.gxf5+ Bxf5 47.Nxf5 exf5∓** KR-KR **48.f3** -0.85/27

[48.Rxf5∓ -0.45/29 is superior. h5 *(48...Rxh3 49.Ra5=)* 49.Rc5]

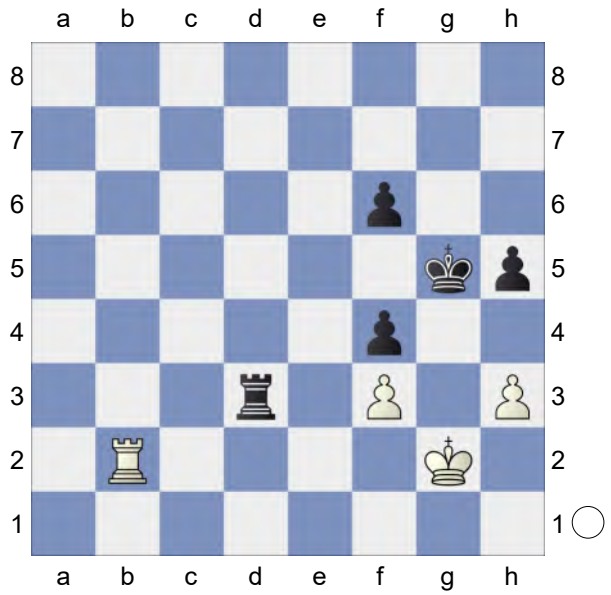


48...Rd4+!∓ 49.Kg3 Kg5 50.Rc2 h5

(Diagram)

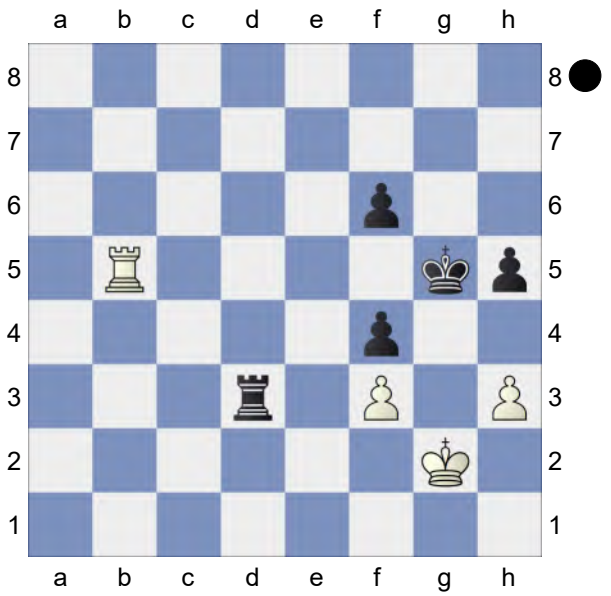


51.Ra2 f4+ 52.Kg2 Kh4 53.Kh2 Rd7 54.Rb2 Rd3 55.Kg2 Kg5



56.Rb5+

(Diagram)



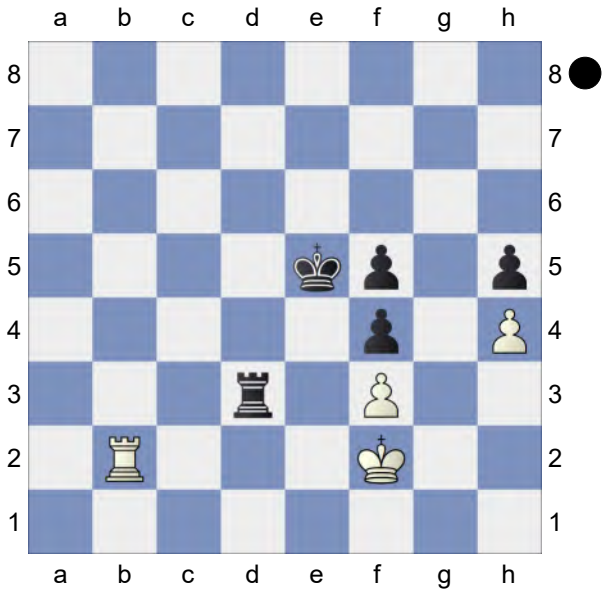
f5!

[Of course not 56...Kh4 57.Rb2=]

57.Rb2 Kf6 -0.01/32

[57...Ra3∓ -0.73/31]

58.h4= Ke5 59.Kf2



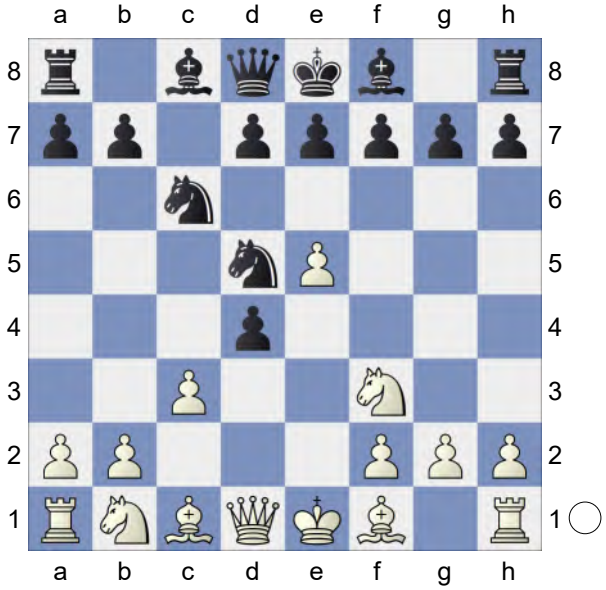
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

62 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2832**
■ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2703**
Chess.com SpeedChess blitz (3.19)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4

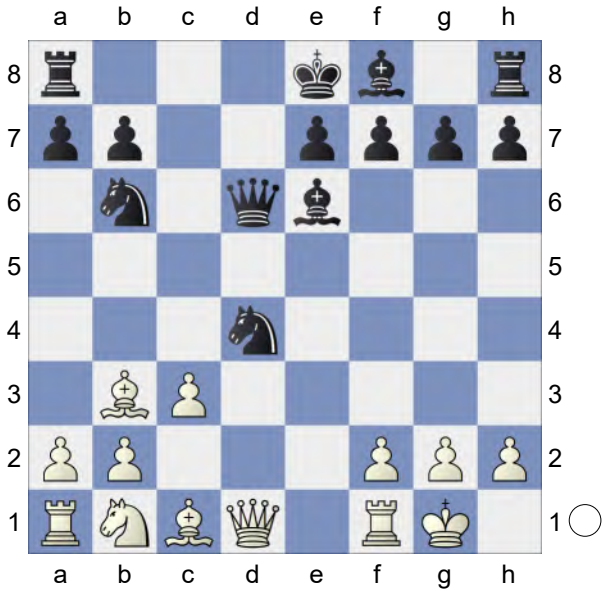


6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Nxd4N

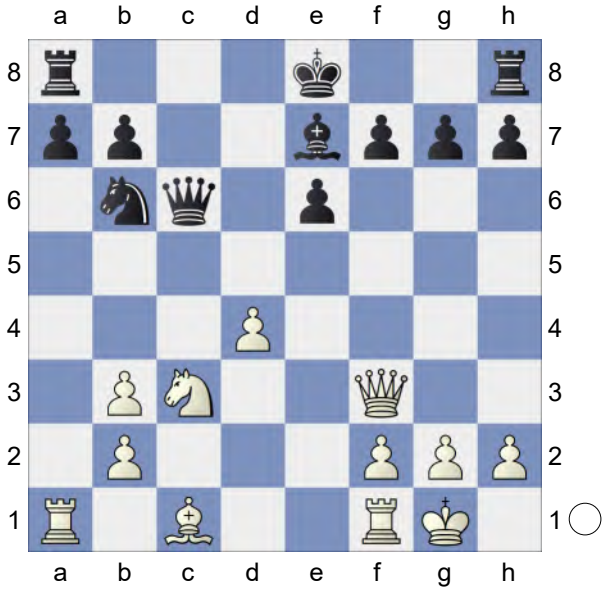
[Much worse is 10.cxd4 Bxb3 11.Qxb3 e6=]

[10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Qd7 *(11...Nxd4 12.cxd4 Qd7 13.Bf4 e6 14.Be5 Qc6 15.Qg4 h5 16.Qe2 Nd5 17.Nc3 f6 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Bf4 Be7 20.Rad1 Kf7 21.a3 Rac8 22.Rfe1 Rc4 23.Be3 Rhc8 24.h3 g6 25.Qd3 Rc2 26.Rd2* 0-1 (51) Finegold,B (2494)-Robson,R (2522) Match St.Louis 2011 (1)*)* 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Re1 e6 14.Qg4 h5 15.Qe2 Qc4 16.Qc2 0-0-0 17.Nd2 Qc6 18.Nf3 f6 19.Be3 e5 20.Rad1 Bc5 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Qf5+ Rd7 24.h3 Qc4 0-1 (40) Tan,J (2533)-Mamedyarov,S (2776) Deutschland 153/49 2022]

10...Nxd4

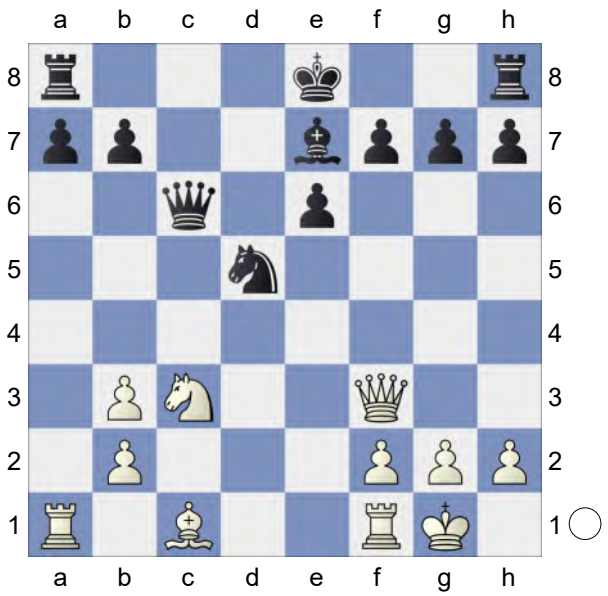


11.cxd4 Bxb3 12.axb3 e6 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Qf3 Qc6

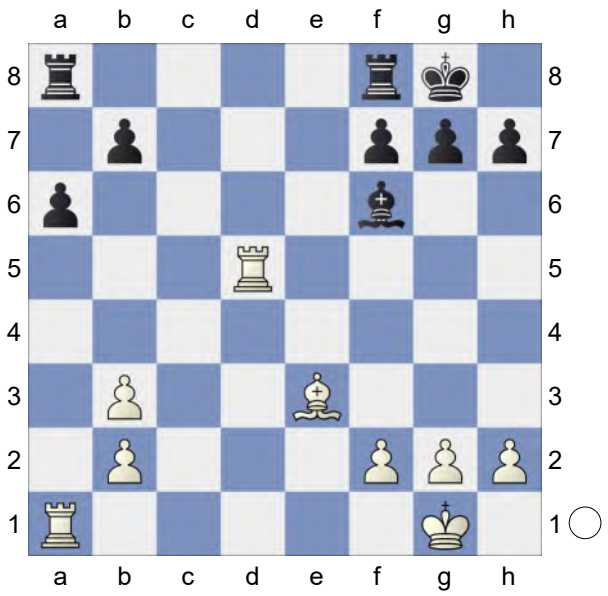


15.d5 -0.36/22 **Nxd5∓**

(Diagram)

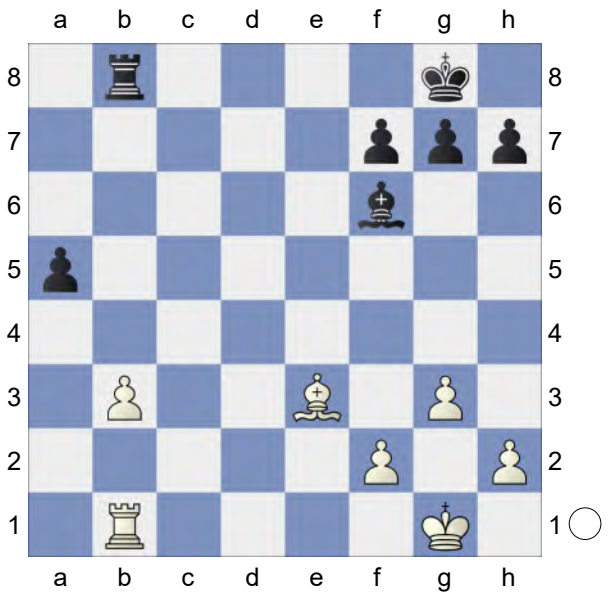


16.Nxd5 exd5 0.59/21
[16...Qxd5= -0.26/22 17.Qxd5 exd5]
17.Rd1 -0.20/21
[White should try 17.Re1± 0.59/21 Qd7 18.Ra5]
17...0-0= 18.Be3 Bf6 -0.10/21
[18...Rfd8∓ -0.48/20 was preferrable.]
19.Qxd5 Qxd5 20.Rxd5 a6

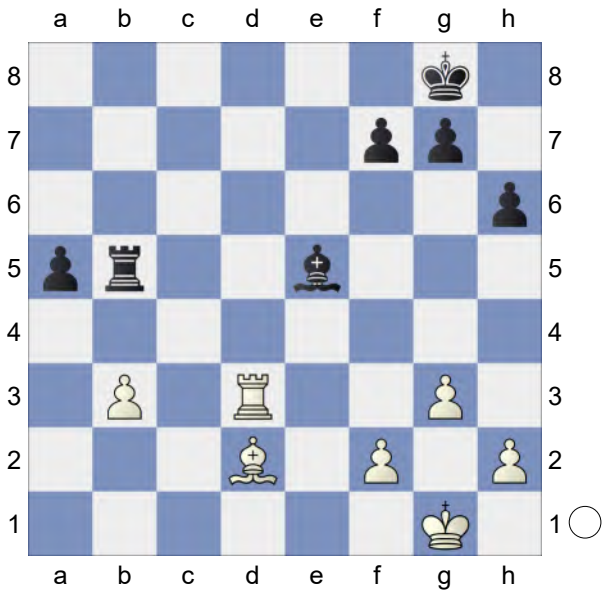


21.Rd7 Bxb2 22.Rb1 Bf6 23.Rxb7 a5 24.g3 Rfb8 25.Rxb8+ Rxb8

(Diagram)

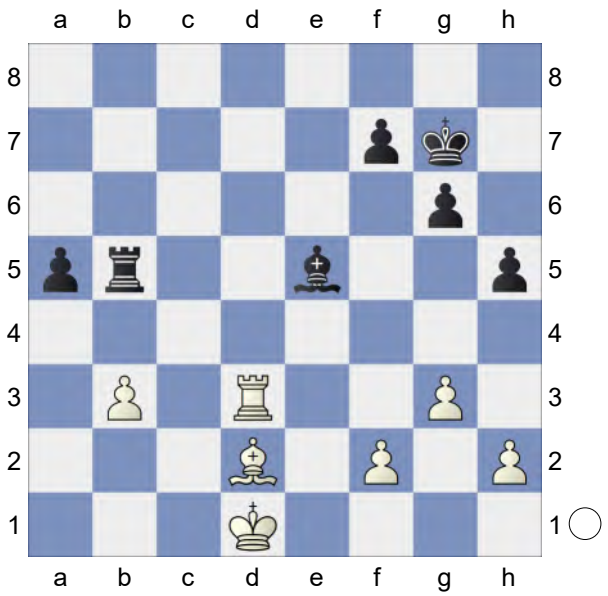


Endgame. KRB-KRB **26.Rc1 h6 27.Rc5 Bd8 28.Rd5 Bc7 29.Rd3 Be5 30.Bd2 Rb5**

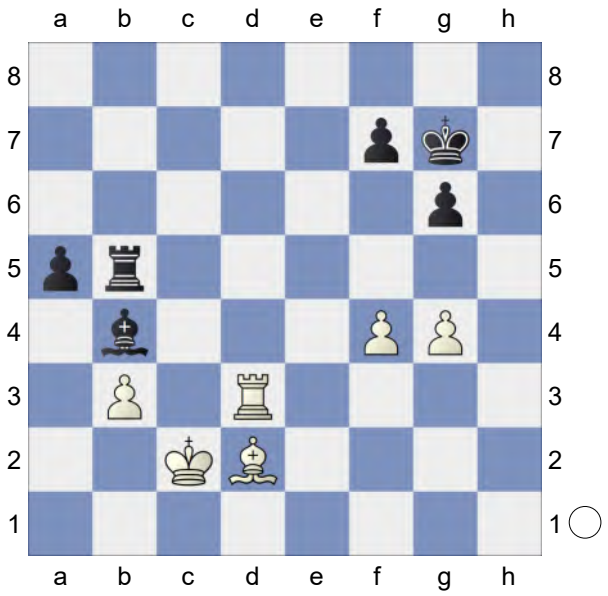


31.Kf1 h5 0.54/21
[31...g5= 0.01/21]
32.Ke2 0.02/20
[32.Rd8+± 0.54/21 Kh7 33.Be1]
32...g6 The position is equal. **33.Kd1 Kg7 34.Kc2 Rc5+ 35.Kd1 Rb5**

(Diagram)

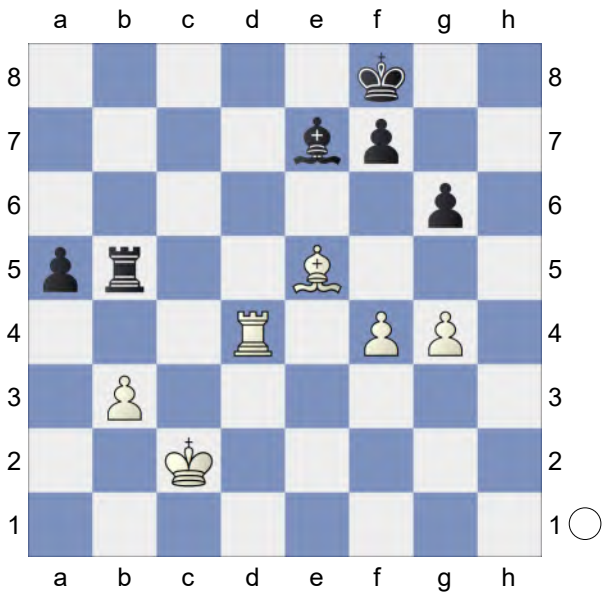


36.h3 Bf6 37.g4 hxg4 38.hxg4 Bg5 39.f4 Be7 40.Kc2 Bb4

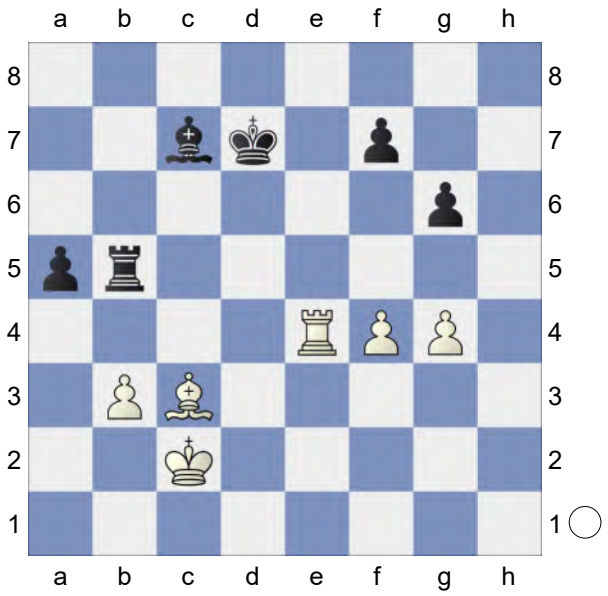


41.Be3 Rb7 42.Bd4+ Kf8 43.Bf6 Be7 Wards off Rd8+ **44.Be5 Rb4 45.Rd4 Rb5**

(Diagram)

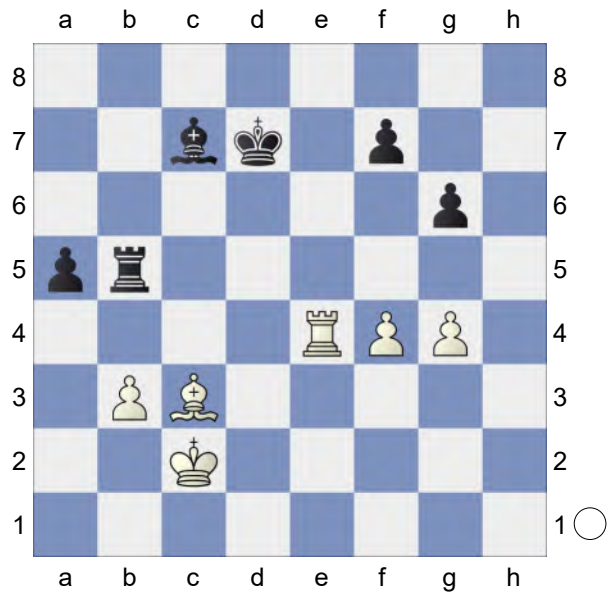


46.Rc4 Ke8 47.Bc3 Bd6 48.Ra4 Bc7 49.Rd4 Ke7 50.Re4+ Kd7



51.Rd4+ Ke6 52.Re4+ Kd7 53.Rd4+ Ke6 54.Re4+ Kd7

(Diagram)

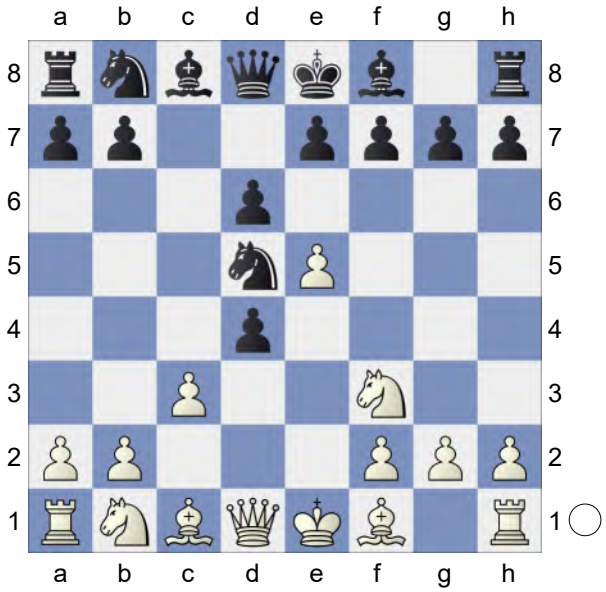


Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

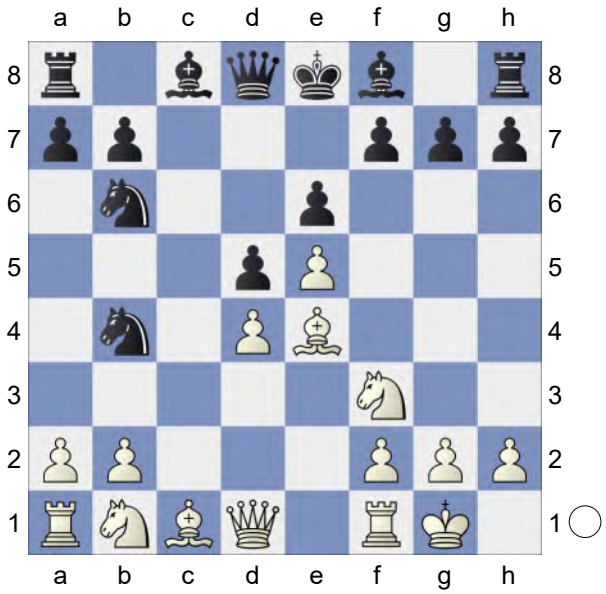
63 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2832**
■ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2703**
Chess.com SpeedChess blitz (3.15)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4

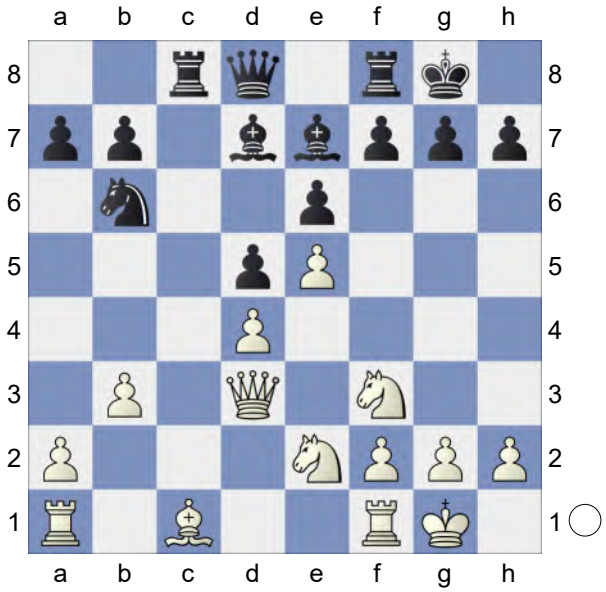


6.Bc4 e6 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Nb6N
[8...Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Qe4 Qc7 11.Bd3 g6 12.Bh6 Rd8 13.Nbd2 dxe5 14.dxe5 Nb6 15.Rac1 Nd7 16.Bb5 Ndxe5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5 18.Bxc6 Qh5 19.Bxb7 Bxb7 20.Qxb7 Qxh6 21.Ne4 Qf8 22.Rc7 Rdb8 23.Qc6 ½-½ (43) Pavasovic,D (2460) - Atalik,S (2555) Ljubljana_145804 1997 (1)]
9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Be4 d5

(Diagram)

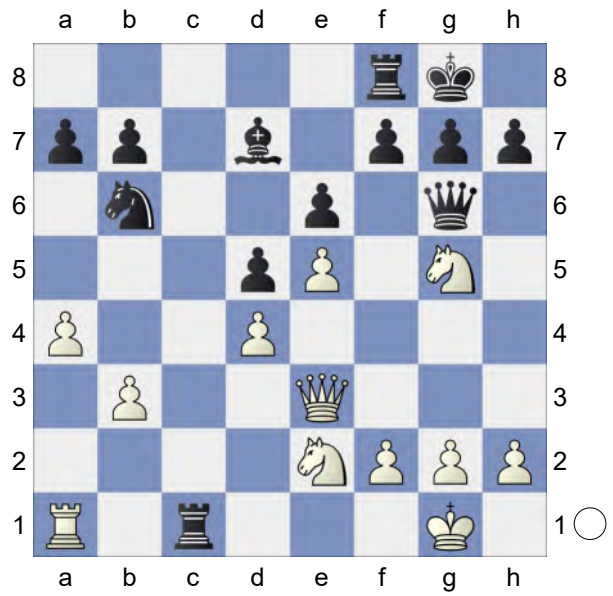


11.Bd3 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 The position is equal. **12...Be7 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.b3 0-0 15.Ne2 Rc8**

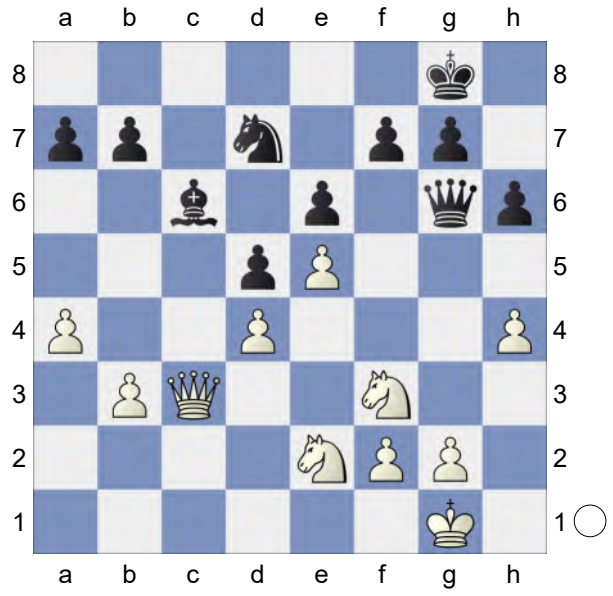


16.a4 Qc7
[16...Na8 simplifies 17.Ba3 Bxa3 18.Rxa3 Nc7]
17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Qc2 19.Qe3 Qg6 20.Rfc1 Rxc1+

(Diagram)

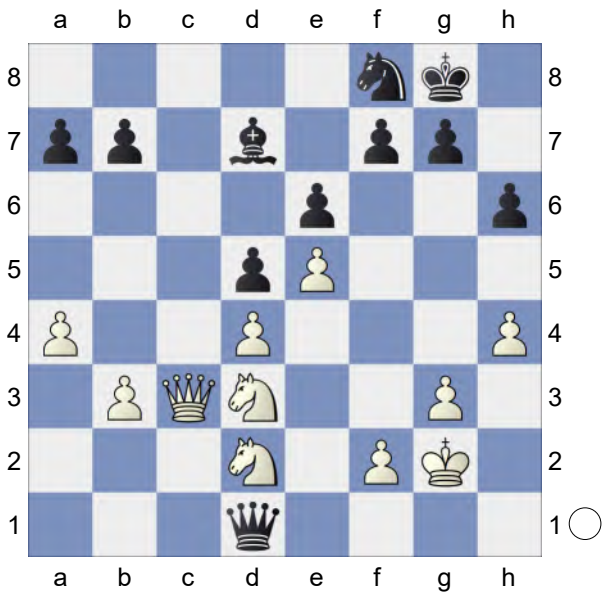


21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.h4 0.01/23
[22.a5± 0.41/23 feels stronger. Rxc1+ 23.Qxc1]
22...h6!= 23.Nf3 0.06/22
[23.a5!± 0.45/22 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1]
23...Rc6 24.Rxc6 Bxc6 25.Qc3 Inhibits Qc2. **25...Nd7**

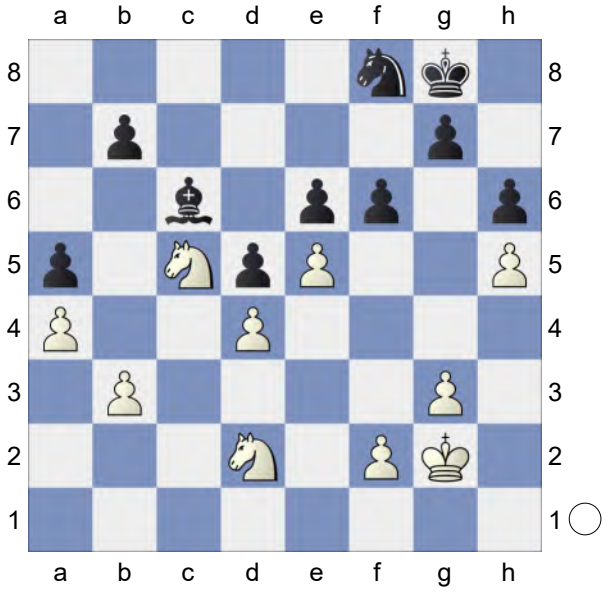


26.g3 Qe4 27.Nf4 Nf8 28.Nd2
[28.Qd3 simplifies Nh7 29.Qxe4 dxe4 30.Nd2]
28...Qe1+ 29.Kg2 Bd7 30.Nd3 Qd1

(Diagram)

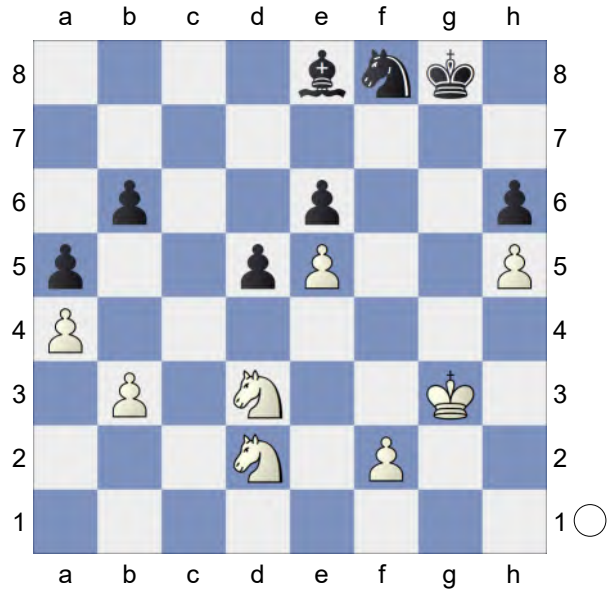


31.Nf3 Qe2 32.Nc5 Bc6 1.88/18
[32...Bc8= 0.29/22]
33.Qd2? 0.19/23
[33.Qd3+- 1.88/18 Qxd3 34.Nxd3]
33...Qxd2 34.Nxd2 Endgame. KBN-KNN **34...a5 35.h5 f6**

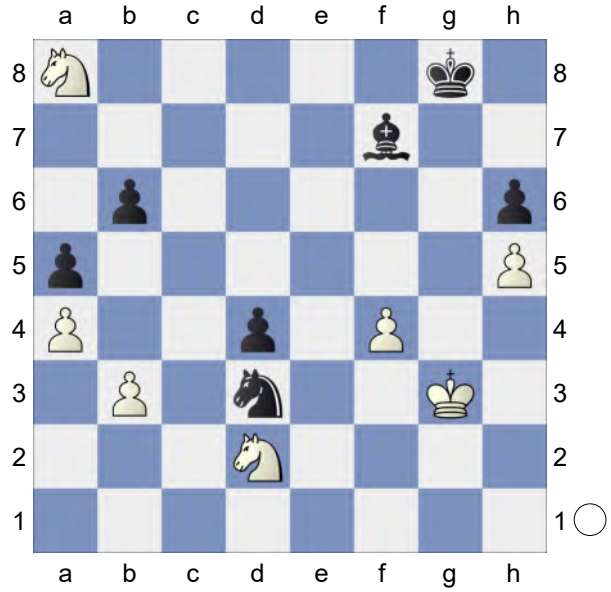


36.g4 -0.38/20
[36.Nd3!= 0.13/20]
36...fxe5 0.03/24
[36...b6!∓ -0.38/20 37.Nd3 Bb7]
37.dxe5 g6 0.61/23
[37...b6= -0.11/21 38.Nd3 g6]
38.Kg3 0.01/25 White is more active.

[38.Nf3± 0.61/23]
38...gxh5 39.gxh5 White wants to play Nf3. **39...b6 40.Nd3 Be8**

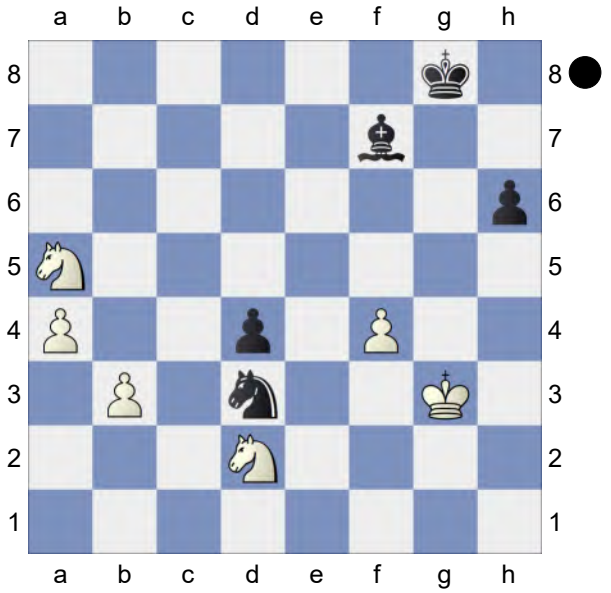


41.Nf4 Nd7 42.Nxe6 -0.39/24
[42.Nf3= 0.29/25]
42...Nxe5∓ 43.f4 Nd3 0.00/22
[43...Nc6!∓ -0.39/24]
44.Nc7 Bf7 45.Na8
[45.Nf3!?]
45...d4

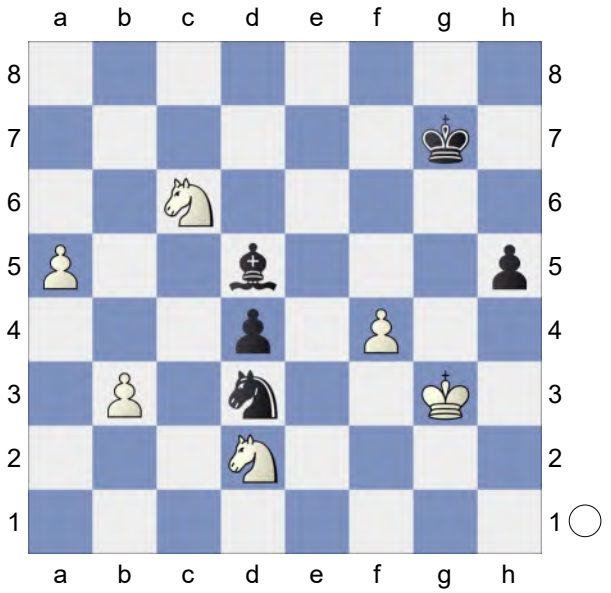


46.Nxb6 Bxh5 0.67/21
[46...Nc5!= 0.24/23 should be considered.]

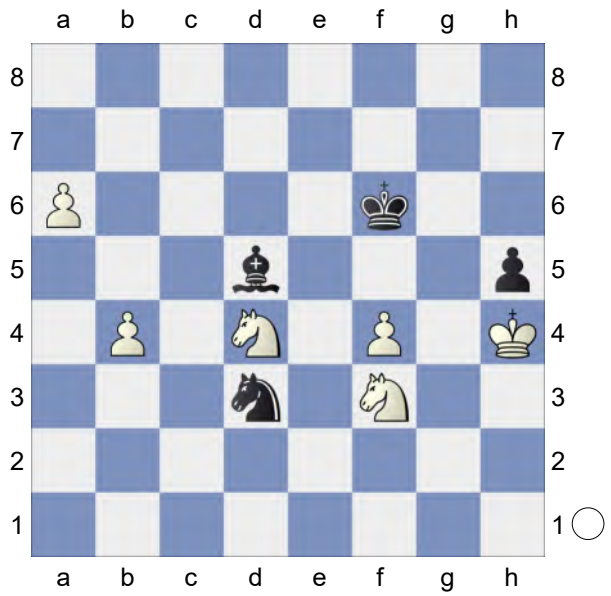
47.Nbc4± Bf7 0.96/21
[47...Kf7!± 0.40/19]
48.Nxa5±



Black must now prevent Nc6. Black is now going downhill. **48...h5?** 3.13/24
[Better is 48...Nb4!± 0.64/21]
49.Nc6+- Kg7 50.a5 Hoping for Nf3!
50...Bd5



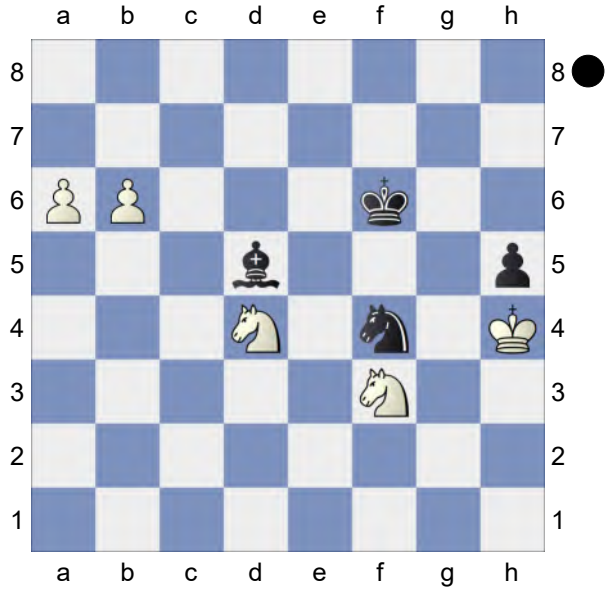
51.Nxd4 Kf6 52.N2f3 Nc5 5.39/21
[⌓52...Bb7 3.37/21 53.Nb5 Nb4]
53.b4 Ne4+ 54.Kh4 Nf2 55.a6
[55.Kxh5 Nd3±]
55...Nd3



56.b5

[Not 56.Kxh5 Nxf4+ *(56...Bxf3+ 57.Nxf3 Nxf4+ 58.Kg4=)* 57.Kg4 Nd3±]

56...Nxf4 57.b6

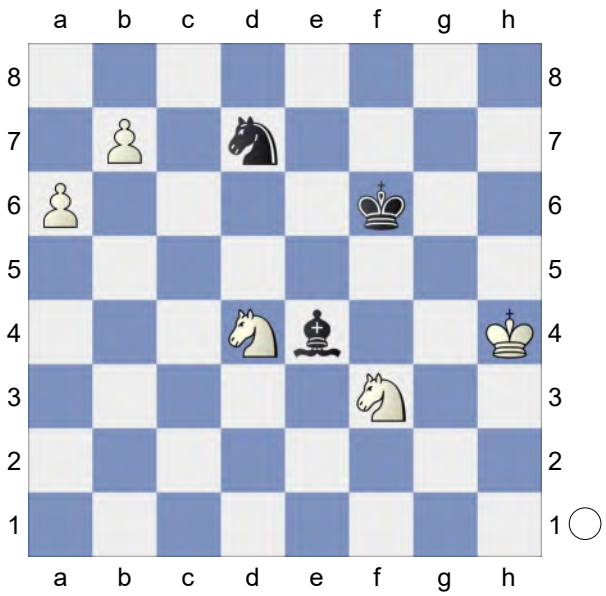


b7 is the strong threat. **57...Ng6+**

58.Kxh5 Threatening mate with b7.

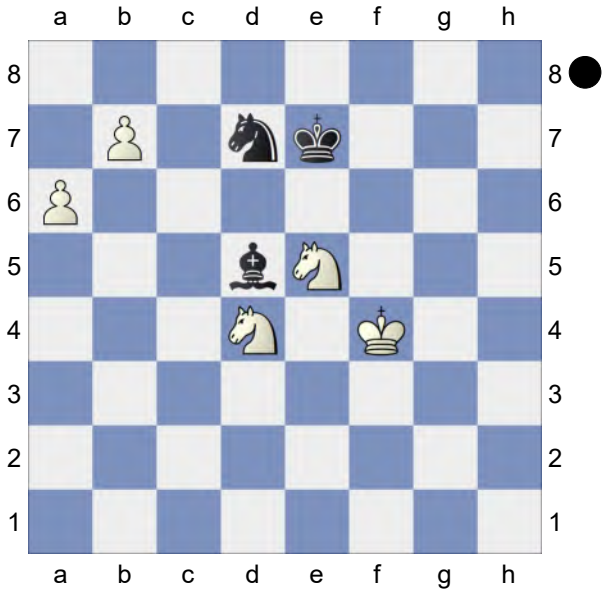
58...Nf8 59.b7 Nd7 60.Kh4 Be4

(Diagram)



61.Kg3 Threatens to win with Kf4.

61...Bd5 62.Kf4 Ke7 63.Ne5

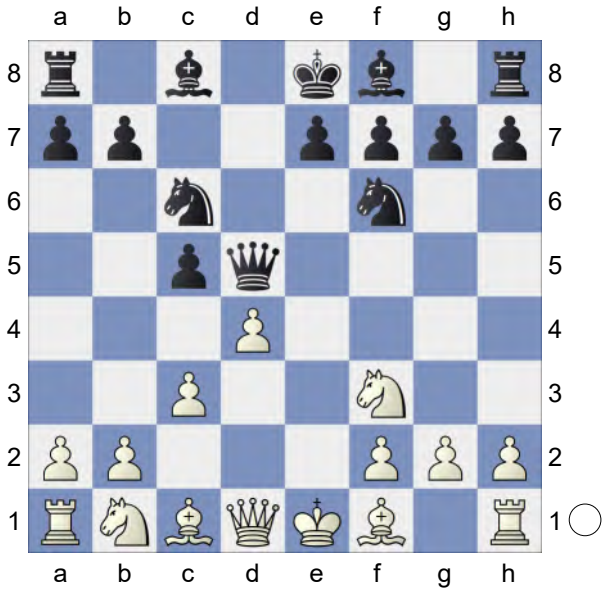


Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.29 (precise)

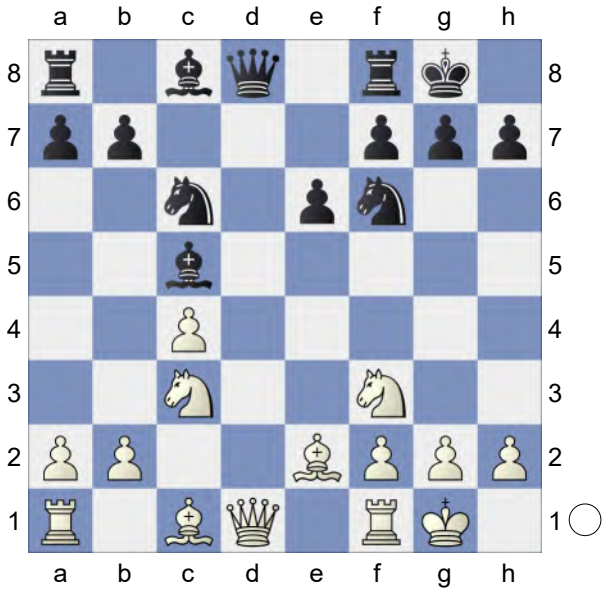
1-0

64 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2831**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2731**
CCT Final KO 2024 rapid (1.5) 20.12.24
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6

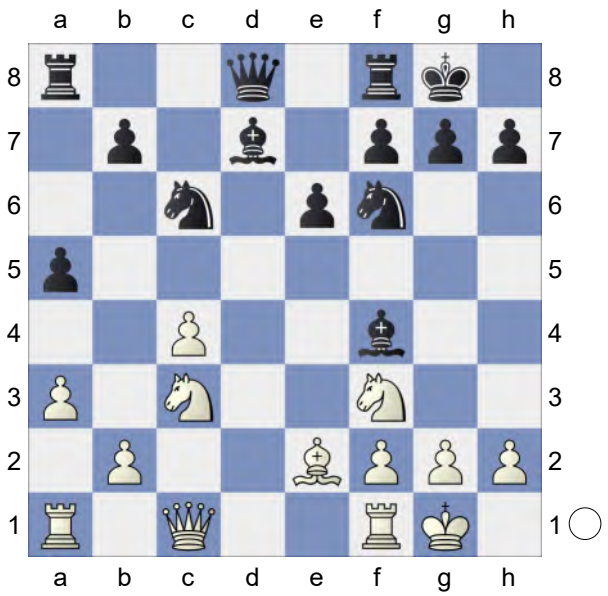


6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Qd8 9.dxc5 0-0N
[9...Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Ne4 *(10...Bxc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Ne4 Be7 15.c5 f5 16.Nd6 Rd8 17.Bb5 Bf6 18.Rd2 Rb8 19.Rad1 Kf8 20.a3 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxc8 Rxd2 23.Rxd2 Rxc8 24.b4 Rc7 25.Kf1* 0-1 Pytel,K (1892)-Ortiz Menacho,S (2150) William Nash's tourney 1885 (9)0-1 (55) Pytel,K (1892)-Ortiz Menacho,S (2150) William Nash's tourney 1885 (9)) 11.Be3 Bxc5 12.Nd4 Nxd4 *(12...Bd7 13.Bf3 Bxd4 14.Bxd4 Nxd4 15.Rxd4 Nf6 16.Nc3 0-0-0 17.Rad1 Bc6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rxd8+ Kxd8 21.f3 Nd7 22.Kf2 f5 23.Ke3 Ke7 24.b4 e5 25.a4 Kd6 26.Kd3 Nf6 27.c5+* 1-0 Wittram,T (2540)-Under the Radar,J (2550) JUG-chW51 Belgrade 1998 1-0 (46) Wittram,T (2540)-Under the Radar,J (2550) JUG-chW51 Belgrade 1998) 13.Bxd4 Bd7 14.Bf3 0-0-0 15.Bxe4 Bc6 16.Bd5 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 exd5 18.c5 22/32 2000 B 22/32 2000]
10.Nc3 Bxc5

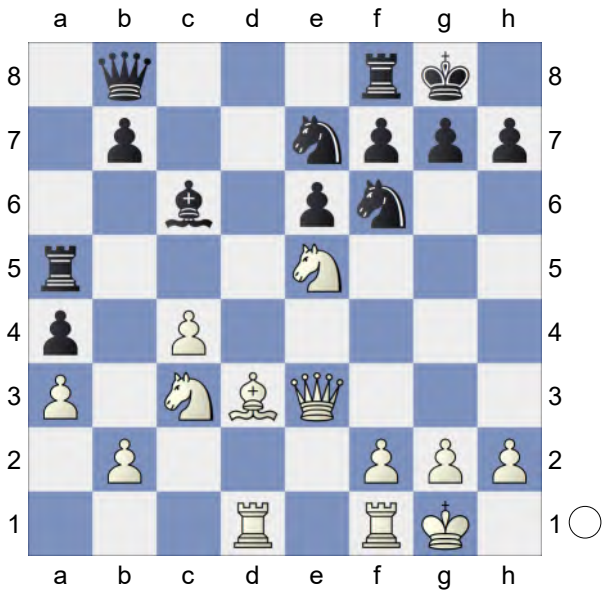


11.a3 '!' 11.a3 scores better than 11. Bg5. 11.a3 punktet besser als 11.Lg5.
11...a5 12.Na4 Ba7 'N'
[12...Bd6 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Qc2 e5 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.c5 Bc7 17.Nxc8 Rfxc8 18.Qf5 e4 19.Nd4 Be5 0-1 (63) Zhang,Z (2640)-Xu,X (2564) Asian-chT Prel2 2022 (4)]
13.Bf4 Bd7 14.Nc3 The position is equal. **14...Bb8 15.Qc1 Bxf4**

(Diagram)



16.Qxf4 Qb8 17.Qe3 a4 18.Rad1 Ne7 19.Bd3 Bc6 20.Ne5 Against Ng4 **20...Ra5**

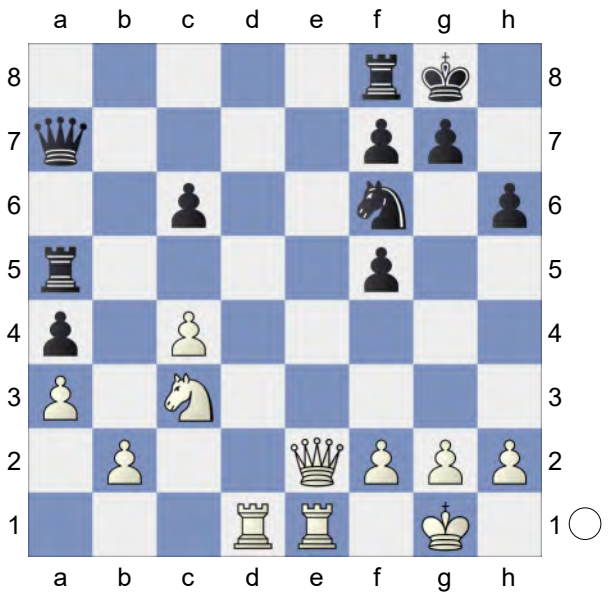


21.Rfe1 h6 22.Bc2 Nf5 23.Qe2 Qa7 24.Bxf5

[24.Qd2 is interesting. Ra8 25.h3 Qb8 26.f4]

24...exf5 25.Nxc6 bxc6

(Diagram)



26.h3 Qc5 27.Qe7 Qxc4? 4.98/25

[27...Qxe7= 0.24/21 and Black is okay. 28.Rxe7 Rb8]

28.Rd8? 1.21/18

[28.Qxf8+!+- 4.98/25 Kh7 29.Re7]

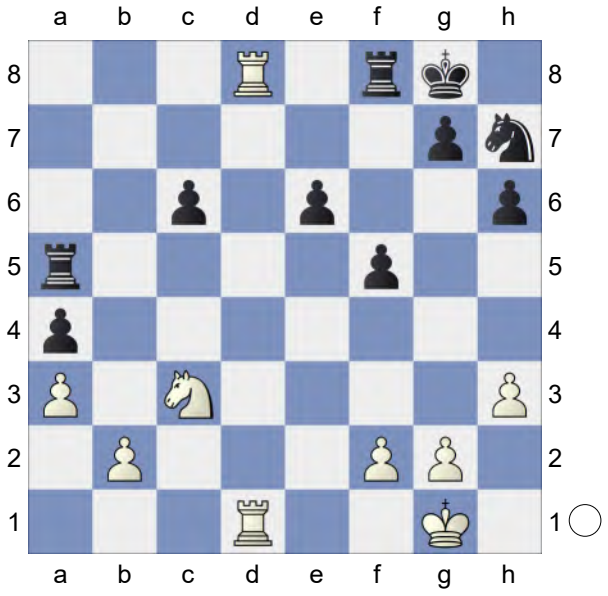
28...Nh7± 29.Red1 0.50/22 White is much more active. The black rooks are passive.

[29.Rxf8+± 1.05/21 Nxf8 30.Qd8]

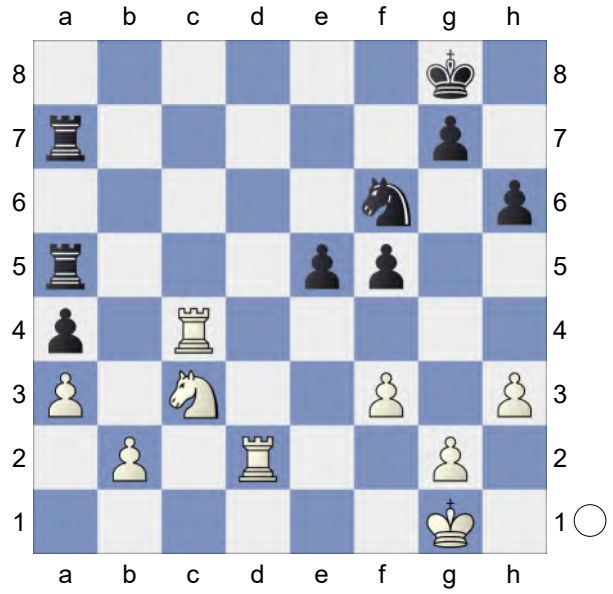
29...Qe6± 30.Qxe6

[30.Qb4 seems wilder. Qe5 31.Nxa4 Rb5 32.Qc4]

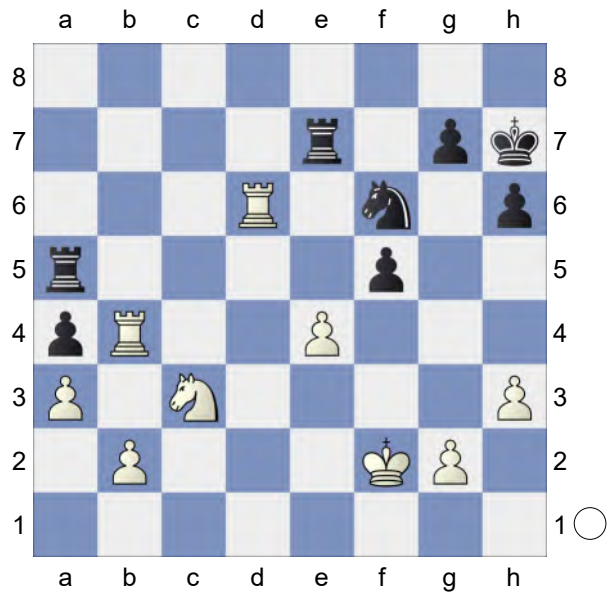
30...fxe6



31.R8d6 Rb8 32.R1d2 e5 33.Rxc6 Nf6 34.Rc4 Rba8 35.f3 R8a7

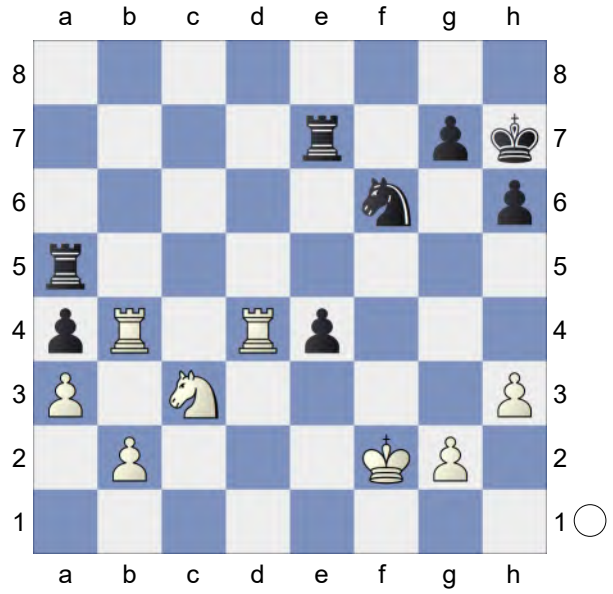


36.Kf2 Kh7 37.Rd6 e4 1.33/20
38.fxe4 0.48/19
[38.Rdd4!± 1.33/20]
38...Rb7 1.24/26
[Black should try 38...Nxe4+± 0.48/19 39.Nxe4 fxe4]
39.Rb4!±
[39.Nxa4? perishes. Nxe4+ *(39...fxe4 40.Rd2±)* 40.Rxe4 fxe4-+]
39...Re7

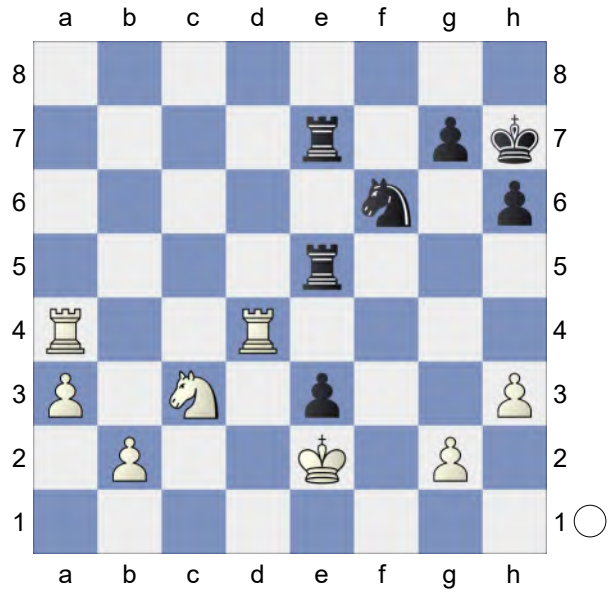


40.Rdd4!↑ White is really pushing.

[40.Nxa4 Nxe4+ 41.Rxe4 Rxe4∓]
40...fxe4

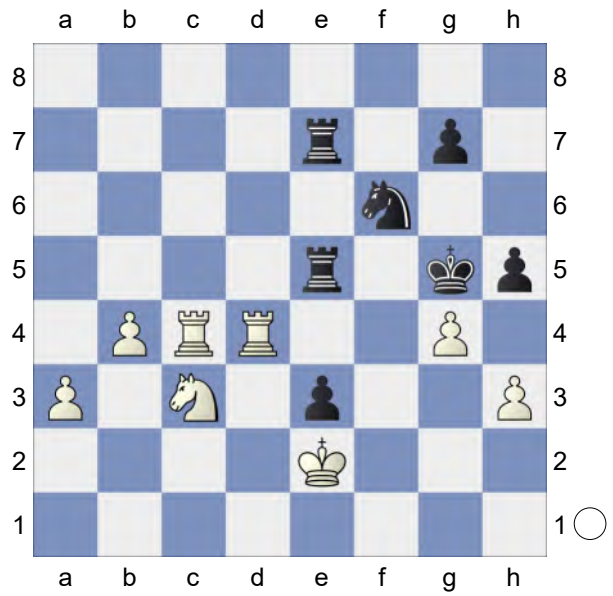


41.Rxa4 e3+ 1.53/22
[⌓41...Rf5+ 1.16/22 42.Ke3 Rg5]
42.Ke2 Rae5

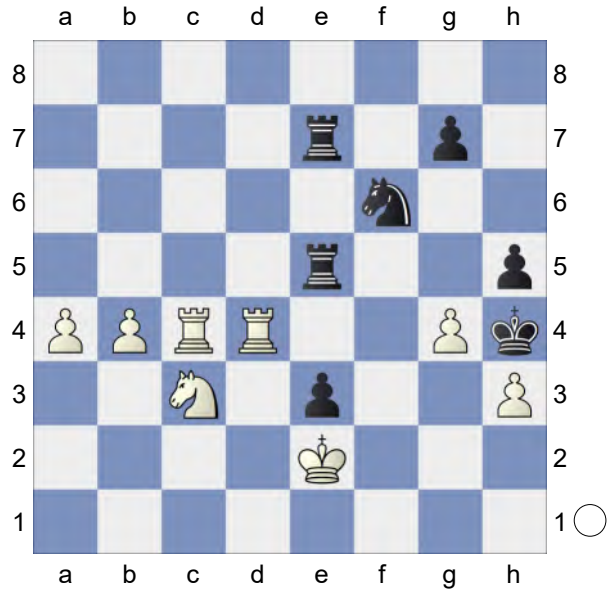


43.g4! Against Nh5 **43...h5 44.Rac4 Kg6 45.b4** aiming for a4. **45...Kg5** 2.86/17
[45...hxg4± 1.60/19 might work better. 46.hxg4 Re8]

(Diagram)



46.a4+- Kh4



47.g5+! Kxg5 48.a5 Rf5 49.Ne4+ Kg6 3.13/22

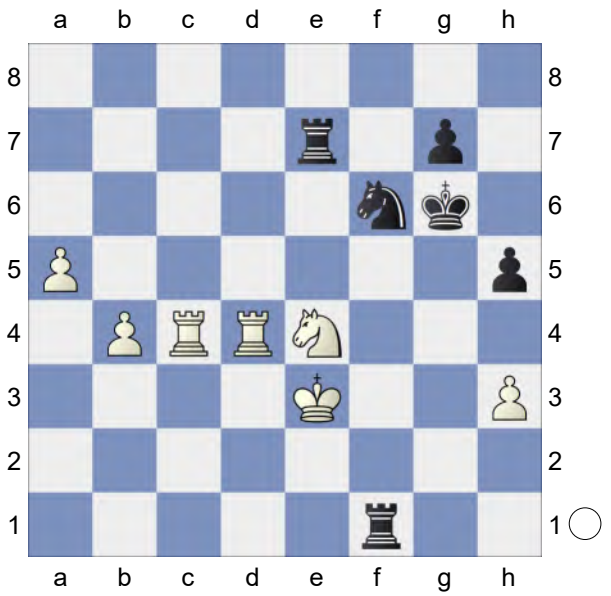
[⌓49...Kh6 2.12/19 50.Kxe3 Nd5+ 51.Kd3 g6 Remove Defender]

50.Kxe3 And now Kd2 would win.

50...Rf1? 3.59/18

[50...Nd5+ 1.95/16 51.Kd2 Nxb4 Remove Defender 52.Rxb4 Rxa5 53.Rb6+ Kf7]

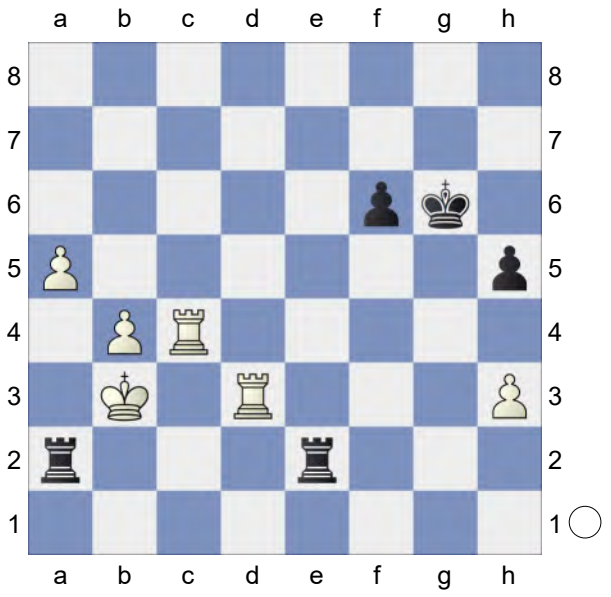
(Diagram)



51.Kd2 Rh1 52.Nxf6 gxf6 Endgame. KRR-KRR Endgame. KRR-KRR **53.Rd3**

[53.b5 Rh2+ 54.Kc3 Ra2+-]

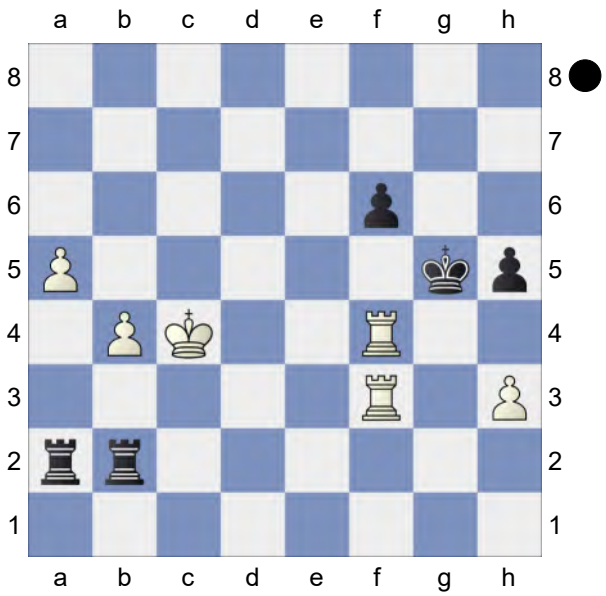
53...Ra1 54.Kc2 Re2+ 55.Kb3 Raa2



56.Rf4 White is clearly winning.

56...Reb2+ 57.Kc4 Kg5 58.Rdf3

(Diagram)

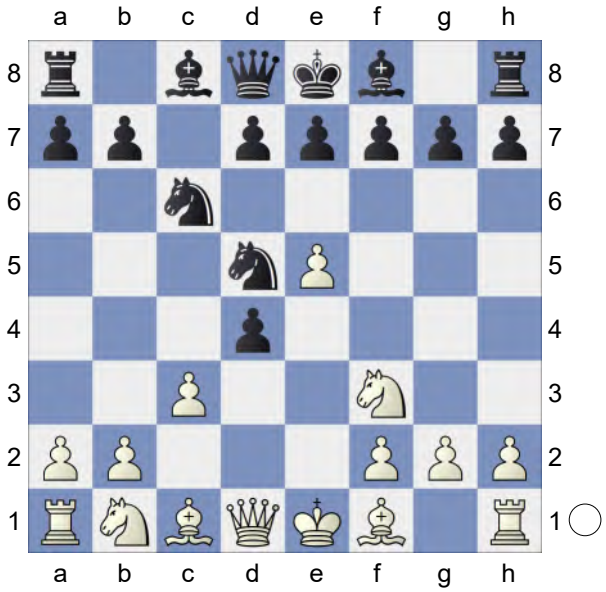


Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.44

1-0

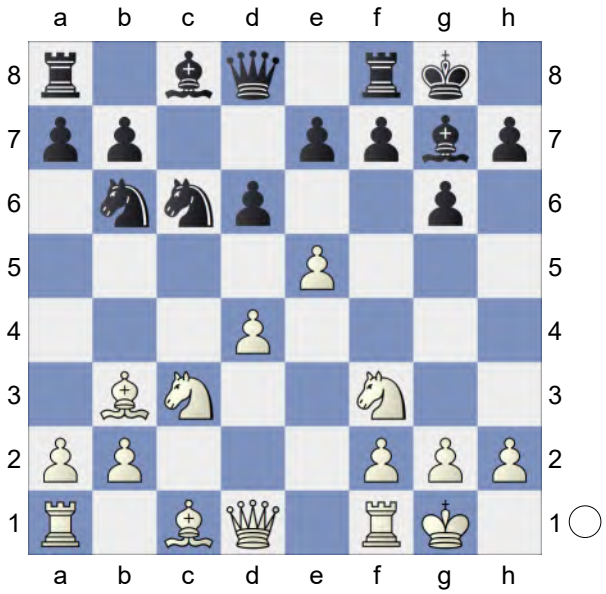
65 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2831**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2755**
CCT Final KO 2024 rapid (2.3) 21.12.24
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4



6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 g6 8.cxd4 Bg7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.0-0 0.02/20
[10.a4± 0.45/21 Na5 11.0-0]
10...d6=
[10...d5 11.h3 f6 12.exf6 exf6 13.Re1 Na5 14.Bc2 Nac4 15.a4 a5 16.b3 Nd6 17.Ba3 Rf7 18.Bc5 Bf5 19.Bxb6 Qxb6 20.Nxd5 Qc6 21.Bxf5 Nxf5 22.Ne3 Nxe3 23.Rxe3 Bh6 24.d5 Qc5 25.Rd3 ½-½ Baklan,V (2590)-Grischuk,A (2666) WchT 5th Yerevan 2001 (9.3)½-½ (58) Baklan,V (2590)-Grischuk,A (2666) WchT 5th Yerevan 2001 (9.3)]

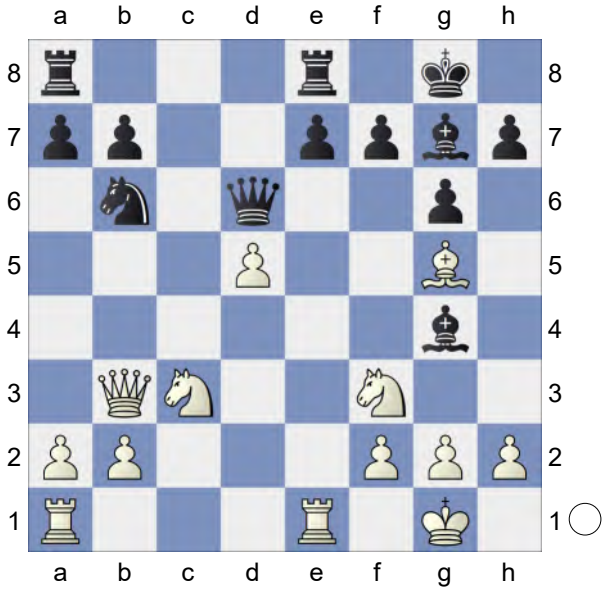
(Diagram)



11.exd6 Qxd6
[11...Bg4 12.dxe7 Qxe7 13.Be3 Rad8 14.Re1 Qd7 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Nb5 Qc5 20.Nxd4 Rxd4 21.Rxd4 Qxd4 22.Re7 Qg7 23.Qxb7 Nc8 24.Rxf7 1-0 Kosteniuk,A (2519)-Baskakov,E (2215) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Early blitz 2023 (11) 1-0 Kosteniuk,A (2519)-Baskakov,E (2215) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Early blitz 2023 (11)]
12.d5N
[12.h3 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Be3 Qxd1 15.Raxd1 Bf5 16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Nd5 Rae8 18.Nxb6 Bxb2 19.Nd7 Bxd7 20.Rxd7 b6 21.Rfd1 Ba3 22.Rb7 Bc5 23.Rd3 Rd8 24.Rdd7 Rxd7 25.Rxd7 Rc8 26.g3 Kf8 0-1 Martinkus,R (1985)-Decuigniere,T (2361) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Dec Early blitz 2022 (1)0-1 (94) Martinkus,R (1985)-Decuigniere,T (2361) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Dec Early blitz 2022 (1)]
12...Na5 13.Re1 seems to push 13.Bg5 aside. setzt sich inzwischen gegen 13.

Lg5 durch. **13...Nxb3 14.Qxb3 Bg4 15.Bg5 Rfe8**

[15...Bxf3?! 16.Bxe7 Qf4 17.gxf3± *(17.Bxf8? Qg4 18.g3 Qh3 19.Bxg7 Qg2#)*]



16.Rad1 'N'

[16.Nb5 Qd7 17.Rad1 Bxf3 18.gxf3 a6 ½-½ Wiesiolek,K (2023)-Pawlowski,A (1400) POL-chT13 DMP 2 liga corr 2000]

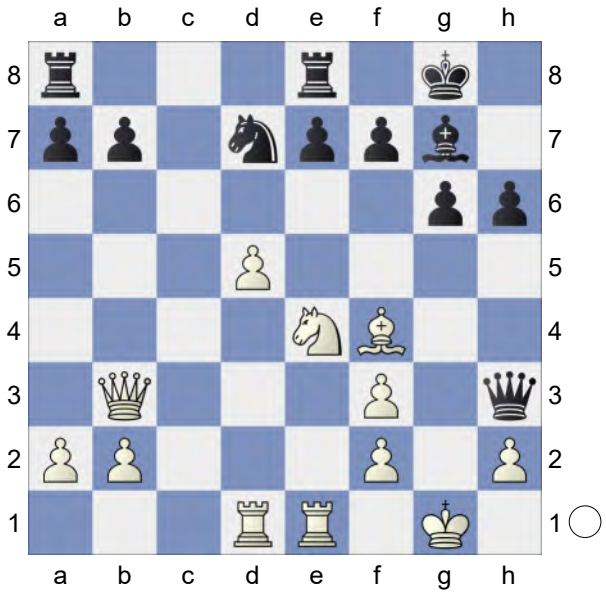
16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qd7 18.Ne4 h6 19.Be3 Qh3

[19...Nc8 simplifies 20.Bf4 Nd6 21.Nxd6 exd6 22.Kg2 g5]

20.Bf4 Nd7

[20...Qf5 simplifies 21.Bg3 Rad8 22.d6 exd6 23.Nxd6 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Qd7]

(Diagram)



21.d6

[21.Qxb7 Qxf3 22.Qxd7 Qxf4]

21...Ne5 0.80/23

[21...e5= -0.02/23 22.Bg3 b6]

22.Bg3 -0.13/23 White is more active.

[22.Re3!± 0.80/23]

22...Rad8 23.f4 Nc6 aiming for ...Nd4.

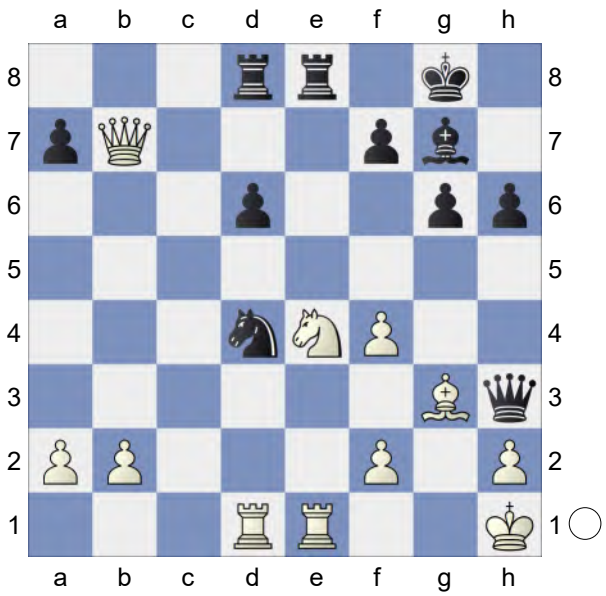
24.Qxb7 -1.04/20

[24.Qd5= -0.18/22]

24...Nd4∓ 25.Kh1 -1.92/23

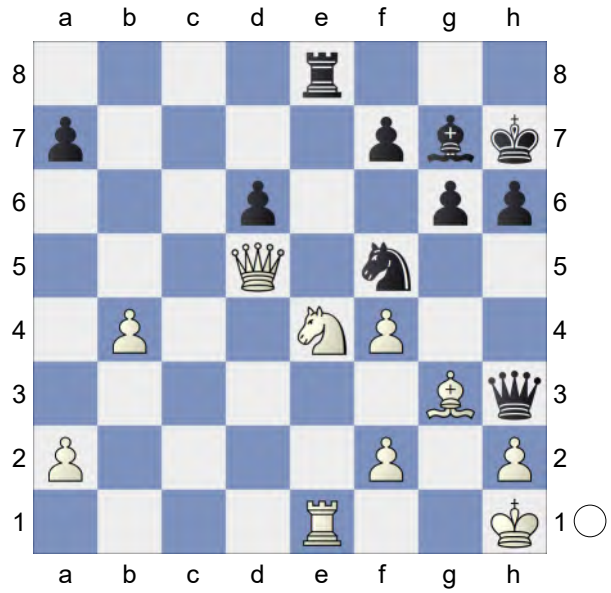
[25.Rxd4∓ -0.82/22 Bxd4 26.Rd1]

25...exd6-+

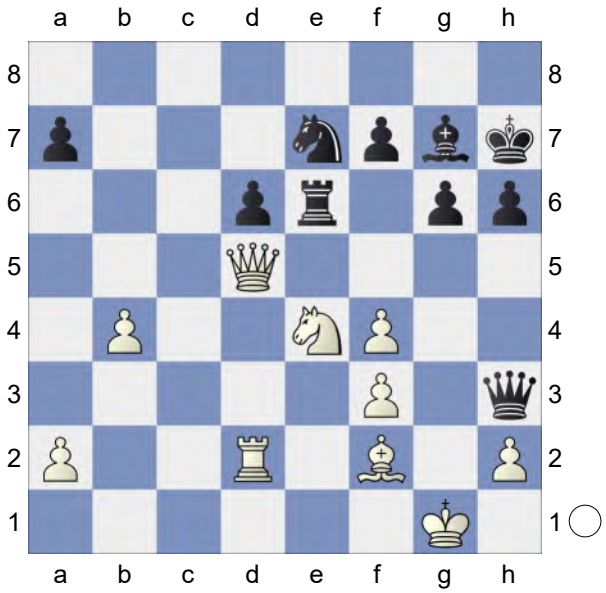


Hoping for ...d5. **26.Qd5 Nf5 27.b4**

Re6 28.Nc5? -3.79/21
[28.Kg1 -1.94/23 is the only way for White.]
28...Rxe1+
[28...dxc5 29.Qxd8+ Bf8 30.bxc5+-]
29.Rxe1 Kh7 -2.21/27
[29...dxc5 30.Qxd8+ Kh7 31.bxc5±]
[⌓29...Rc8 -3.86/24 30.Ne4 Rc2]
30.Ne4 Re8

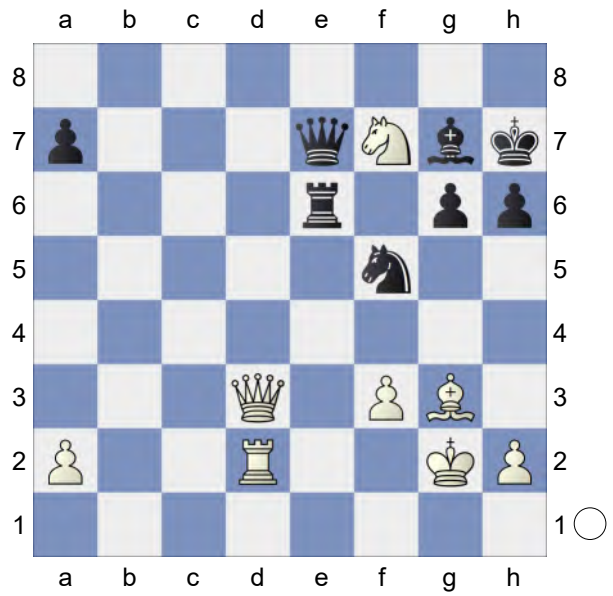


31.Kg1
[31.Qxf7 Rxe4 32.Rd1 Nxg3+ *(32...Rxb4? 33.Kg1-+; 32...Qg4? 33.Qb3-+)* 33.fxg3 Re2 *(33...Rxb4? 34.f5-+; 33...Rxb4? 34.Qb3-+)*]
[31.Nf6+? Bxf6 32.Qxf7+ Ng7-+]
31...Re6 Prevents Nf6+. Threatens to win with ...Qh5. **32.Rd1 Qh5?** -0.03/26
[32...Nh4!-+ -2.35/22 33.Nd2 Rf6]
33.Rd2? -1.75/24
[33.f3!= -0.03/26]
33...Qg4 -1.18/21
[33...Qf3? 34.Nf6+ *(34.Ng5+ hxg5 35.Qxf3 gxf4+-)* 34...Bxf6 35.Qxf3+-]
34.f3∓ Qh3
[34...Qxf3? 35.Nf6+ *(35.Ng5+ hxg5 36.Qxf3 g4+-)* 35...Bxf6 36.Qxf3+-]
35.Bf2 Repels Ne3 **35...Ne7** -0.11/25
[35...Qxf3? is the wrong capture. 36.Nf6+ *(36.Ng5+ hxg5 37.Qxf3 gxf4+-)* 36...Rxf6 37.Qxf3+-]
[35...g5!∓ -1.14/21 36.fxg5 Be5 *(36...Qxf3? 37.Nf6+* Discovered Attack *Rxf6 38.Qxf3+-)* 37.Bxa7 Nh4 *(37...Qxf3? 38.Nf6+* Discovered Attack *Rxf6 39.Qxf3+-)*]

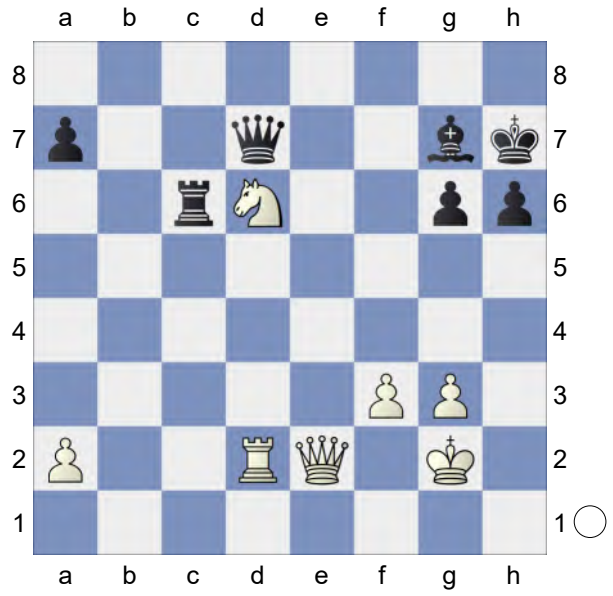


36.Qd3 Qf5 37.Nxd6 Qxf4 38.Bg3 -0.97/22
[38.b5= 0.00/23]
38...Qxb4 39.Nxf7? -3.97/21
[39.a3∓ -0.95/20 Qc5+ 40.Kg2]
39...Nf5-+ 40.Kg2 Qe7 -0.60/20
[40...Re3-+ -3.55/16 41.Qd8 Re7 42.Nxh6 Kxh6 *(42...Bxh6? 43.Rd7-+)*]

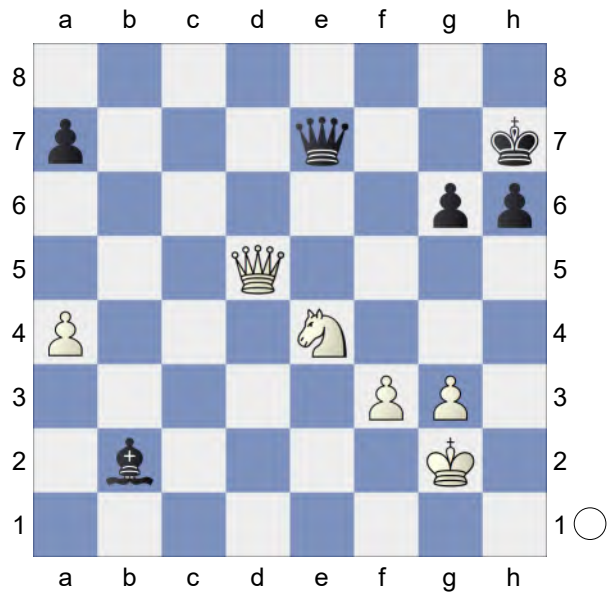
(Diagram)



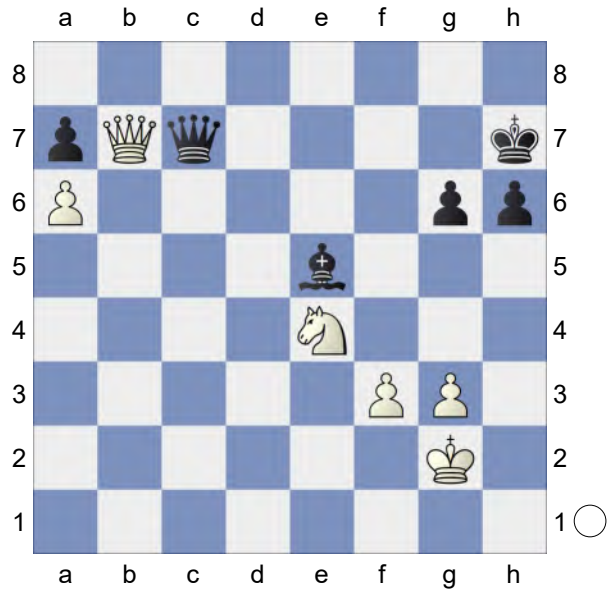
41.Nd6∓ Re3! 42.Qc4 -1.01/19
[Better is 42.Qb5!∓ -0.31/20 Nd4 43.Qb7]
42...Nxg3 0.00/26
[42...Rxf3!∓ -1.01/19 43.Kxf3 Qe3+ 44.Kg4 Qg5+ *(44...Qxd2 45.Nxf5 Qg5+ 46.Kf3∓)* 45.Kh3 Qxd2 46.Nxf5 gxf5]
43.hxg3= Rc3 44.Qe4 Qd7 45.Qe2 Rc6G



Black puts up resistance **46.Ne4 Qe7 47.Qb5 Rc7 48.Qd5 Rb7 49.a4 Rb2 50.Rxb2 Bxb2**

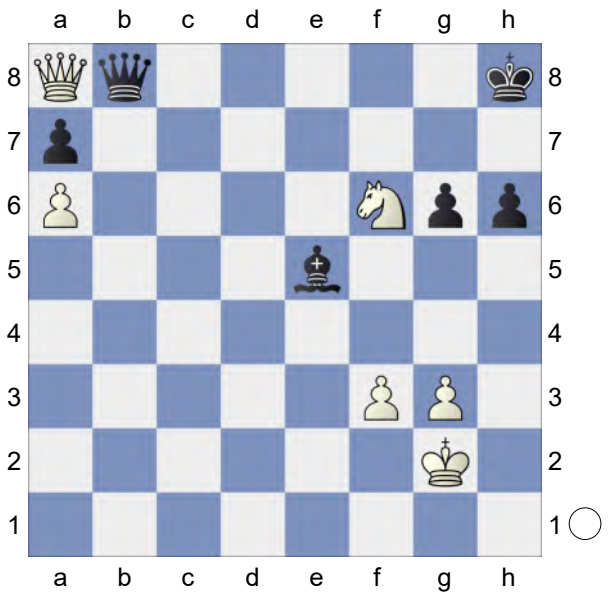


Endgame. KQB-KQN Endgame. KQB-KQN **51.a5 Bg7 52.a6 Qc7 53.Qb7 Be5** 2.94/19
[Black should try 53...Qc2+± 0.60/23 54.Kh3 h5]

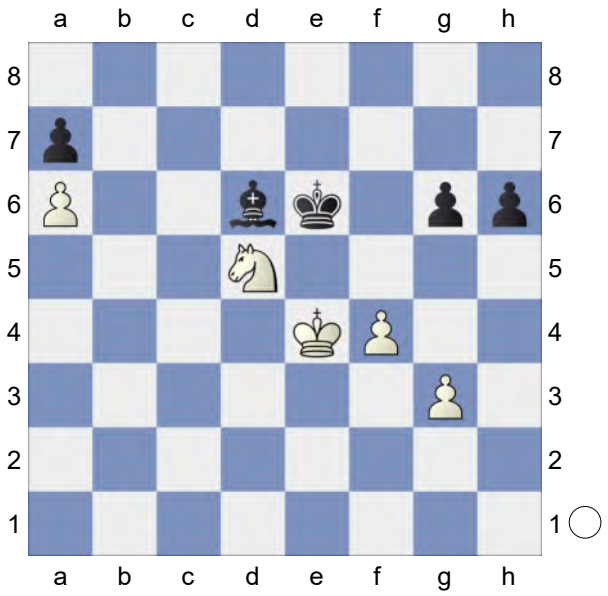


54.Nf6+? 0.13/20 **Kh8! 55.Qa8+ Qb8**

(Diagram)

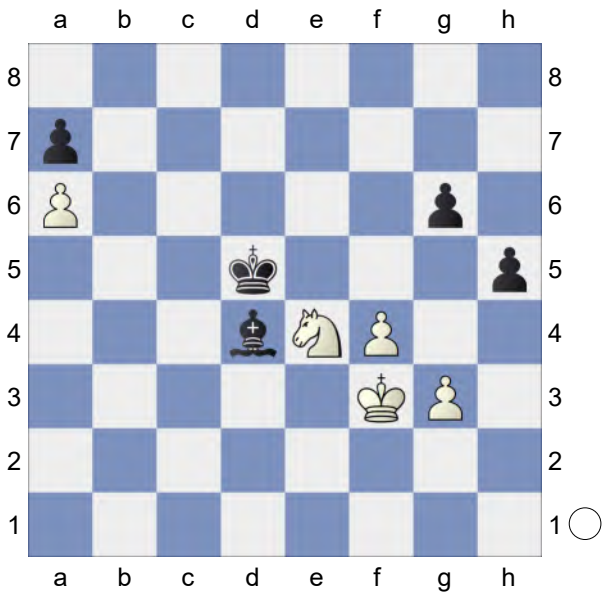


56.Qxb8+ Bxb8 KB-KN **57.f4 Kg7 58.Nd5 Kf7 59.Kf3 Ke6 60.Ke4 Bd6**



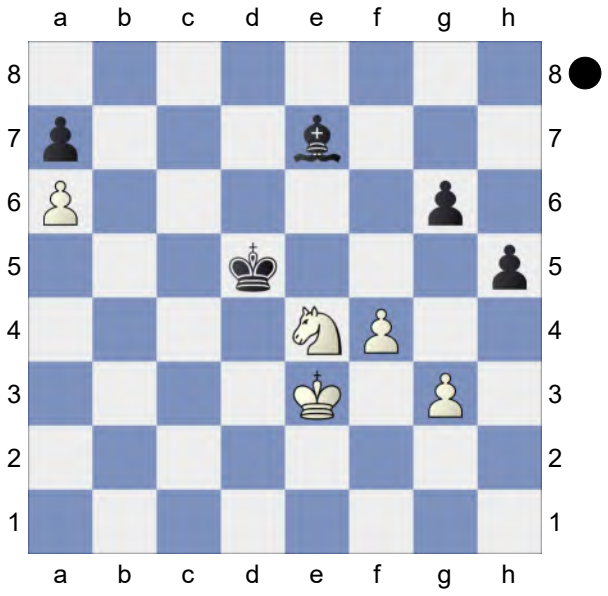
61.Nc3 Bc5 62.Nb5 h5 63.Nc3 Bf2 64.Kf3 Bd4 65.Ne4 Kd5

(Diagram)



66.Ng5 Bf6 White must now prevent ... Bxg5. **67.Ne4 Be7 68.Ke3?** -2.37/23

[68.Nd2= -0.01/25 and White is okay.]



68...Kc6 -0.88/19

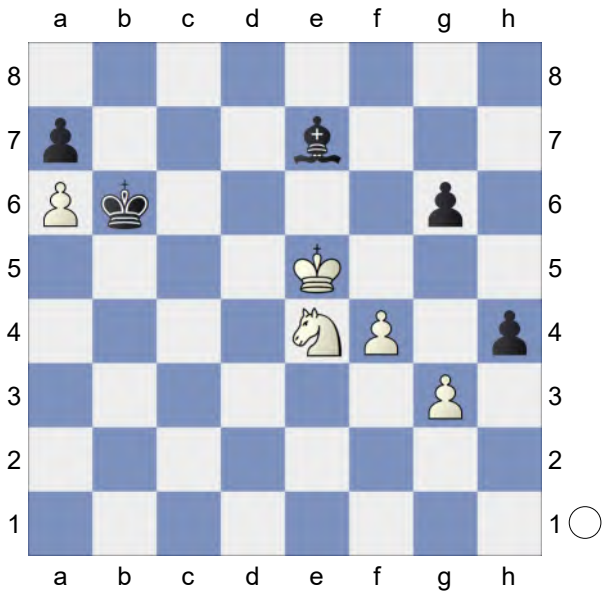
[68...Kc4!-+ -2.37/23 is more deadly. Strongly threatening ...Kb5. 69.Nd2+ Kb5]

69.Kd4? -4.93/26

[69.Nc3∓ -0.88/19 is a better chance.]

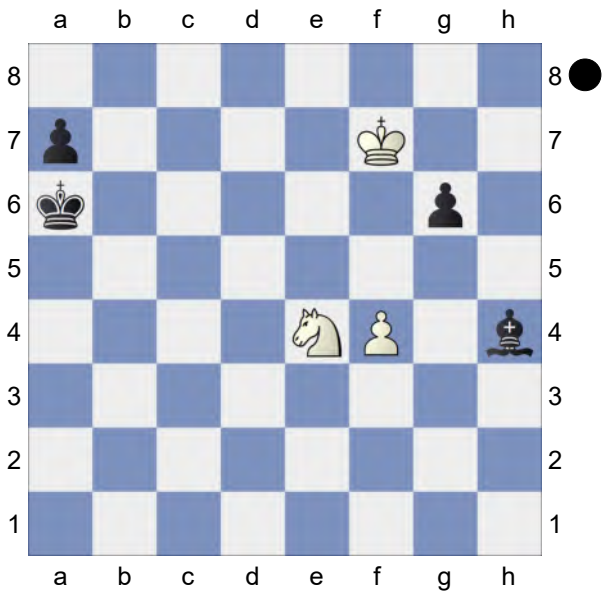
69...Kb6-+ 70.Ke5 h4? 0.00/36

[70...Kxa6-+ -2.61/26 71.Nf2 Kb5]



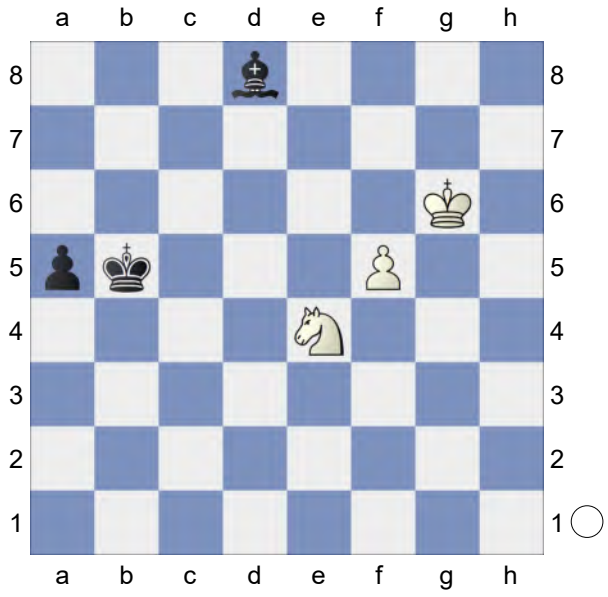
71.gxh4= Bxh4 72.Ke6 Kxa6 ...Kb5 would now be deadly. **73.Kf7** -1.14/31

[73.f5!= -0.03/24 keeps the balance. gxf5 74.Kxf5]

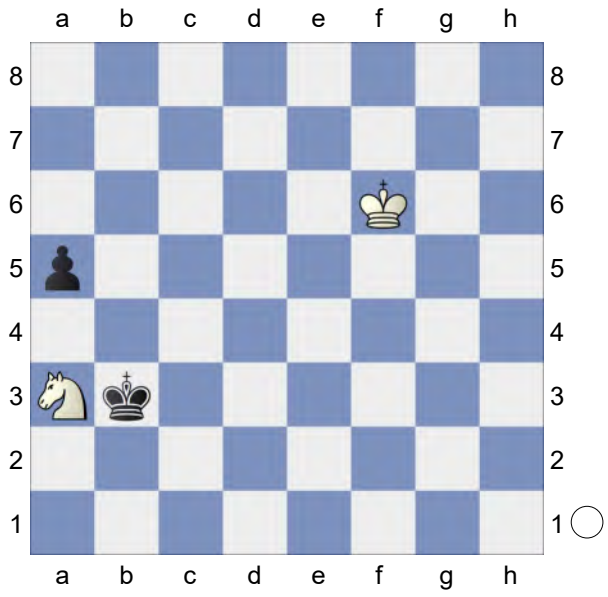


73...Kb5!∓ 74.Kxg6 a5 75.f5 Bd8 0.00/33

[75...Kc4∓ -0.71/27 ...a4 is the strong threat. 76.Nd2+ Kc3 77.Ne4+ Kd3 78.Nc5+ Kc4]



76.f6= The position is equal. **76...Bxf6 77.Kxf6** KN-KP **77...Kb4 78.Nd2 Kc3 79.Nb1+ Kc2!? 80.Na3+□ Kb3=**



81.Nb1 Kb2 82.Nd2 a4 83.Ke5 Kc3

[83...a3!? 84.Nc4+□ Kc3 85.Nxa3=]

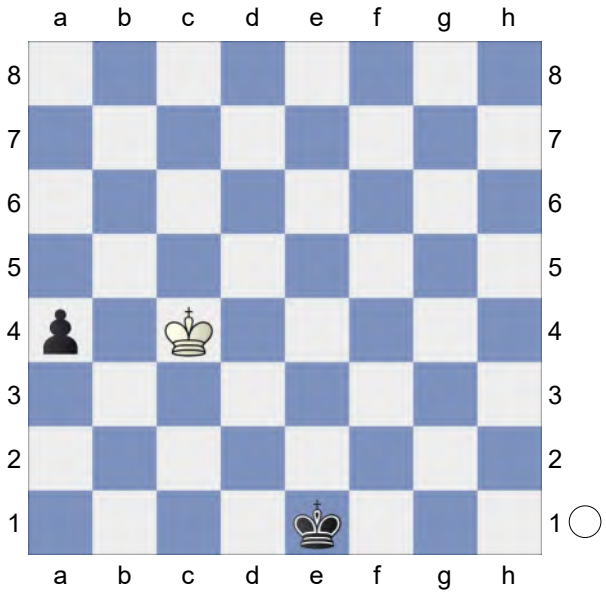
84.Kd5 Kxd2

[84...a3!? 85.Nb1+□ Kd3 86.Nxa3=]

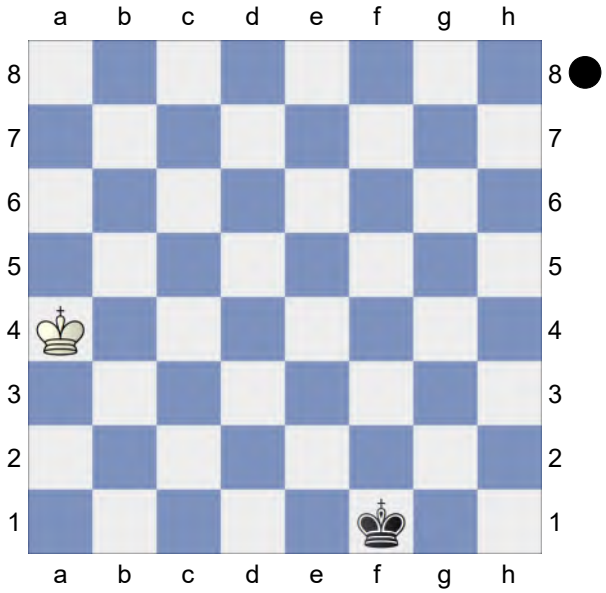
85.Kc4 Ke1

[85...a3!? 86.Kb3□ Ke3=]

(Diagram)



86.Kb4 Kf1 87.Kxa4



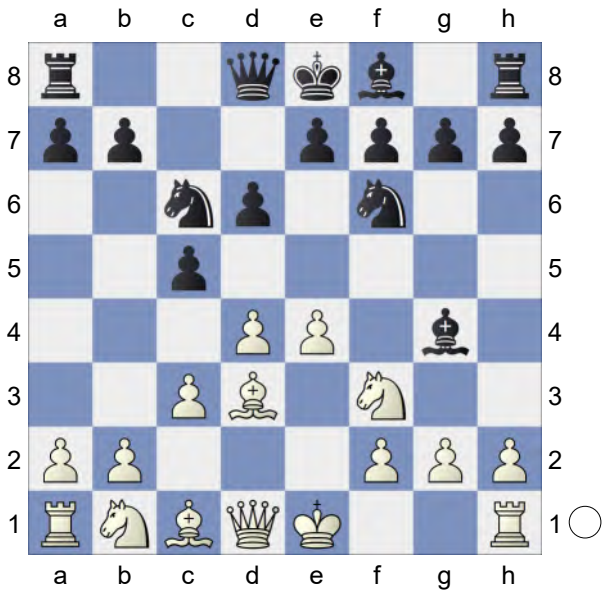
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.35

½-½

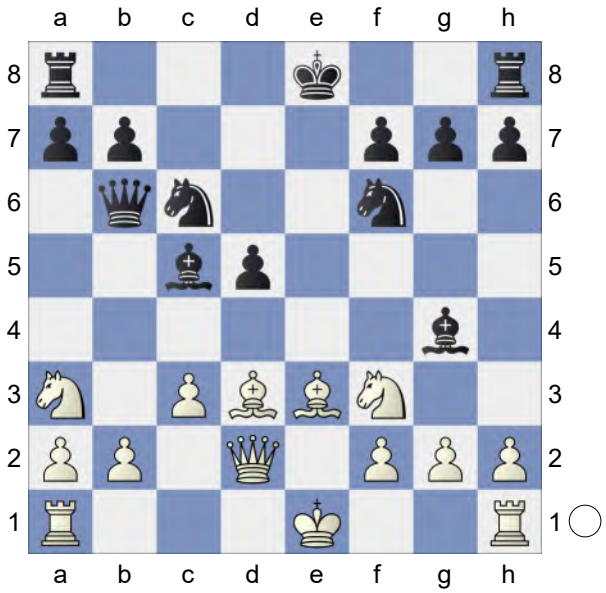
66 **B07**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2817**
■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2709**
Leon Masters 24th rapid (4) 04.06.2011
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3
[4.dxc5 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qh5+ *(7.Qd5+ e6 8.Qxe4)* 7...Kg8 *(7...g6 8.Qd5+ Kg7 9.Qxe4 Bf5)* 8.Qd5+ e6 9.Qxe4 d5 10.Qe3 Qf6]
[4.f3]
4...Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4
[5...e5]

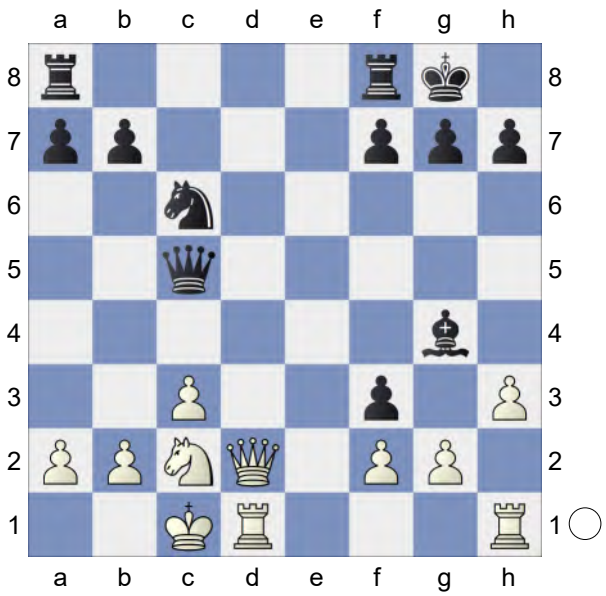


6.Be3 0.15/18 Opta Anand por la antiMoscú en lugar de la Moscú que se vió en la segunda partida.
[6.d5 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Ne5 8.Bb5+ Ned7 9.0-0]
[6.d5± 0.67/20]
6...Qb6
[6...e6 7.Nbd2 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.e5 Ne7? 2.43/20 *(9...Nd7± 0.34/17)* 10.0-0? 0.52/16 *(*Better is *10.exf6+-* 2.43/20 *gxf6 11.Bb5+ Nc6 12.Rc1)*]
7.Qd2 -0.02/17
[7.Qb3 Qxb3 8.axb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3]
[7.Nbd2± 0.39/18 deserves consideration.]
7...e6= 8.Na3 d5 The position is equal.
9.exd5 exd5 10.dxc5 Bxc5

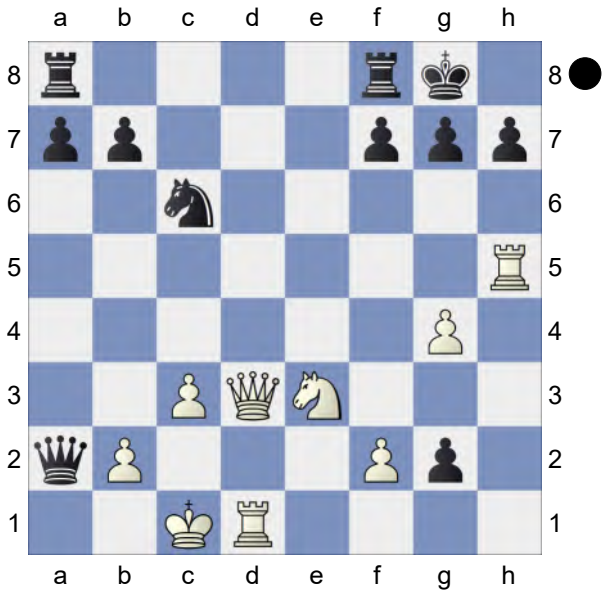


11.Bxc5 Lo más empleado en esta posición. **11...Qxc5 12.0-0-0** -0.67/19
[12.Nd4= -0.09/21]
12...0-0!∓ 13.Nc2 -1.14/19
[13.h3∓ -0.69/17 Bxf3 14.gxf3]
13...Ne4∓ El planteamiento negro no parece muy ambicioso teniendo en cuenta la desventaja en el marcador.
14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.h3!?± exf3

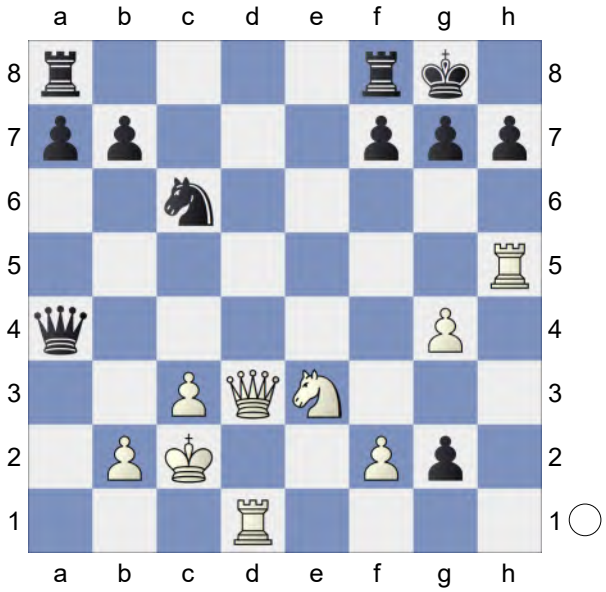
(Diagram)



16.hxg4 fxg2 17.Rh5 -2.80/22
[17.Rh2? -8.72/24 17.Rhg1 -1.69 Rad8 18.Qe3 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1 Rd8+ 20.Kc1 g1Q+]
[17.Rhg1∓ -1.59/22]
17...Qc4-+ 18.Ne3 Limitándose a mejorar la posición. **18...Qxa2 19.Qd3** -4.66/22
[19.Qc2 -2.88/24 was worth a try. g6 20.Rhd5]

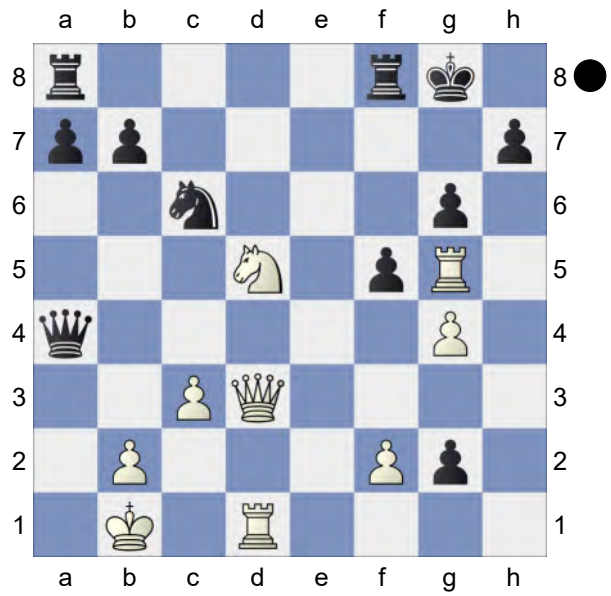


19...Qa1+!? -1.25/24
[19...g6-+ -4.66/22 is more deadly. 20.Rd5 Rad8 21.Nxg2 Nb4 *(21...Ne5? 22.Qe4-+)* 22.Rxd8 *(22.cxb4? Rxd5 23.Qxd5 Rc8+-+)* 22...Nxd3+ 23.R8xd3 Qa1+ 24.Kc2 Qa4+ 25.Kd2 Qxg4]
20.Kc2 -2.70/20
[20.Qb1∓ -1.25/24 Qxb1+ 21.Kxb1]
20...Qa4+?!
[20...g1Q 21.Qxh7#]



21.Kb1! Muy preciso. Ahora se ve claro que sin damas las torres blancas son muy superiores y será dificil evitar su penetración. **21...g6 22.Nd5?** -6.29/20
[22.Rd5 -2.49/21]
22...f5 es difícil sugerir algo mejor.
23.Rg5 -5.69/21 !y Anand ofrece tablas!
[⌓23.Rh2 -4.02/22 Qxg4 *(23...fxg4? 24.Rxg2 Rad8 25.Qe2-+)* 24.Rg1]

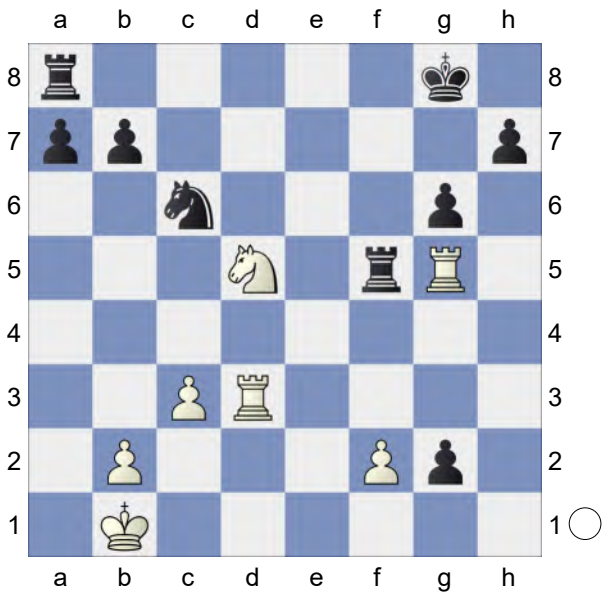
(Diagram)



?Por qué no **23...Qe4?** -1.56/23
[23...fxg4 24.Rxg6+ hxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kh8 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qg6+ Kh8 28.Qh5+ *(28.Qh6+ Kg8=)* 28...Kg7 29.Qg5+ Kh8 30.Qh5+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Qg6+=]
[23...Ne5!-+ -5.69/21 and Black stays clearly on top. 24.Ne7+ Kf7 25.Qd5+ Kf6 *(25...Kxe7 26.Qxe5+ Kf7 27.Rxf5+ gxf5 28.Qxf5+ Kg7 29.Qg5+ Kh8 30.Qe5+ Kg8 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Qe5+ Kg8 33.Qg5+ Kf7 34.Qh5+ Kg8 35.Qg5+=)* 26.Rxg6+ Nxg6 *(26...hxg6? 27.g5+* Decoy *Kxg5 28.Qxg2+ Ng4 29.Rd4-+)* 27.Nxg6 hxg6 28.gxf5 Qc6 *(28...gxf5? 29.Qd6+ Kg5 30.Qg3+ Qg4 31.Rg1-+)* 29.Qxc6+ bxc6]

24.gxf5∓ Qxd3+ 25.Rxd3 Rxf5

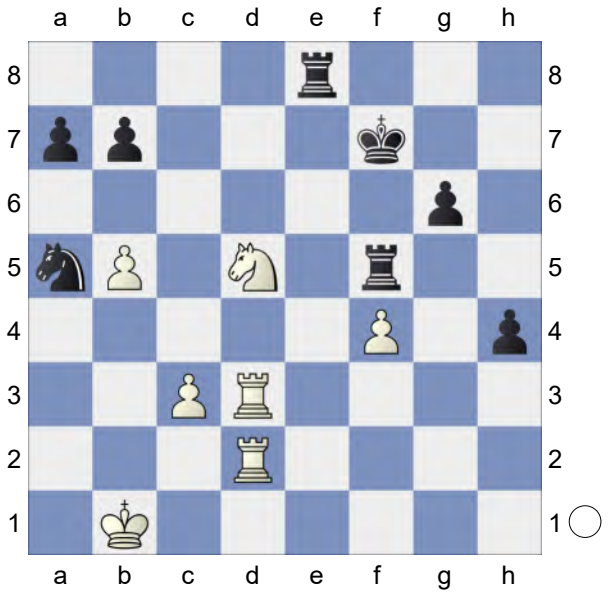
(Diagram)



26.Rxg2 Re8 evitando la entrada del caballo blanco por h4? la respuesta es sin duda **27.f4! Kf7 28.Rgd2 h5 29.b4** -1.94/20
[29.c4∓ -1.45/20]

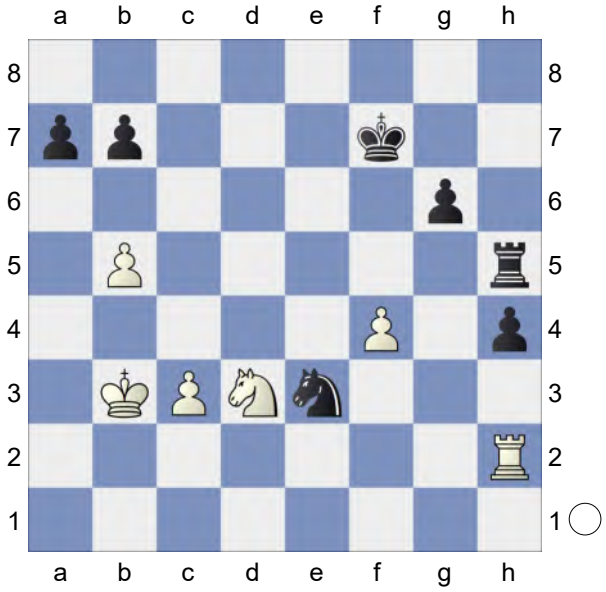
29...h4 30.b5 -2.71/20 con buen contrajueg o para tablas. Seguramente la intuición de Anand vio todo esto y por ello.... !Tablas!
[30.Rh2 -1.76/20 was called for.]

30...Na5-+



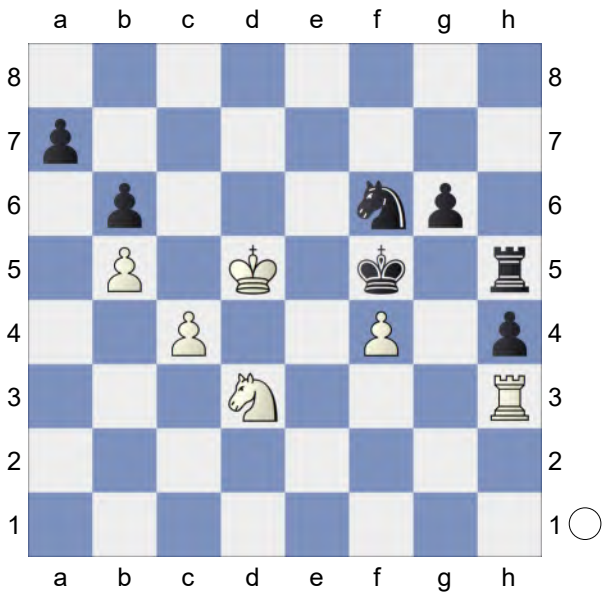
31.Ka2 Era mas precavida y correcta: **31...Nc4 32.Rh2 Rd8 33.Nb4 Rxd3**

34.Nxd3 Endgame. KRN-KRN **34...Rh5**
[34...Rxb5 35.Rxh4 Rh5 36.Rg4-+]
[34...Rd5 35.Kb3 Na5+ *(35...Rxb5+ 36.Kxc4 Rh5 37.Kd4±)* 36.Kc2-+]
35.Kb3 Ne3
[35...Rxb5+ 36.Kxc4 Rh5 37.Nc5±]

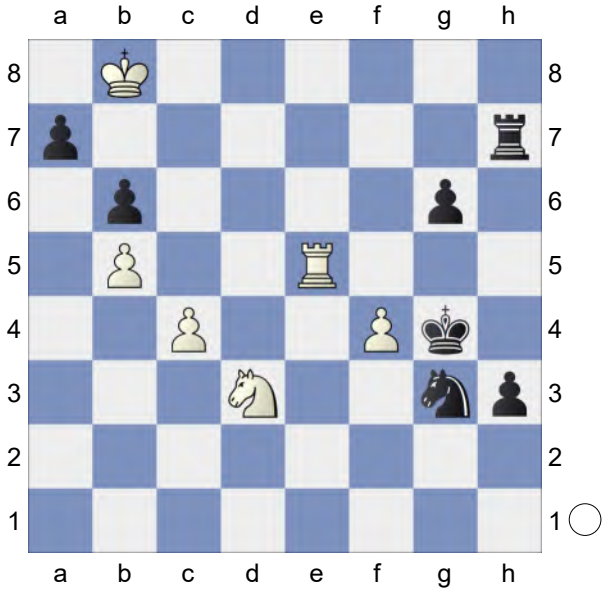


36.Rh3 -3.21/20
[⩲36.c4 -1.78/19]
36...Ng4
[36...Rxb5+ 37.Ka4 Rh5 38.Rxe3∓]
37.c4 b6 con suficiente contrajuego
38.Kc3 -2.91/23
[⩲38.Ne1 -2.03/23]
38...Kf6 No satisface: **39.Kd4 Kf5!?** y la clavada es bastante desagradable. **40.Kd5** es lo más natural. La ligera ventaja clásica de la que gozan las blancas con mas espacio, les asegura un medio juego plácido. **40...Nf6+**

(Diagram)

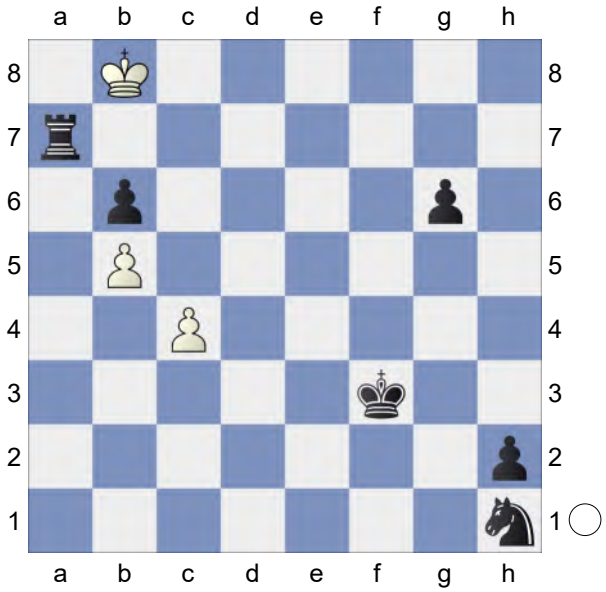


41.Kc6 Ne4 42.Kc7 -4.28/21
[⩲42.Kb7 -3.02/19 Nd6+ 43.Kxa7]
Alexei ya tuvo esta posición llevando las piezas más claras: **42...Kg4!? 43.Re3 Ng3 44.Re5?** -4.98/21
[Don't play 44.Re6 h3 45.Kb8 *(45.Rxg6+? Kf3-+)* 45...Kf3 *(45...h2? 46.Kxa7 Kf3 47.Re1-+)*]
[44.Kb8 -3.03/21 Rh7 *(44...h3 45.Kxa7 h2 46.Kxb6∓)* 45.Re1]
44...Rh7+ 45.Kb8 h3



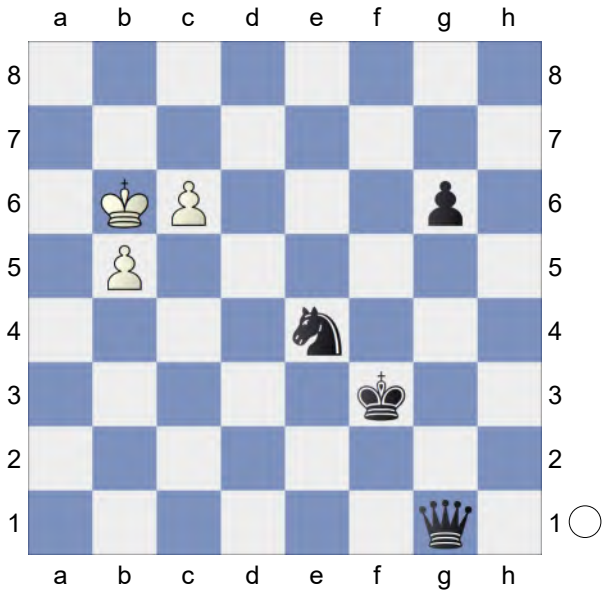
46.Nf2+ Kxf4 47.Re1 -8.47/21
[⩲47.Re6 -4.80/22 h2 48.Rf6+ Kg5

49.Rf3]
47...h2 48.Ra1 Kf3
[48...h1R 49.Nxh1 Ne4 *(49...Rxh1? loses. 50.Rxh1 Nxh1 51.Kxa7+-; 49...Nxh1 50.Rxa7 Rh6 51.Rf7+ Ke5 52.Kc7∓)* 50.Nf2 Nxf2 51.Rf1]
49.Nh1± 1/2-1/2 Shirov,A (2710)-Dreev,A (2650) Linares 1995. Parece mejor 11...Ac7 que la empleada por Shirov en esta partida **49...Nxh1 50.Rxa7**
[50.Rxh1]
50...Rxa7



Black mates. **51.Kxa7 Nf2** 1/2-1/2 Bareev,E (2675)-Dreev,A (2630)/ Elista 1998 **52.Kxb6 h1Q 53.c5 Ne4 54.c6 Qg1+**

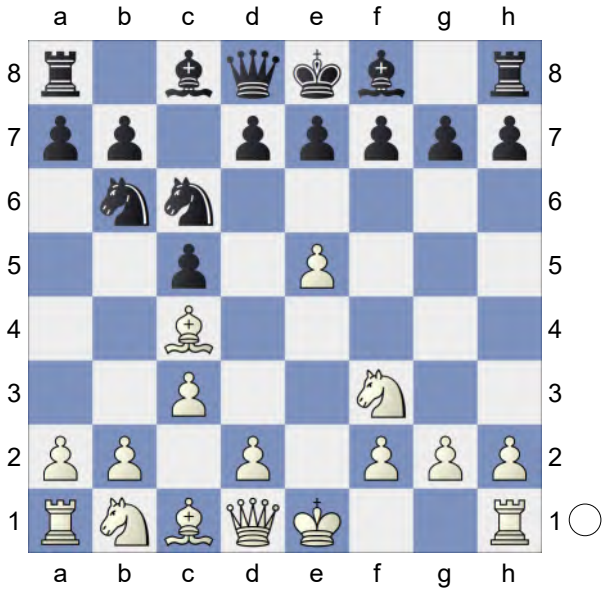
(Diagram)



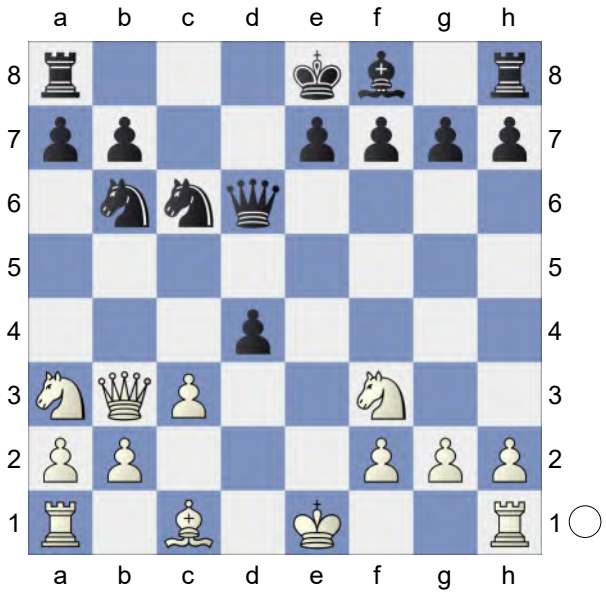
Weighted Error Value: White=0.93/ Black=0.37. An unexpected result.
½-½

67 **B22**
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2816**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2705**
FIDE World Cup (3.5) 19.09.2015
[Dave Smerdon]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3!? Be6 9.d4 Bxb3
[9...cxd4 is equally popular, but comfortably better for White: 10.Nb5 Qd7 11.Bxe6 Qxe6+ 12.Be3 Qd7 Inhibits Nc7+. *(12...Rc8* 0.85/21 12...Nd5 0.07 *13.Nfxd4±* 1-0 (15) Strikovic, A (2450)-Drei, A (2235) Forli 1988 *)* 13.Nbxd4 e6 14.0-0 Be7 15.Nxc6! Qxc6 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Bf4±]
10.Qxb3 White is slightly better.
[10.axb3 is less popular, but maybe it shouldn't be. Now. aiming for Nb5. cxd4 11.Nb5 Qd7 12.0-0!? is an interesting and relatively new idea here. *(12.Nbxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4* is also a tiny bit better for White. 1/2-1/2 (24) Adams, M (2707)-Leko, P (2740) Wijk aan Zee 2006 *)*
A) 12...e5 13.cxd4 a6 14.d5! Nb4 15.Nc3 Bd6 0.68/20 *(15...f6=* 0.21/20 *)* 16.Be3± Nc8 17.Nd2!±;
B) 12...a6± 0.33/21 feels stronger. 13.Nbxd4 0-0-0;
C) 12...e6 0.75/21 13.Bf4!± Nd5 Repels Nc7+ 14.Bg3 Rc8 1.51/22 *(⌓14...Rd8* 0.86/20 *)* 15.Nbxd4± 1-0 (34) Karpatchev, A (2466)-Rosner, J (2197) Germany 2011]
10...cxd4



11.Nb5 Qb8N 0.61/20 This retreat is as unnatural as it feels.
[11...Qd7! and Black should have no problems. 12.Nbxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 and now: e5! Prevents Bf4. *(13...g6 14.0-0 Bg7 15.Rd1 0-0 16.Be3±; 13...e6 14.0-0 Be7 15.Rd1* Nf5! would now be deadly. *0-0±)* 14.Nf3 Bd6 15.Be3 0-0!= 16.Bxb6 e4!?]
[Better is 11...Qd7= 0.01/22]
12.Nbxd4 Good enough for a small edge, but surprisingly, White had a much more dangerous option.
[12.g3!! is very strong. See the notes

to Tiviakov, S (2631)-Kulaots, K (2572) Gausdal 2005.]

[12.Nfxd4 Na5 13.Qd1 a6=]

12...e6 13.0-0 Be7 14.a4 Not the most accurate, but we have left the realm of theoretical importance.

[14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qc2 0-0±]

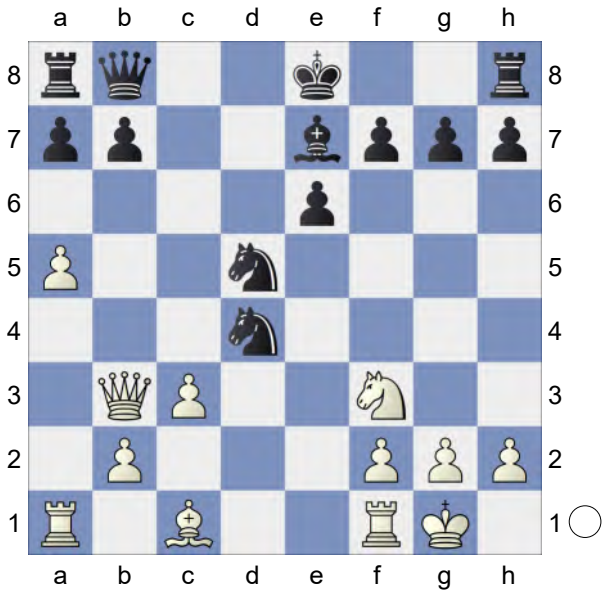
14...Nd5

[14...Nxd4! 15.Nxd4 0-0 16.Rd1 Qc7=]

15.a5

[15.Nf5!±]

15...Nxd4



16.Nxd4 a6? 0.93/21

[16...0-0=]

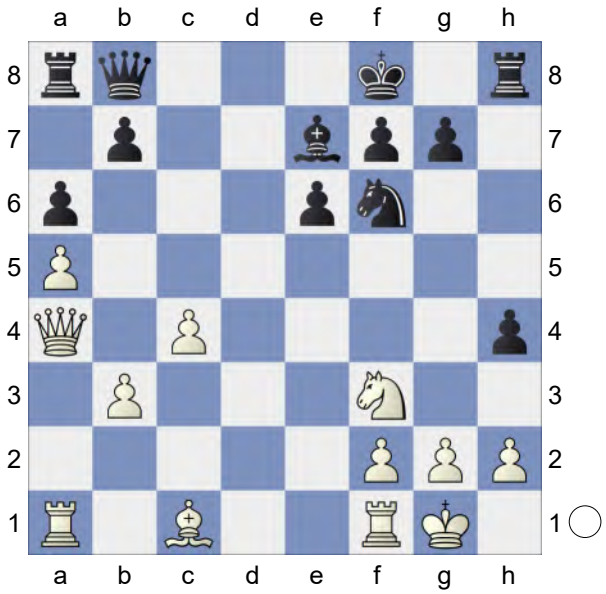
[16...0-0= 0.17/22]

17.Qa4+!± Kf8 18.c4 Nf6 19.b3 0.49/19

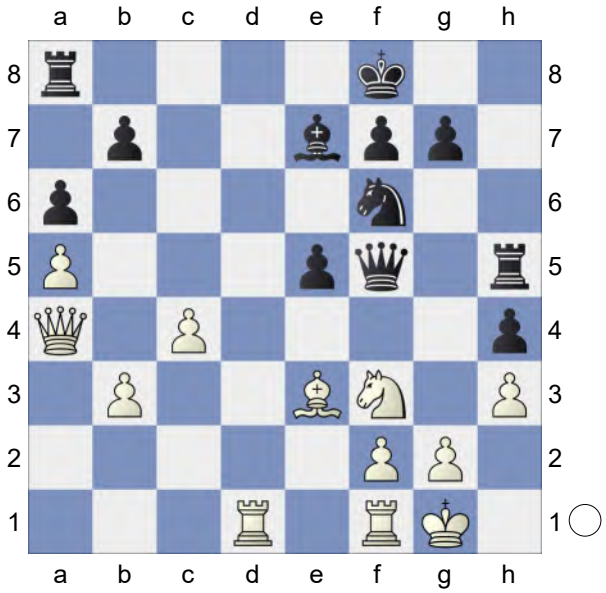
[19.h3± 0.87/18]

19...h5± 20.Nf3 h4

(Diagram)



21.h3 Rh5 22.Be3 Qc7 23.Bb6 Qf4 24.Rad1 e5 25.Be3 Qf5



26.c5 Qc8 1.28/21

[26...e4!"]

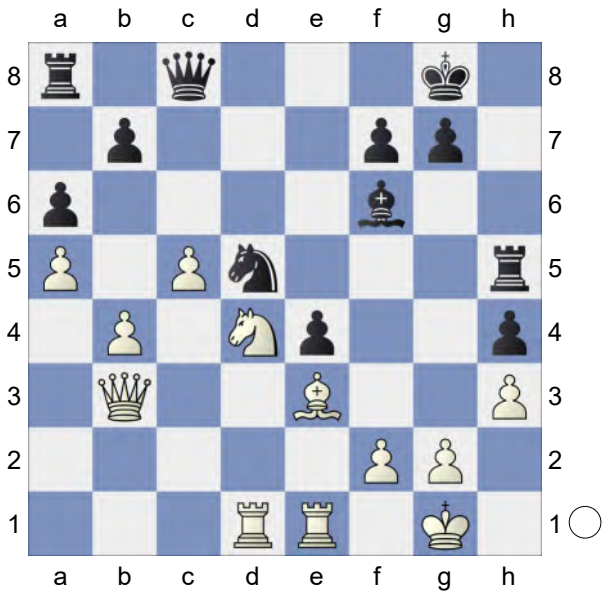
[26...e4± 0.41/20 27.Nd4 Qc8 *(27...Qxc5? 28.Ne6+* Discovered Attack *fxe6 29.Bxc5+-)*]

27.b4 0.63/19 White has more active pieces.

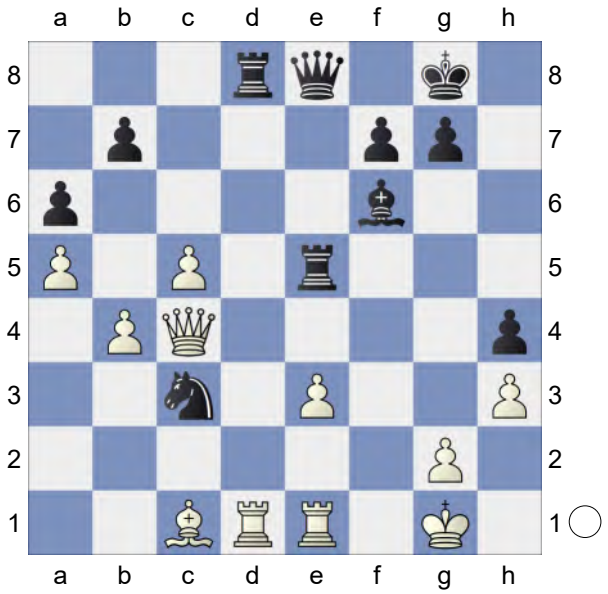
[27.Nxh4? too greedy. e4 *(27...Bxc5? 28.Rc1+-)* 28.Rfe1 Rxh4-+]

[White should play 27.Qc4± 1.28/21]

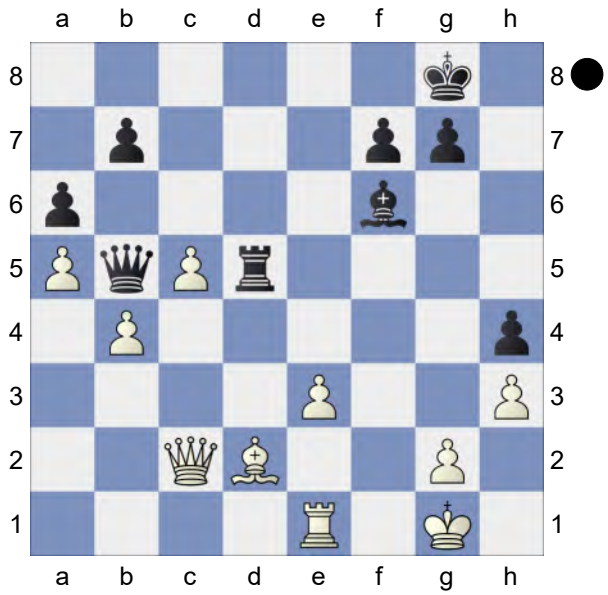
27...e4 28.Nd4 Nd5 29.Qb3 Against Nc3 **29...Kg8 30.Rfe1 Bf6** 1.39/20
[⌓30...Qd7 0.87/19]



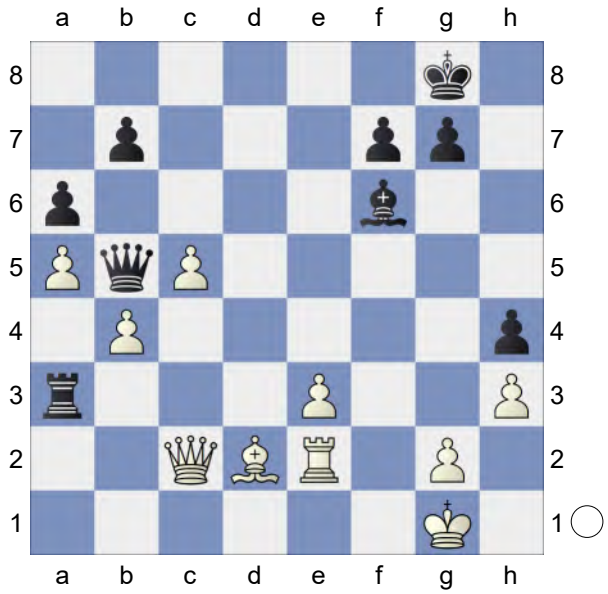
31.Bc1!± Qe8 32.Qc4 0.26/22
[32.Nf3± 0.85/21 Nxb4 33.Qxb4]
32...Rd8= 33.Ne2?!
[33.b5±]
33...e3! 34.fxe3 Re5! 35.Nc3 Nxc3



36.Qxc3 Red5 -0.02/26
[36...Re4!∓]
[36...Re4∓ -0.64/26 37.Rxd8 Pin Bxc3]
37.Qc2 Qb5 38.Rxd5 Rxd5 39.Bd2 -0.81/26
[39.Qe4= -0.14/25 Qd7 40.Qc2]

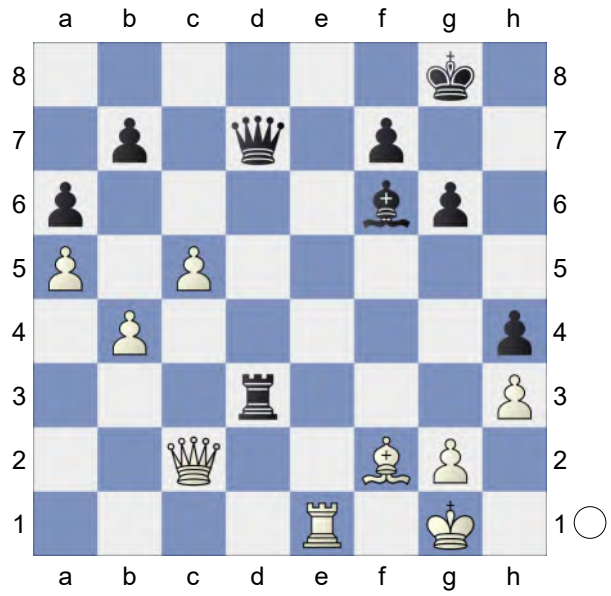


39...Rd3 -0.01/24
[39...Be5!∓]
[Black should try 39...Be5∓ -0.81/26 Threatens to win with ...Bg3. 40.Qc1 Qd3]
40.Re2 Ra3



41.Re1 Qd7 42.Rc1 Rd3 43.Be1 Rxe3 44.Bf2 Rd3 45.Re1 g6

[45...g5∓]



46.Qc4 Rd2

[46...Rd1 simplifies 47.Qe2 Rxe1+ 48.Bxe1 Bd4+]

47.Qf4

[47.Bxh4? is the wrong capture. Rd4 48.Qb3 Bxh4-+]

47...Kg7

[47...Rxf2! 48.Kxf2 Bd4+ 49.Kf3 And now Qe4! would win. Qd5+! 50.Qe4 Qb3+ 51.Ke2 Qc4+ 52.Qd3 Qa2+ 53.Qd2 Qc4+=]

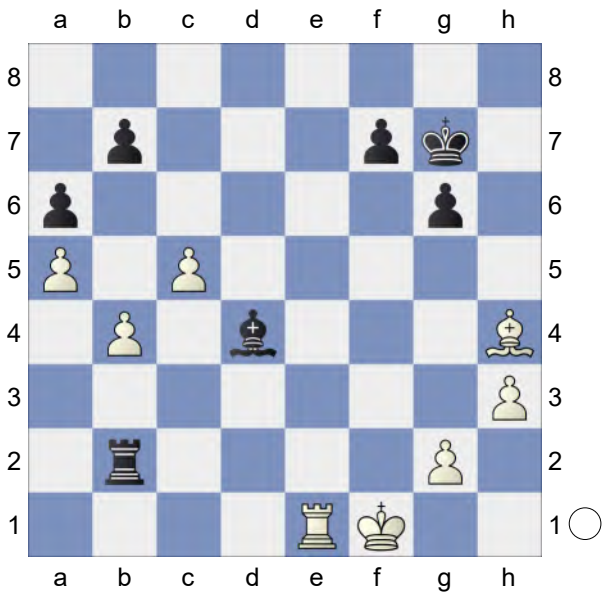
[47...Qd8 simplifies 48.Qf3 Rd5 49.Qg4 Kg7]

48.Bxh4 Qd4+ 49.Qxd4 Bxd4+

[49...Rxd4 simplifies 50.Bxf6+ Kxf6 51.Rb1 Rc4]

50.Kf1 Rb2

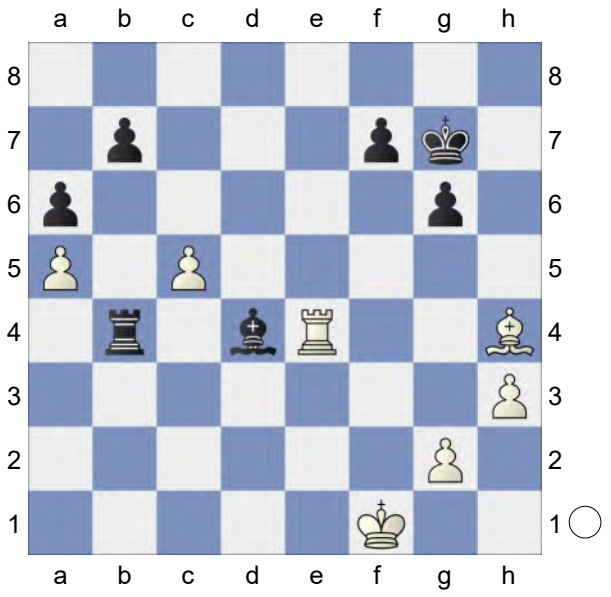
(Diagram)



51.Re4 Rxb4 4.95/22

[51...Rb1+ 52.Ke2! Bc3=]

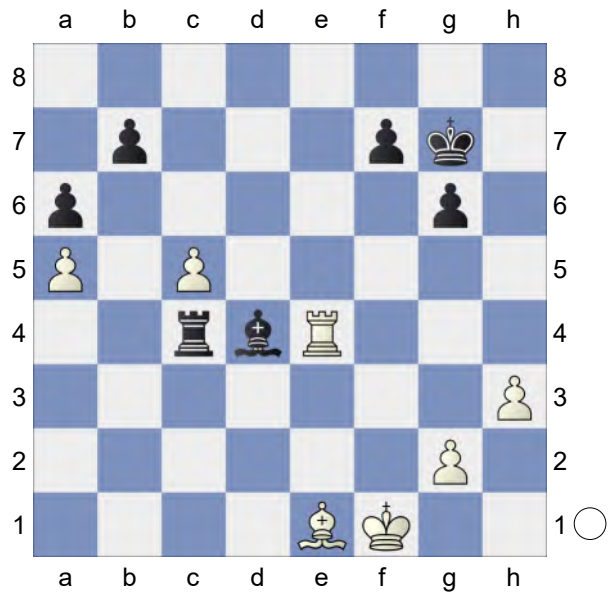
[51...Bc3= 0.01/24]



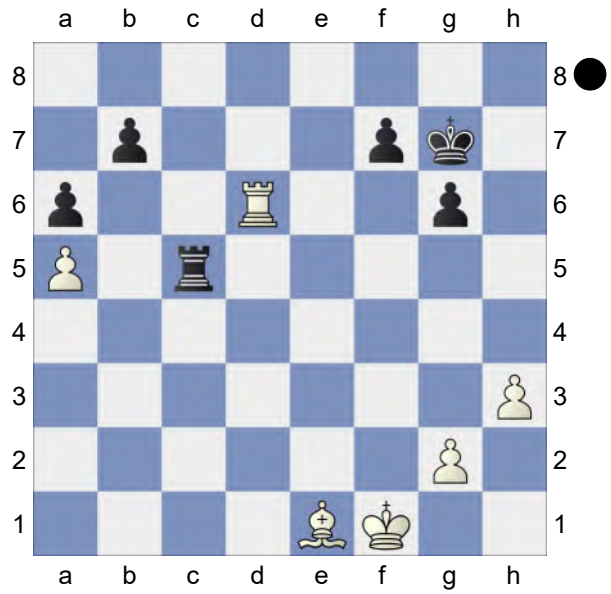
52.Be1!+- White is clearly winning.

52...Rc4

(Diagram)



53.Rxd4! Deflection **53...Rxc5**
[53...Rxd4? loses. 54.Bc3]
54.Rd6



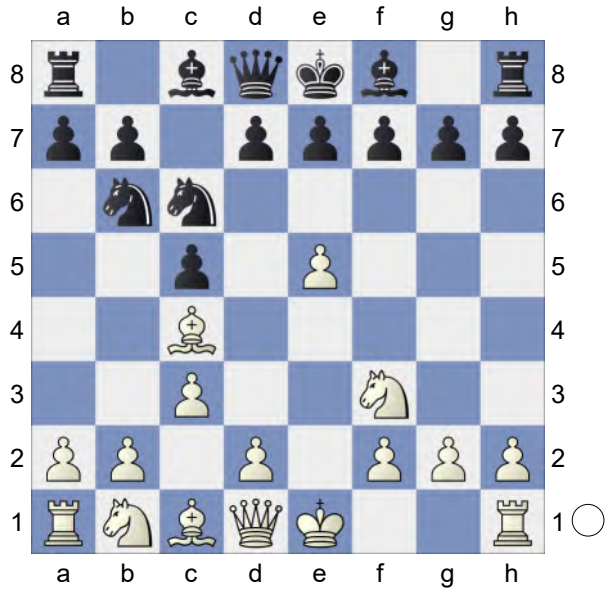
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

68 **B22**
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2816**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2705**
FIDE World Cup (3.3) 19.09.2015
[Dave Smerdon]

Nakamura and Nepomniachtchi played a fascinating mini-match in the recent World Cup, which went right down to the wire and wasn't without controversy! Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, Nakamura used anti-Sicilians as his main weapons in the match, and to good effect.

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 Be6

[8...Qd3!? is an interesting attempt at a quick-fix. 9.Bc2 Qd5 10.Nb5 Qe6+ 11.Qe2 Qxe2+ 12.Kxe2 Nd5∞ 1/2-1/2 (16) Rozentalis, E (2571)-Kovalyov, A (2612) Montreal 2011. Prevents Nc7+]

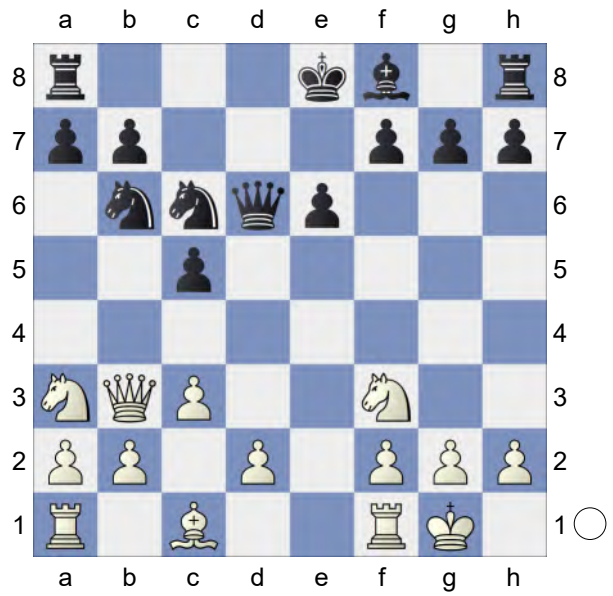
9.0-0 Bxb3 10.Qxb3N The position is equal.

[10.axb3 Qd3 11.Re1 e6 12.Re3 Qd7 13.Nc4 Nxc4 *(13...Nd5 14.Re1 Be7 15.d4 cxd4 16.Nfe5 Qc7 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Qxd4 0-0 19.Qg4 Nf6 20.Qg3 Qb5 21.Bh6 Ne8 22.Ne5 f6 23.c4 Qb4 24.Nd3 Qd6 25.Nf4 e5 26.Nd5 Rf7 27.Be3 a6 28.f4* 1-0 (45) Tonoian,A (2485)-7.♘1f3 ♗d6 8.♕e2 h6_713 (2442) 38/588 Sochi 1984 (2)*)* 14.bxc4 Rd8 *(14...Be7 15.d4 cxd4 16.cxd4 0-0 17.Rd3 b5 18.cxb5 Nb4 19.Ne5 Qxb5 20.Rh3 Nd5 21.Rb3 Qe8 22.Rg3 f5 23.Qe2 Bf6 24.Rga3 Qe7 25.Nf3 Rfb8 26.Ra6 Rb6 27.Rxb6 Nxb6 28.Bf4 Rc8 29.g3* 1-0 (49) Sturua,Z (2533)-Roghani,A (2302) Dubai op 6th_88769 2004 (6)*)* 15.Qa4 Be7 16.Rb1 0-0 17.b4 b6 18.bxc5 Bxc5 19.Re1 e5 20.Ba3 Bxa3 21.Qxa3 Rfe8 22.d4 " -" Tuchtenhagen,H-2.f4 d5 3.♘c3 de4 4.♘e4 e M/84D corr 1992]

10...e6

[10...Qd3! has been known for a long time to bring Black good play e.g. Sermek-Gelfand, Portoroz 2001. I wonder what Nakamura had in mind. 11.Re1 -0.24/23 *(⌓11.Nb5* 0.15/21 *c4 12.Qd1)* 11...Rd8 *(11...e6 12.Nb5* Strongly threatening Nc7+. *c4! 13.Qd1 Rc8∞* Dodges Nc7+*)* 12.Nb5 was seen in a recent game, and now c4! *(12...Qc4?! 13.d4±* 1-0 (44) Mammadov, Z (2500)-Beyer, C (2231) Golden Sands 2015*)* 13.Qd1 e6! 14.Nc7+ Kd7 15.Nb5! Kc8!∞ is a bizarre form of queenside castling by hand, leading to an equal position.]

(Diagram)



11.d4! Qd7

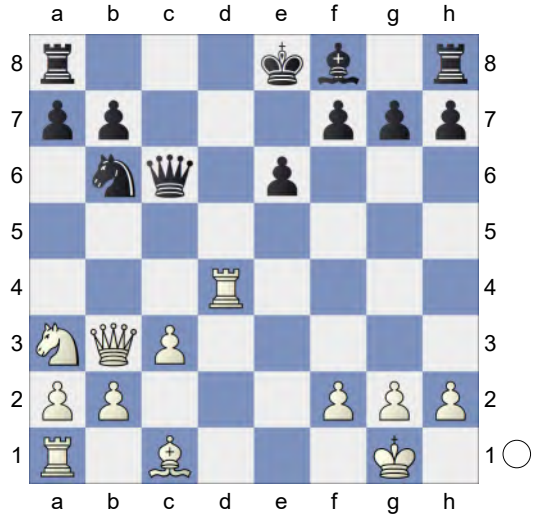
[11...cxd4 12.Nb5 *(12.Rd1!?)* 12...Qd7 13.Nbxd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Be7 15.Rd1 And now Nf5! would win. 0-0 has been a reasonably common sequence (by transposition). White has a slight niggle, but it's not much. Tkachiev, V (2609)-Nataf, I (2557) Moscow 2005]

12.Rd1 Hoping for dxc5. **12...cxd4**

13.Nxd4 Nab5 would now be deadly.

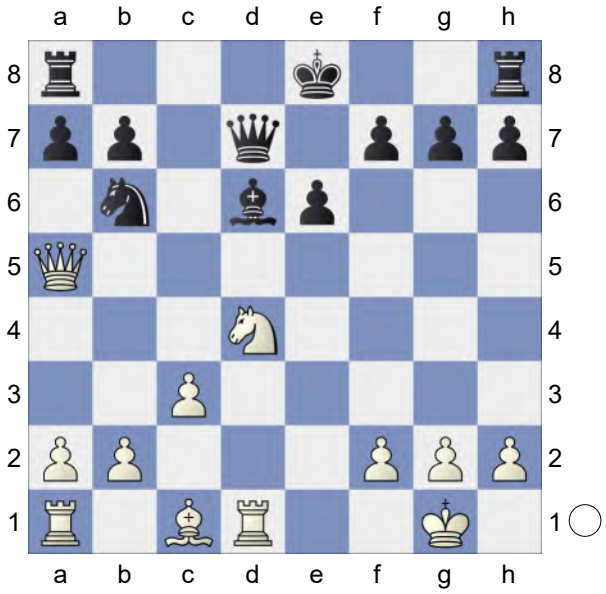
13...Na5

[13...Nxd4 1.02/24 13...Na5 0.41 14.Rxd4 Qc6



15.Nc4! Be7 16.Na5! and Black is just too slow.]

14.Qb5 Bxa3! 15.Qxa5 Bd6



16.Qh5 a6 Wards off Nb5 **17.Nf3** aiming for Ne5. **17...Qc7 18.Ng5 g6**

19.Qh3 Be7

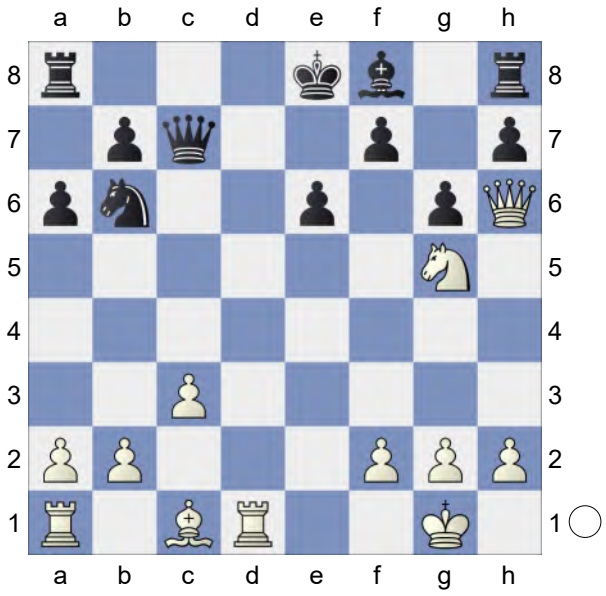
[19...0-0-0!? 20.Be3±]

20.Qh6 0.17/23

[20.Nxh7? Nd7 21.g3 Nf8-+]

[20.Re1± 0.56/20 e5 21.b3 *(21.Nxh7 Nd7=)*]

20...Bf8=



21.Qh4 Nxe6! is the strong threat.

21...Be7! 22.Qh6 -0.01/20

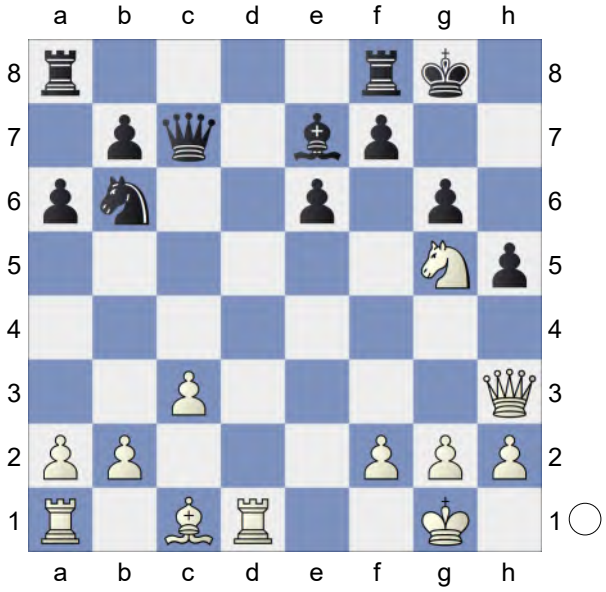
[22.Re1± 0.40/19]

22...Bf8 23.Qh3→ Black should prevent Nxe6! White mounts an attack. **23...Be7! 24.Qf3**

[24.Re1±]

[24.Nxh7? Nd7 25.Rd4 Nf8-+]

24...0-0 25.Qh3 h5



26.Be3 Qc6 27.g4! Bxg5 28.Bxg5 f6

[28...hxg4 29.Qxg4 Black must now prevent Rd3. Rac8±]

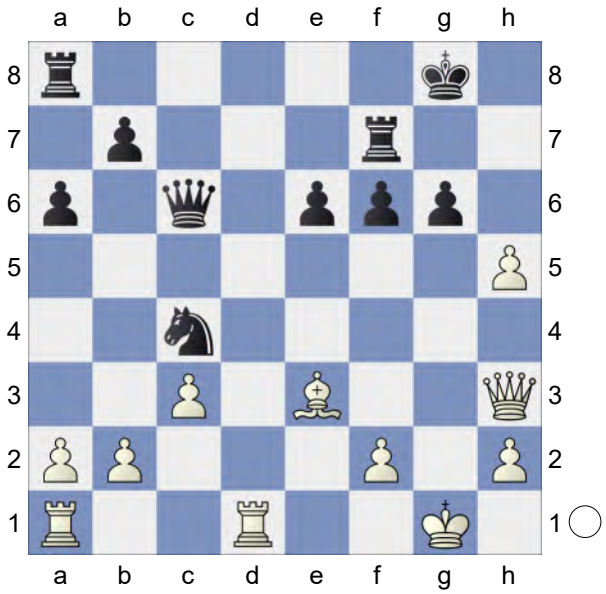
29.Be3 0.25/22

[29.Bf4± 0.67/22 deserves consideration.]

29...Nc4 30.gxh5 Rf7 0.80/20

[30...g5± 0.32/23 was preferrable.]

(Diagram)



31.Qg3 0.17/23

[31.hxg6± 0.80/20 Rg7 32.Rd4]

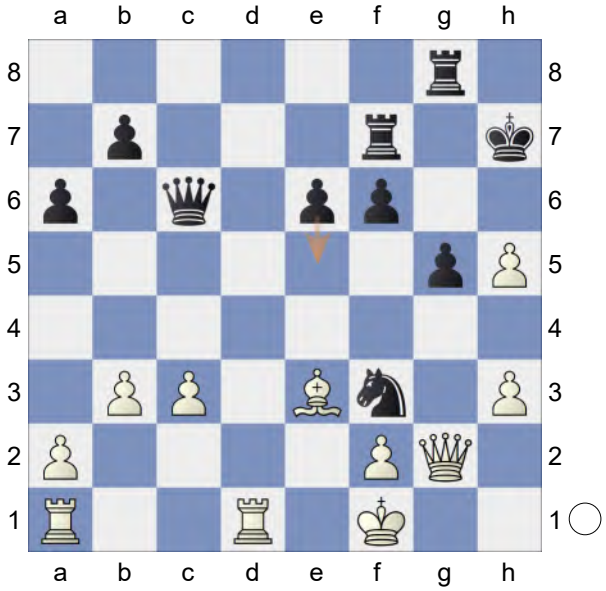
31...g5 32.b3 Ne5 33.Kf1 Kh7

[33...Qxc3 34.Rac1 Qa5 35.f4+-]

34.h3 Rg8 35.Qg2 -0.43/25

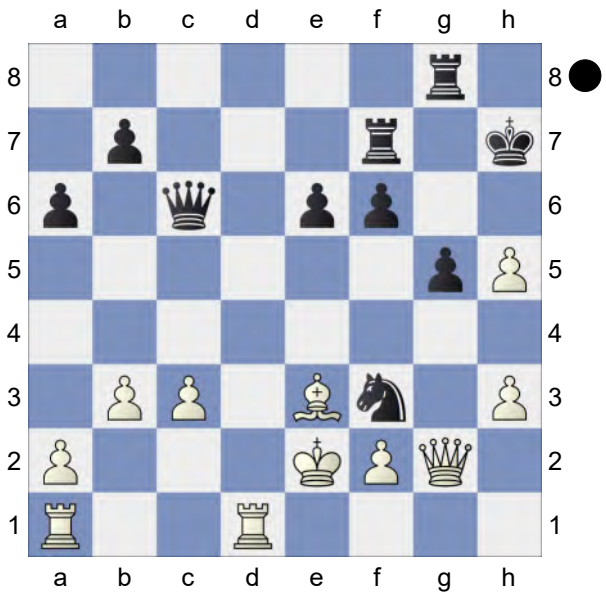
[35.Rac1= 0.01/20]

35...Nf3∓

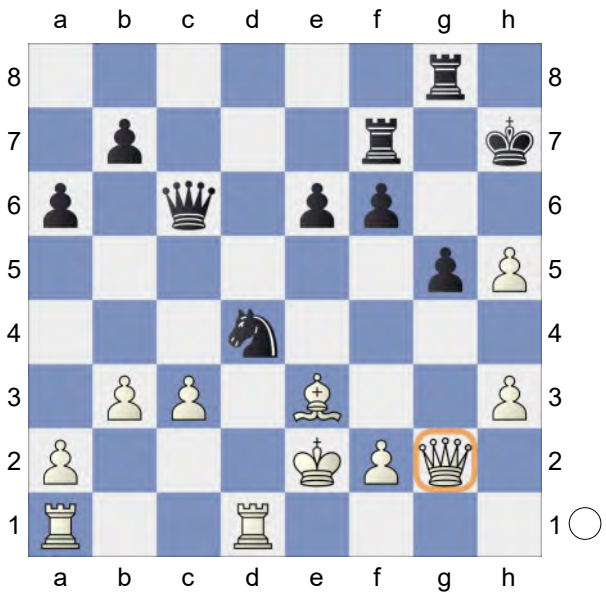


Black has compensation. **36.Ke2**

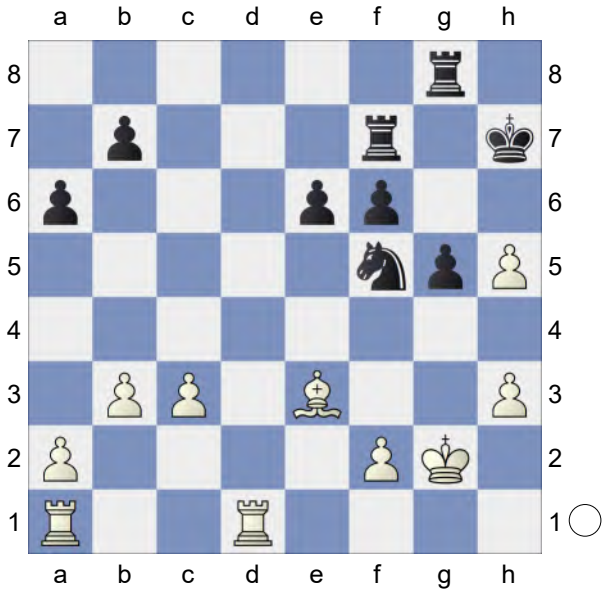
(Diagram)



Nd4+ Discovered Attack **37.Kf1! Nf3**
[37...Qxc3? 38.Bxd4 *(38.Rac1 Nc2+-)* 38...Qa5 39.Qe4+ Qf5 40.Qxf5+ exf5 41.Bb2+-]
38.Ke2 Really sharp! **38...Nd4+** Discovered Attack **39.Kf1! Nf3** -0.01/19
[39...Qxc3? perishes. 40.Bxd4 *(40.Rac1 Nc2+-)* 40...Qb4 41.Qe4+ Kh6 42.Qxe6 Qb5+ 43.Kg1+-]
[39...Qxg2+!∓ -0.46/27 is more appropriate. 40.Kxg2 Nf5]
40.Ke2= Nd4+



Discovered Attack **41.Kf1! Qxg2+!**
[41...Qxc3? is the wrong capture. 42.Bxd4 *(42.Rac1 Nc2+-)* 42...Qc2 43.Rac1+-]
42.Kxg2 Nf5!



with the simple idea of ...Kh6 and ...Kxh5, with good chances. ½-½ (42) Nakamura, H (2814)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2705) Baku AZE 2015 [Dave Smerdon].
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

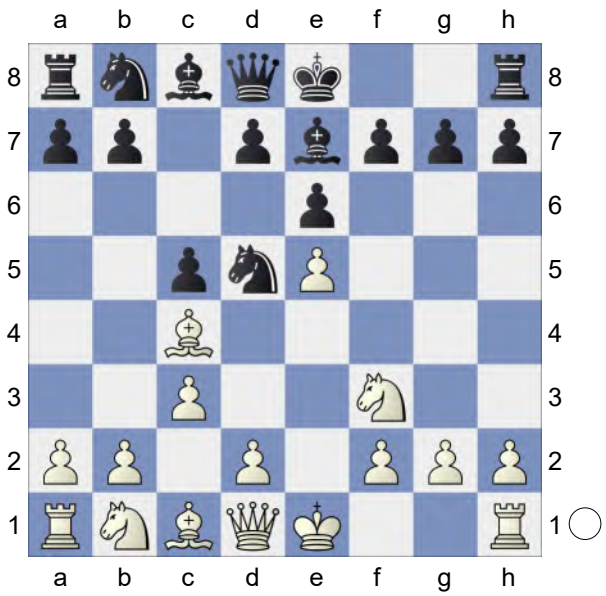
69 **B22**
□ **Aks Mantissa** **2799**
■ **Raspfish** **3060**
Rapid 06.07.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 8min+1sec
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
This game was played in the 6th (penultimate) round of the Dutch championship. The win in this game allowed me to take a 1.5 points lead going into the last round. So thanks to the win in this game I became Dutch champion for the 3rd time in my life.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 Be7

[5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nb6 *(7...Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 b6 10.Qe4 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.h4 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nc5 14.Qg4 Re8 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.hxg5 Nd3 17.Rd1 Nxb2 18.Rd4 Qc7 19.Nbd2 Nc3 20.Rb4 Nd3 21.Rc4 Ne2+ 22.Kf1* 1-0 (29) Herrero Crespo,M (2476)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2600) 42/259 Nikea 1986 (9.2)*)* 8.Bd3 dxe5 9.dxe5 Na6 10.0-0 Nc5 11.Be2 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nd5 13.Bc4 Nb6 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.Nc3 a6 16.Be2 Nba4 17.Nxa4 Bxa4 18.b3 Bc6 19.Bb2 Be7 20.Nd4 1-0 (38) Tiviakov,S (2583)-Van Wely,L (2674) NED-ch Amsterdam 2018 (6)]

(Diagram)

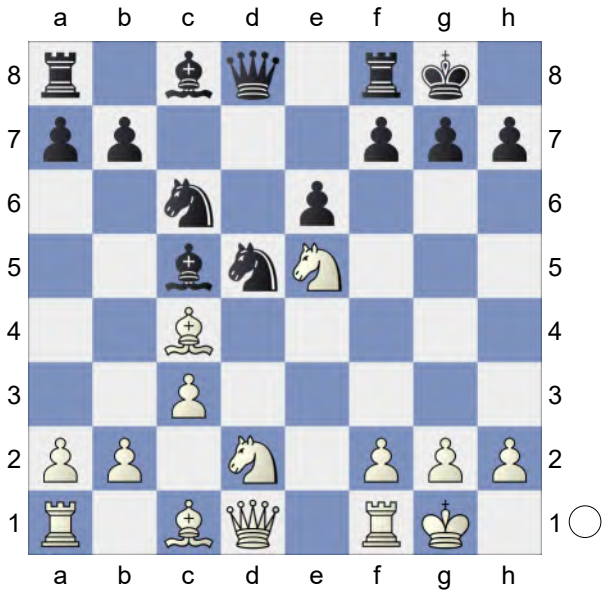


6.d4 d6 7.dxc5N

[7.0-0 0-0 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Rd1 Bd6 12.Bd3 Qc7 13.c4 Nf4 14.Bxf4 Bxf4 15.Nc3 a6 16.Be4 Ne5 17.g3 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Bg5 19.c5 Qxc5 20.Ne4 Qe7 21.Nxg5 Qxg5 Chapter-Games Games Chapter 17 Game 1]

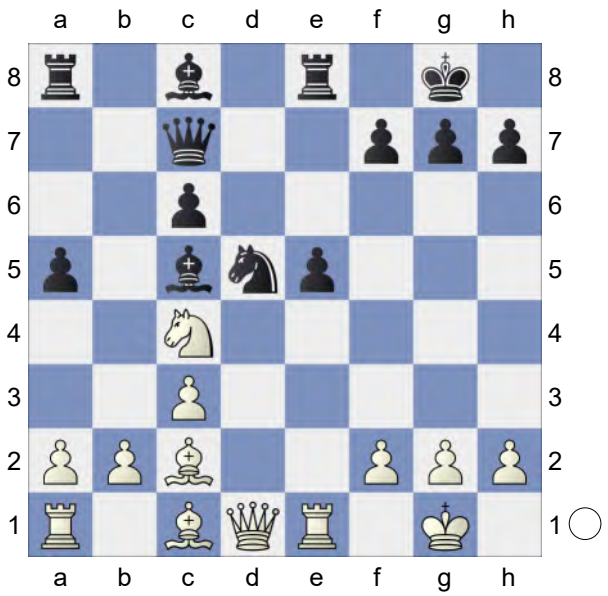
7...dxe5 8.Nxe5 The position is equal.

8...Bxc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nd2 Nc6



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Re1 a5 13.Bb3 Qc7 14.Bc2 e5 15.Nc4 Re8

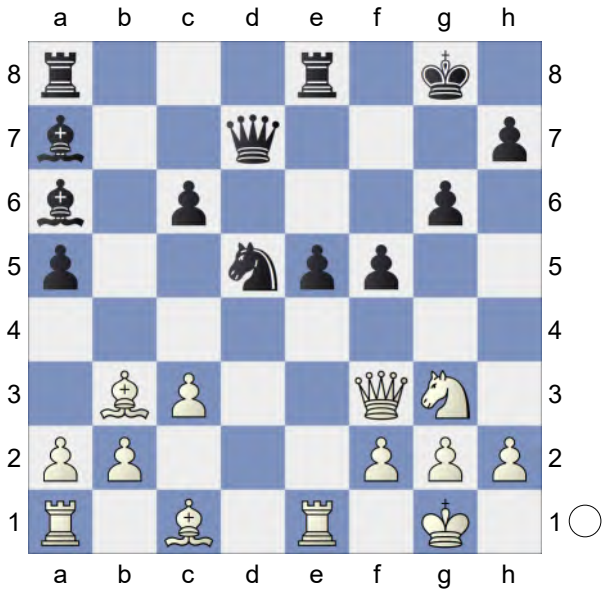
(Diagram)



16.Qf3 Ba6 17.Nd2 Ba7 18.Ne4 Qd7 19.Ng3 g6 20.Bb3 Black must now prevent c4.

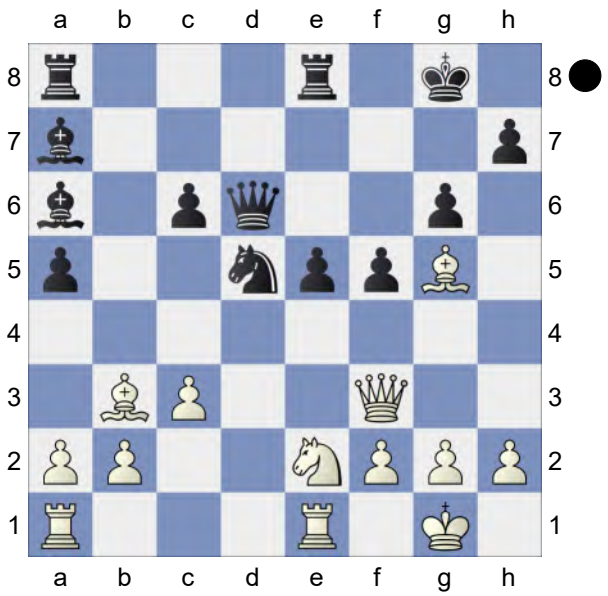
[20.Bh6 keeps more tension. Qe6 21.Ne4 f5 22.Ng5]

20...f5

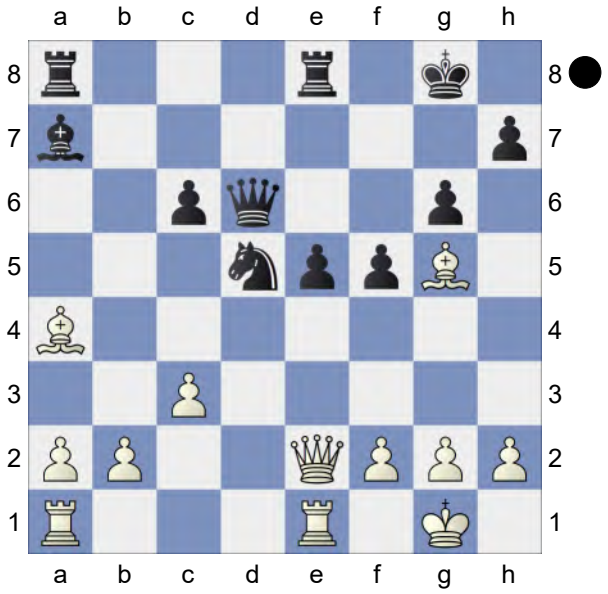


21.Bg5 Qd6 22.Ne2

(Diagram)

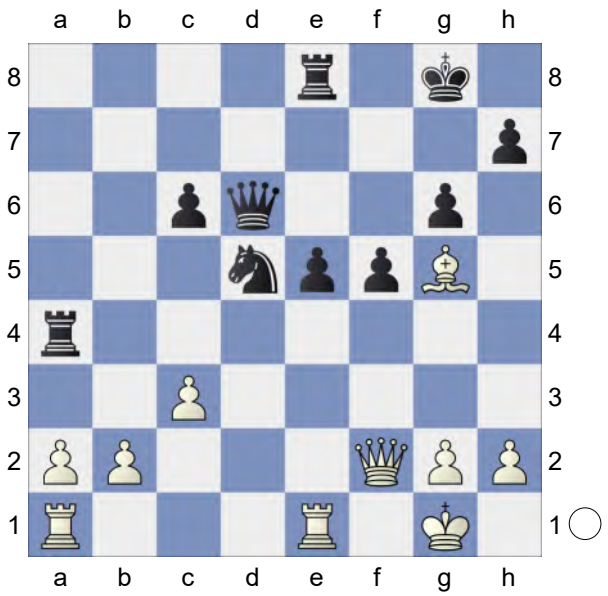


a4! 23.Bxa4 Bxe2! 24.Qxe2

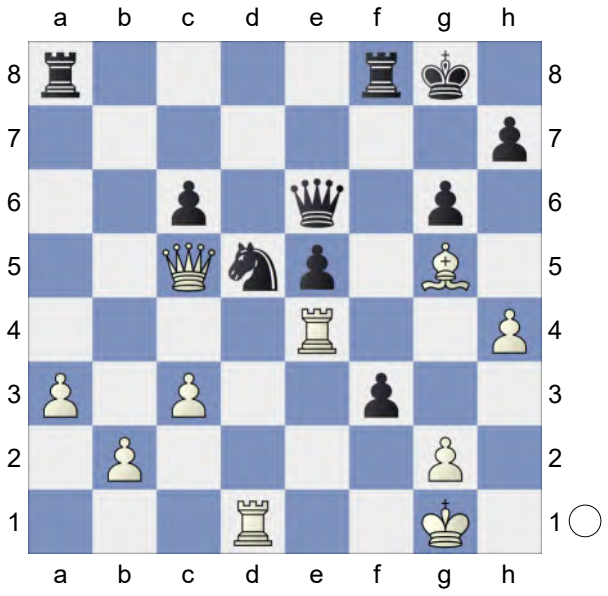


Threatens to win with Qc4. **24...Bxf2+!** Discovered Attack **25.Qxf2 Rxa4**

(Diagram)

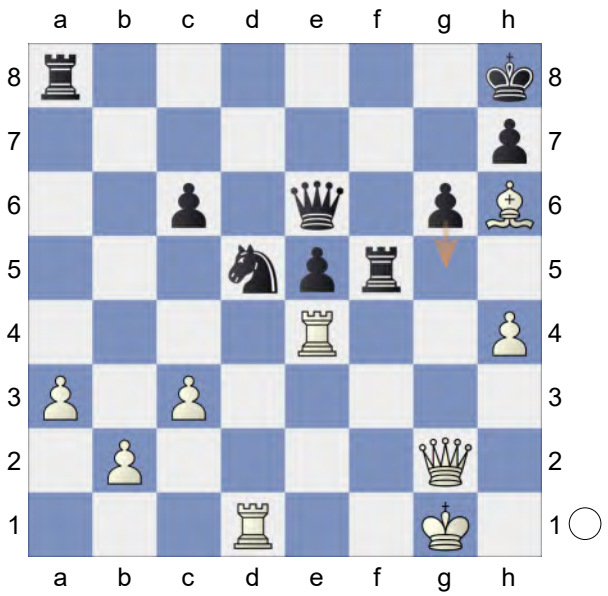


26.Rad1 Qe6
[26...Rxa2? 27.c4+-]
27.Qc5 f4 28.a3 Raa8
[28...e4?! 29.c4 Ne3 30.Rd6 Qxc4 31.Rxc6± *(31.Qxc4+ Rxc4 32.Bxf4 Nf5∓)*]
29.h4 Rf8 30.Re4 f3

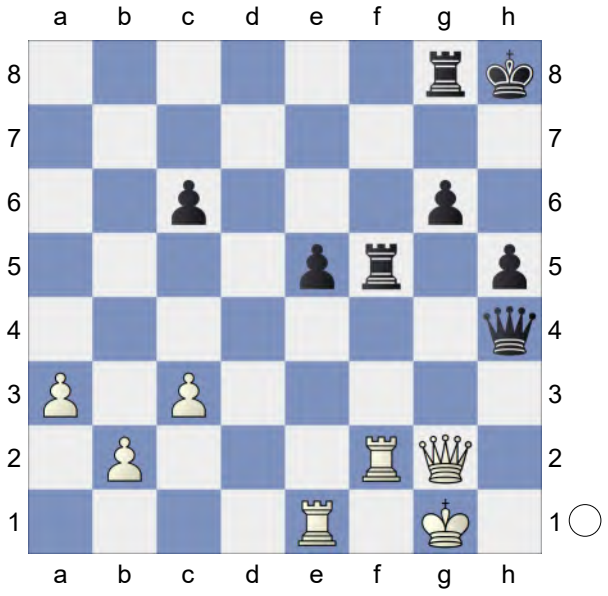


31.Qf2 fxg2 32.Qxg2 Kg7 33.Qd2 Rf3 34.Bh6+ Kh8! 35.Qg2 Dodges Rg3 **35...Rf5**

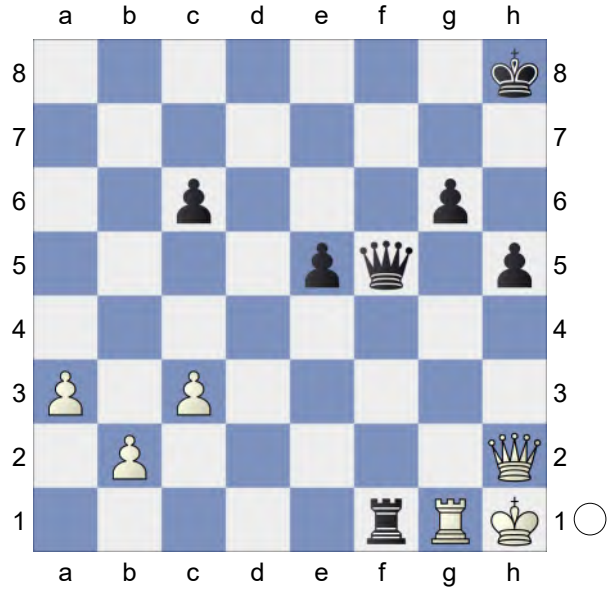
(Diagram)



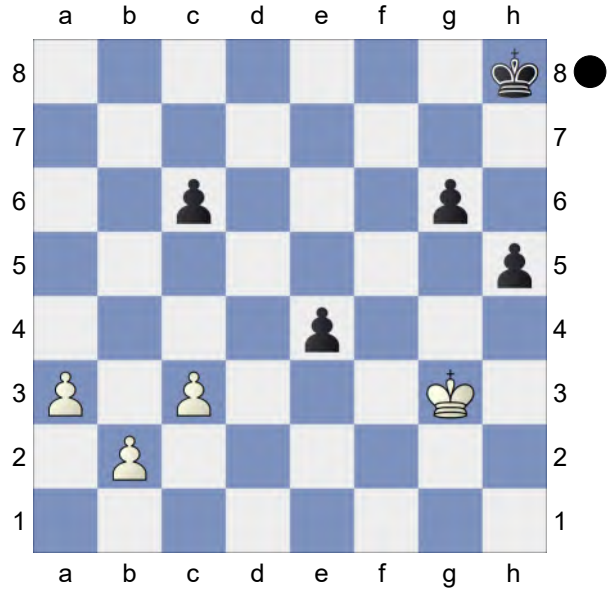
36.Rde1 Nf6 37.Rf4 Rg8 38.Bg5 -0.94/19 Black converts the advantage convincingly.
[38.Ra4∓ -0.47/19]
38...h5!∓
[38...Rxf4 39.Bxf4 Ng4 40.Qe4±]
39.Bxf6+ -0.95/21
[39.Qf3∓ -0.51/18]
39...Qxf6
[39...Rxf6 40.Qg5 Rgf8 41.Rxe5± *(41.Qxe5? Qxe5* Remove Defender *42.Rxe5 Rxf4-+)*]
40.Rf2 Qxh4



41.Qh2 Qg5+ 42.Kh1 -1.89/20
[42.Rg2∓ -1.27/21 was worth a try.
Qf6 43.Qg3]
42...Rgf8-+ 43.Rg2 -9.78/20
[43.Ref1 -1.71/22]
43...Rf1+ 44.Rxf1 Rxf1+ Endgame.
KQR-KQR **45.Rg1 Qf5**

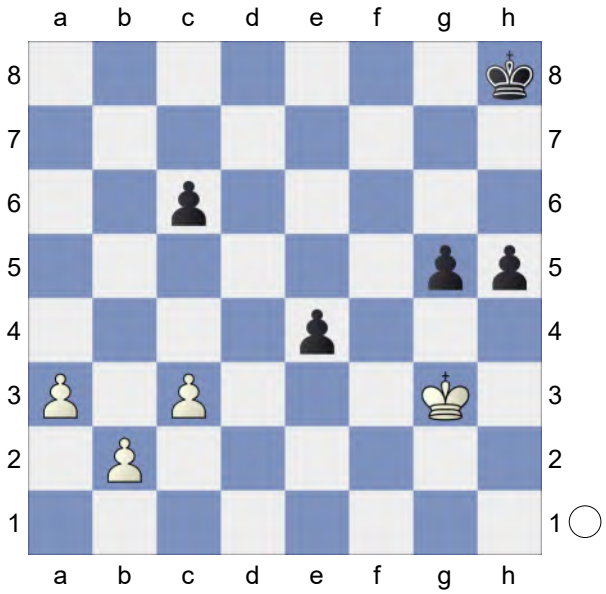


46.Qe2 Wards off Qe4+ **46...Qh3+**
47.Qh2 Rxg1+! 48.Kxg1 Qxh2+
49.Kxh2 KP-KP **49...e4 50.Kg3**

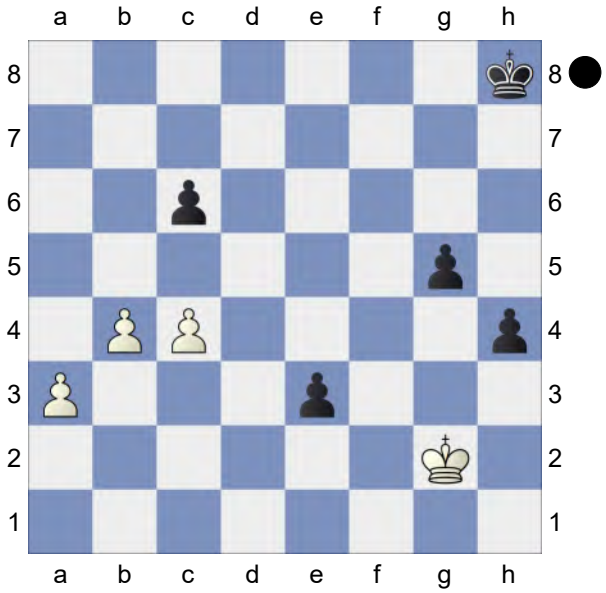


g5!

(Diagram)

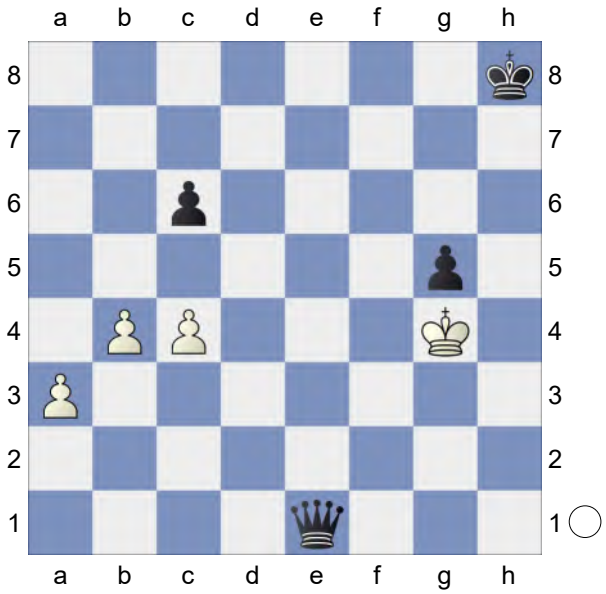


...h4+ is the strong threat. **51.Kg2 h4**
(-> ...e3) **52.b4 e3 53.c4**

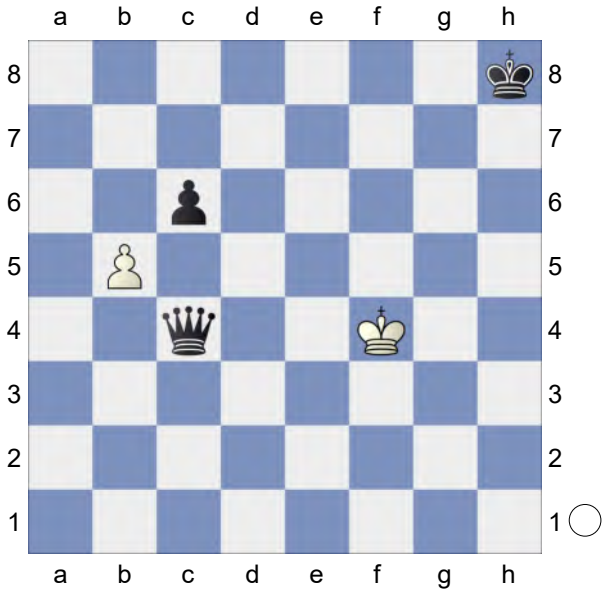


h3+ -19.54/18 **54.Kxh3** K3P-K3P
54...e2 Black mates. **55.Kg4 e1Q**
[Not 55...e1B 56.Kxg5 Kg7 57.Kf5∓]

(Diagram)

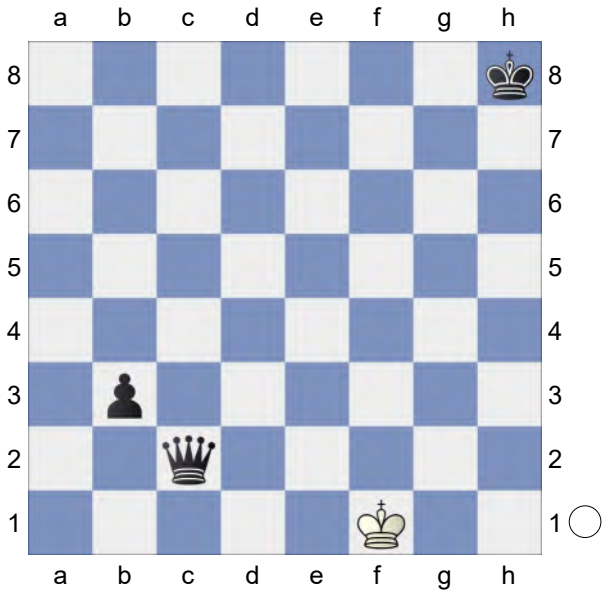


56.Kxg5 Qc1+ 57.Kf6 Qxa3 58.b5 Qd6+ 59.Kf5 Qc5+ 60.Kf4 Qxc4+

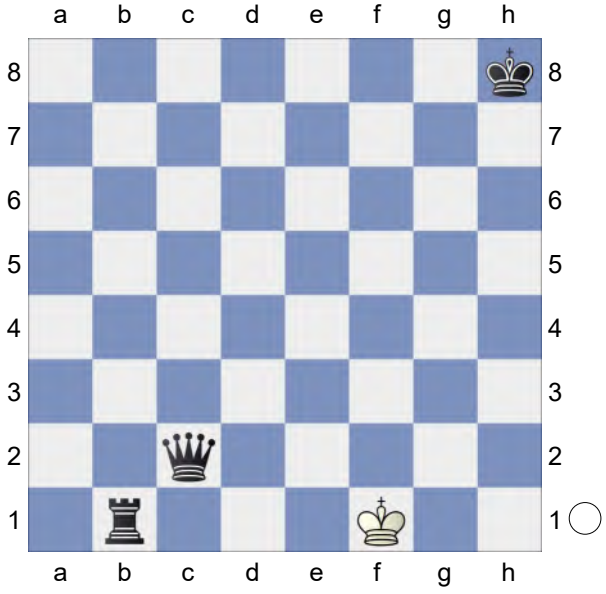


61.Ke3 cxb5 62.Kd2 b4 63.Kd1 Qd3+ 64.Ke1 Qc2 65.Kf1 b3

(Diagram)



66.Kg1 b2 67.Kf1 b1R#

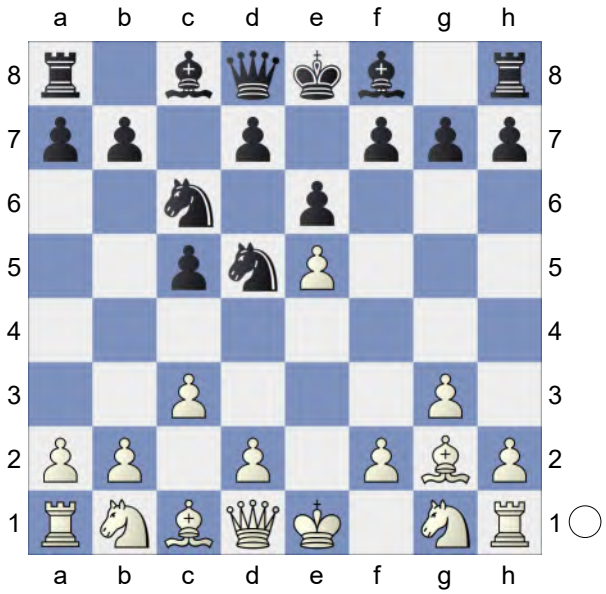


Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.12 (very precise)

0-1

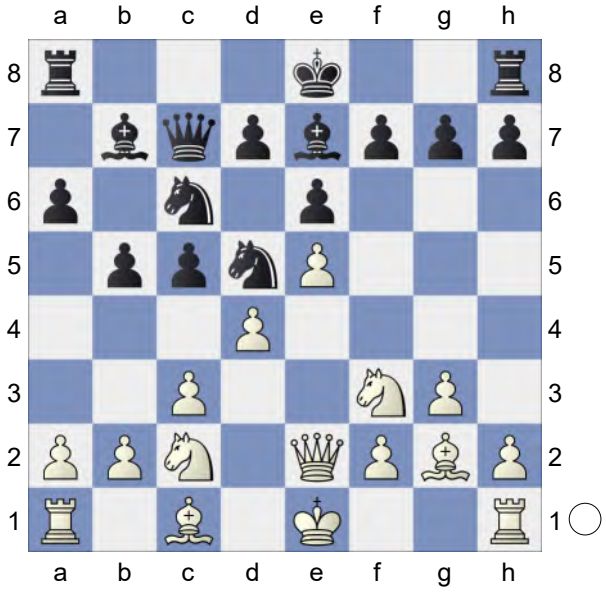
70 **B22**
□ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2781**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2737**
Sochi FIDE GP (3) 02.08.2008
[Ftacnik,Lubomir]

Kitty Kat: 'B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
' **1.e4** Kitty Kat **1...c5 2.c3 Nf6**
[2...e6 Kitty Kat 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be3 c4 7.b3 cxb3 8.axb3 Bd6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Re8 13.Bg5 Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 h6 15.Bh4 g5 16.Bg3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 ½-½ (38) Baklan,V (2618)-Polzin,R (2470) TCh-AUT 2006-7 2007 (11)]
3.e5 Nd5 4.g3 Kitty Kat: 'N'
[4.d4 Kitty Kat cxd4 5.cxd4 *(5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Na3 dxc3 10.Qe2 cxb2 11.Bxb2 Qb4+ 12.Kf1 Bf5 13.Rc1 Rd8 14.Nc2 Qxb3 15.axb3 Bd3 16.Ncd4 Bxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Nxd4+ 18.Nxd4 e6 19.Nb5 Bb4* 0-1 (69) Ruefenacht,M-Frostick,C Reg Gillman Memorial B 1999*)* 5...d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Be2 e6 10.h3 Bf5 11.0-0 Be7 12.a3 0-0 13.Bd3 Bg6 14.Re1 Bf6 15.Ne4 Qd7 16.Nxf6+ Nxf6 17.Be3 Rfd8 18.Bxg6 hxg6 ½-½ (57) Brinovec,L (1830)-Kiraly,L (1985) Wch U18 Girls rapid 2024 (3)]
[4.Nf3 Kitty Kat d6 5.exd6 e6 6.g3 Bxd6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bd7 11.c4 Nde7 12.Nb3 Be5 13.Qe2 Qc7 14.Na3 a6 15.c5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Rd1 Qxc5 18.b4 Qe5 (21) 5. 2...Nf6: Sidelines-4... d6 5. exd6 e6 6. g3 with]
4...Nc6 5.Bg2 e6



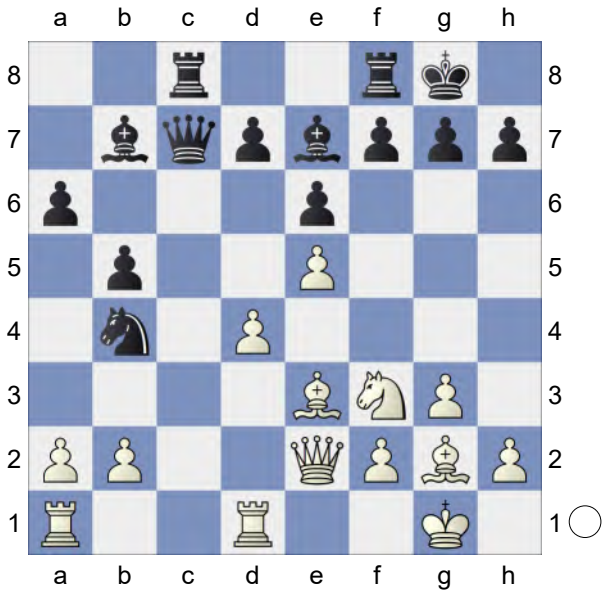
6.Nf3 Qc7 7.Qe2 Be7
[7...d6 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.Na3 a6 10.Nc4 0-0 *(10...Be7)* 11.0-0 Be7 12.Rd1 b5 13.Ne3 Nb6 14.d4 cxd4 15.cxd4 Rd8 16.b3 Bb7 17.Bb2 Nb4 18.Rac1 Qb8 19.a3 N4d5 20.Ng4 Rc8 21.Nge5 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Qf8]
8.Na3
[8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Rb8 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 b5 13.Bxd5 exd5 14.Nc3 Qc6 15.Bf4 b4 16.Nd1 Qe6 17.Qd2 Ba6 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Qxg5 d6 20.Qd2 Rfe8 21.Ne3 dxe5 22.dxe5 Rbd8 23.Nc2 d4]
[8.d3 0-0 9.0-0 b6 *(9...Rd8 10.c4 Nb6 11.Nc3 d5 12.b3 d4 13.Nb5 Qb8 14.Bf4 Nd7 15.h4 a6 16.Nd6 Bxd6 17.exd6 h6 18.b4 cxb4 19.Rfe1 Qa7 20.Bh3 Nf8 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.Qxe5 Ng6 23.Qa5 b6 24.Qxb4 Nxf4)* 10.c4 Ndb4 11.a3 Na6 12.Nc3 Bb7]
8...a6 A very modern method of solving the opening problems. Black is giving up his light squared bishop for convenient development and a compact position. A very modern method of solving the

opening problems. Black is giving up his light-squared bishop for comfortable development and a compact position.
9.Nc2
[9.0-0 g5]
9...b5 Kitty Kat: 'The position is equal.'
10.d4 Bb7



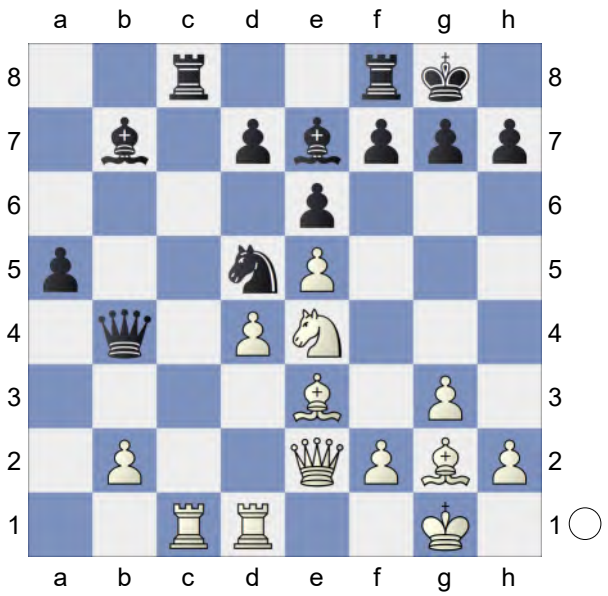
11.0-0 0-0 12.Rd1
[12.Bg5 f6 13.exf6 Nxf6]
12...Rac8 Praxis so far has seen the defenders solving the problems, despite the fact that opening of the position is a sensitive issue due to the white bishop pair. Praxis so far has seen the defenders solving the problems, despite the fact that the opening of the position is a sensitive issue due to the White's bishop pair. **13.Ne3 Nxe3 14.Bxe3**
[14.fxe3]
14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Nb4

(Diagram)



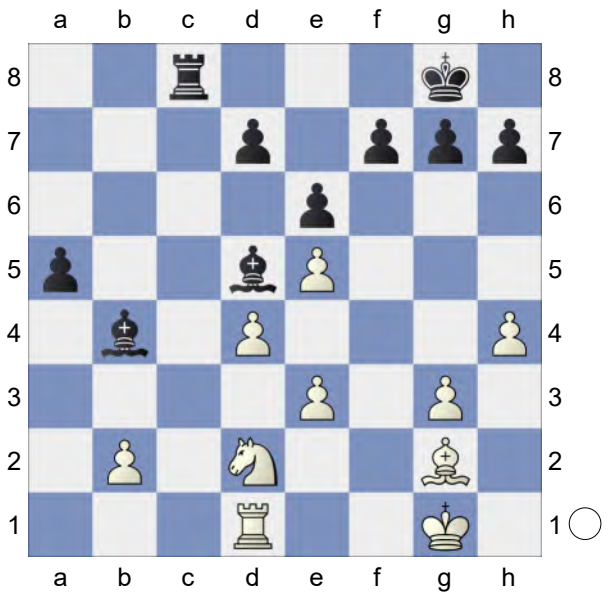
16.Rac1 Qa5 Aronian has build up a very solid position, but it seems next to impossible to achieve full equality. Aronian has built up a very solid position, but it seems next to impossible to achieve full equality.
[16...Qb8]
17.a3 Nd5 18.Nd2
[18.Bd2 Qb6 19.Qd3 f6 20.Qe2 a5 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc1]
18...b4 0.28/21
[18...Qb6 -0.20/20 (Kitty Kat) deserves consideration.]
19.axb4 -0.46/22
[19.Nc4!= 0.28/21 Kitty Kat Qd8 20.axb4]
19...Qxb4 Kitty Kat: ' ∓ ' **20.Ne4** The task for Ivanchuk will be to show, how to generate some pressure with the help of the light-squared bishop. The task for Ivanchuk will be to show how to generate some pressure with the help of the light-squared bishop. **20...a5** -0.12/19
[20...Rxc1∓ -0.48/19 Kitty Kat 21.Bxc1 a5]

(Diagram)



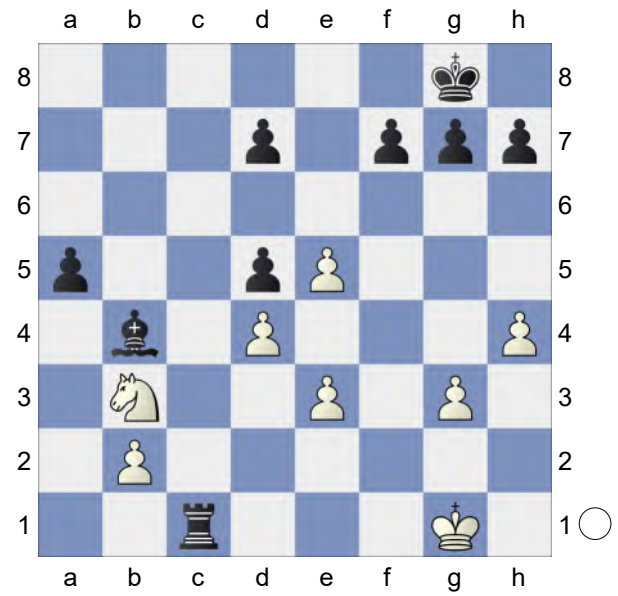
21.h4 -0.63/18
[White should try 21.Bd2= -0.12/19 Kitty Kat Qb6 *(21...Qxb2? 22.Rb1+-* Skewer*; 21...Qxd4 22.Nc3=)* 22.Ra1]
21...Nxe3 22.fxe3 Bd5 23.Qd2
[23.Nc3 Bxg2 24.Qxg2 f6]
23...Qxd2 -0.55/23
[Better is 23...Qb3∓ -0.96/18 Kitty Kat 24.Nc5 Bxc5 25.dxc5 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Qb7+ 27.Kg1 h6 28.Qxd7 Qxb2 *(28...Qf3 29.Kh2=)*]
24.Nxd2 Bb4 25.Rxc8 -0.80/24
White's progress is not spectacular, but after the swap of the rooks his pieces are breathing more freely.
[25.Bxd5 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Bxd2]
[25.Nf3 Bb3 26.Rf1 Bc4 27.Rf2 Bd3 28.Rxc8 Rxc8]
[25.Ne4!= -0.14/21 Kitty Kat]
25...Rxc8?

(Diagram)

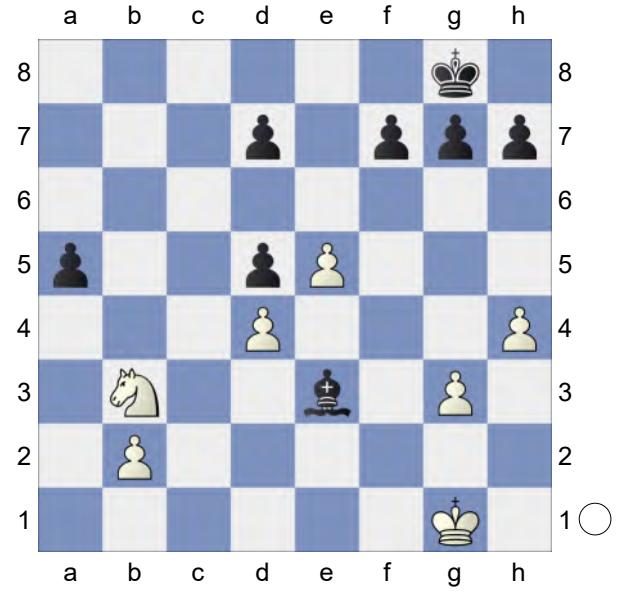


Kitty Kat: ' ∓' **26.Bxd5! exd5** Kitty Kat: '=' Kitty Kat: 'Endgame. KRB-KRN' **27.Nb3 Rc2?** Misfortune does not usually appear alone; after the mistake in 25th move we are witnessing the consecutive one. In his calculations Black probably overlooked some point, othewise he would surely resist the transformation to a position in which he is simply a pawn down. Misfortune does not usually appear alone, after the mistake on the 25th move we are witnessing the consecutive one. In his calculations Black probably overlooked some point, othewise he would surely resist transformation to a position in which he is simply a pawn down. **28.Rc1** -1.72/23
[28.Ra1∓ -1.06/23 Kitty Kat]
28...Rxc1+ Kitty Kat: '-+' Kitty Kat: '
[28...Rxb2? (Kitty Kat) is the wrong capture. 29.Rc8+ Bf8 30.Nc5+- *(30.Nxa5 g6=)*]

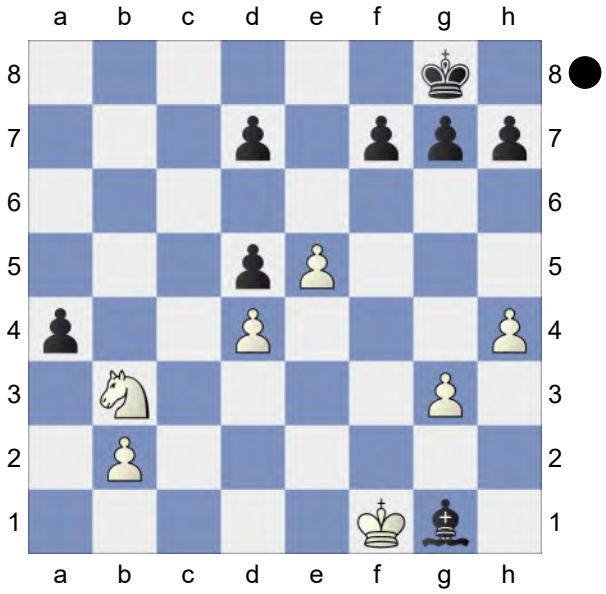
(Diagram)



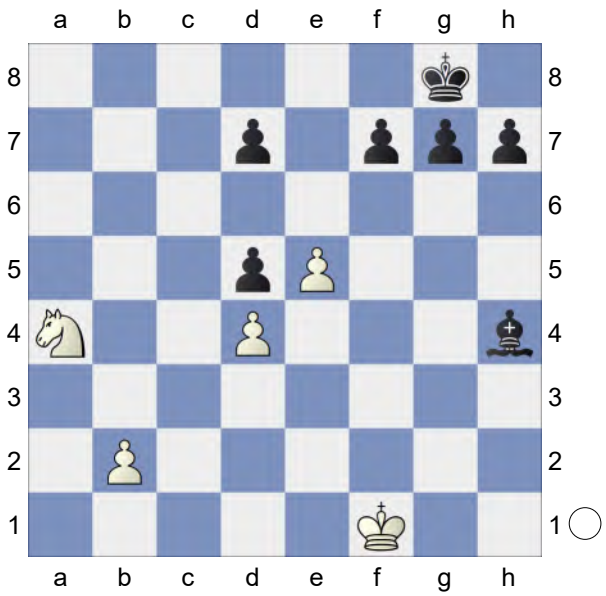
Deflection' **29.Nxc1!** Kitty Kat: ' KB-KN' **29...Bd2** Kitty Kat: '!' **30.Nb3** -2.14/26
[30.Ne2 -1.70/25 (Kitty Kat) was necessary.]
30...Bxe3+



31.Kf1
[31.Kg2 a4 32.Kf3 Bg1 33.Kg2 axb3± 34.Kxg1 h5 35.Kf2 Kh7± 36.Ke3 Kg6 37.Kd3 *(37.Kf4 f6 38.exf6 gxf6 39.Ke3 Kf5 40.Kf3 d6 41.Ke3 Kg4 42.Kf2 f5)* 37...Kf5 38.Kc3 Kg4± 39.Kxb3 Kxg3 40.Kc3 Kxh4 41.b4 Kg4 42.b5 h4 43.b6 h3 44.b7 h2 45.b8Q h1Q]
31...a4 32.Ke2 Bg1 33.Kf1 Kitty Kat: '



' **33...Bh2** -0.86/27
[33...axb3]
[33...Kf8!-+ -2.03/25 (Kitty Kat) Strongly threatening ...Ke7! 34.Kxg1 axb3]
34.Nc5 Kitty Kat: ' ∓' **34...Bxg3 35.Nxa4** -2.11/25
[35.h5∓ -0.97/25 (Kitty Kat) was forced.]
35...Bxh4?!



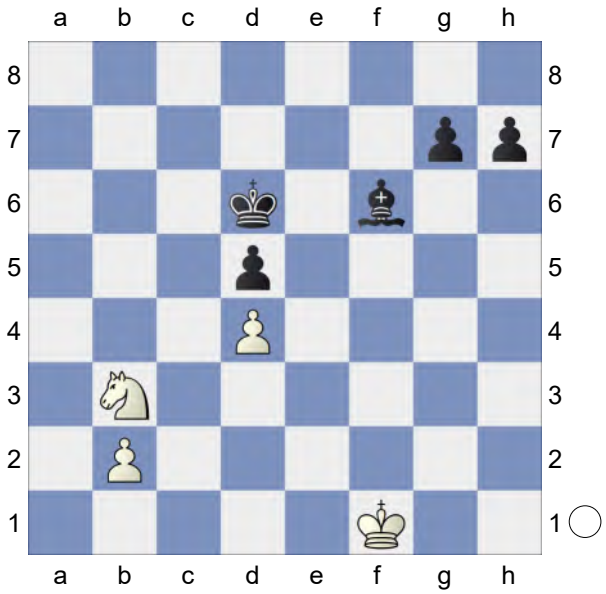
Aronian understood, that passive

defense is probably not enough, but speeding up the commotions will simply shorten his suffering. Aronian understood, that passive defence is probably not enough, but speeding up the commotions will only shorten his suffering. Kitty Kat: '-+' **36.Nb6 Kf8 37.Nxd7+ Ke7 38.Nc5 f6** Kitty Kat: ' White must now prevent ...fxe5.' **39.exf6+** -6.29/25

[39.Nd3 fxe5 40.Nxe5± Bf6!]

[39.Kg2 -1.61/24 Kitty Kat]

39...Bxf6 40.Nb3 Kd6

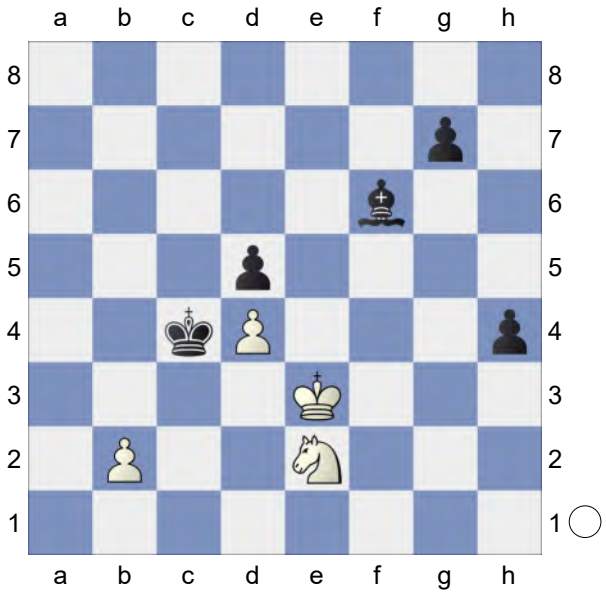


41.Ke2 Ivanchuk did manage to consolidate and the fight is effectively over. **41...Kc6 42.Kd3 Kb5 43.Nc1 h5 44.Ne2 h4 45.Ke3** -10.12/28 Kitty Kat: '?'

[45.Nf4± -3.95/26 Kc6]

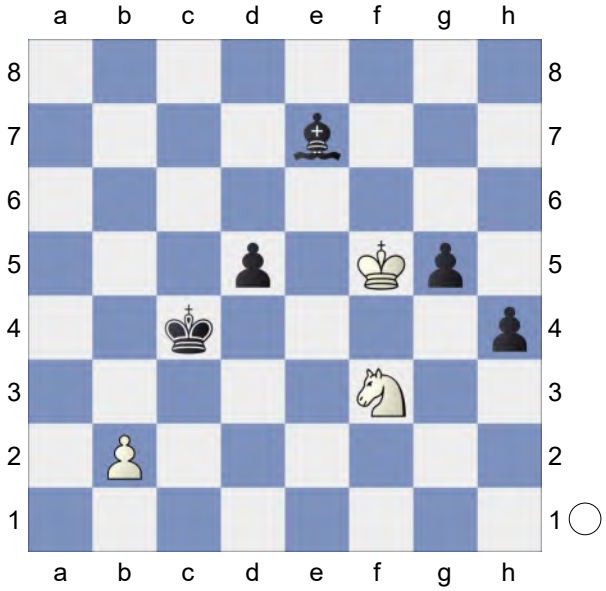
45...Kc4

(Diagram)



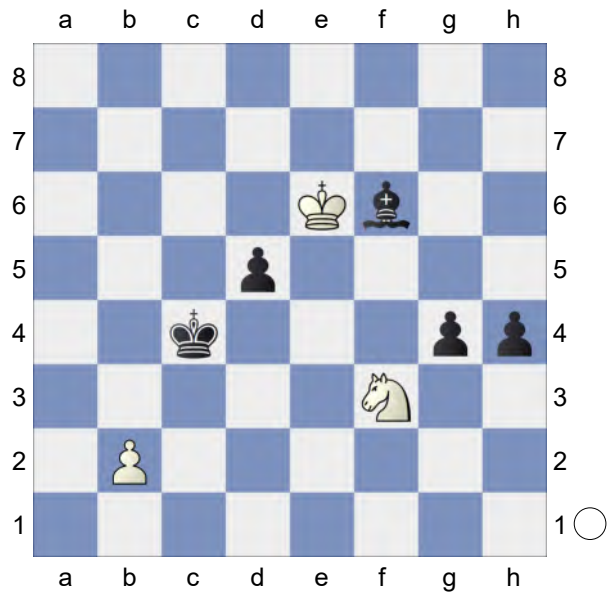
Kitty Kat: ' ...g5 is the strong threat. Black is clearly winning.' **46.Kf3 g5 47.Kg4+- Kd3 48.Ng1 Kxd4 49.Nf3++- Kc4 50.Kf5 Be7**

[And not 50...Bxb2 Kitty Kat 51.Kxg5 Kd3 *(51...h3 52.Kg4=)* 52.Nxh4=]



51.Ke6 Bd8 52.Kd7± Bf6 Kitty Kat: ' ... g4! would now be deadly.' **53.Ke6 g4**

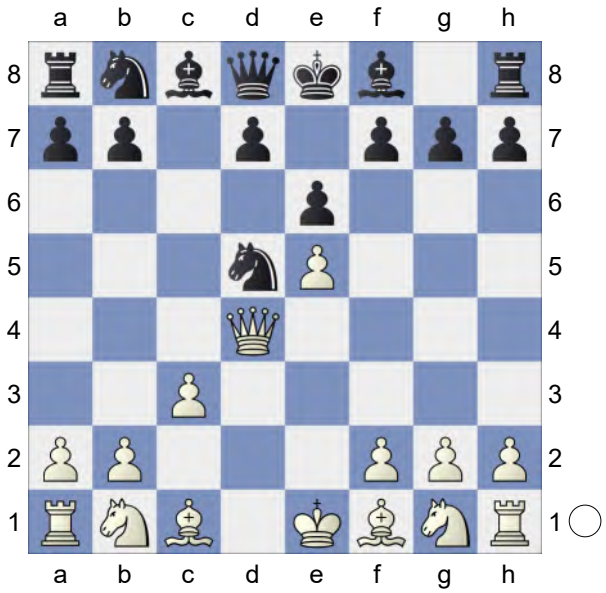
(Diagram)



Kitty Kat: '
Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/
Black=0.41. Loss on time!?'
1-0

71 **B22**
□ **Topalov,Veselin** **2780**
■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2755**
Morelia/Linares 25th (11) 03.03.2008
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 e6



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 Qc7

[7...d6 8.Nbd2 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nf6 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Bb5 Rc8 13.Ne4 Be7 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bf4 a6 16.Be2 Ne5 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.0-0-0+ Ke7 19.Rhe1]

[7...f5 8.Qe2 *(8.exf6 Nxf6 9.Qh4 d5 10.Bd3 Bd6 11.Bg6+ Ke7 12.Bc2 h6 13.Bg6 Bd7 14.Bf4 e5 15.Bg3 Be8 16.Bxe8 Rxe8 17.Qa4 Kf7 18.0-0 e4 19.Nd4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Qb6)* 8...Qc7 9.g3 d6 *(9...Nde7 10.Na3 Ng6 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Bf4 a6 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 b5 15.Bg2 Bb7 16.0-0 Be7 17.Rfd1 0-0 18.Rd3)* 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bg2 0-0 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bd7]

[7...Nde7 8.Na3 d5 9.exd6 Nf5 10.Bf4 Bxd6 11.0-0-0]

8.Bd3

[8.Nbd2 Nde7 9.Nc4 see - Topalov - Shirov in CBM 117, which Topalov brilliantly won, and Aronian - Shirov (CBM 119), where Alexey demonstrated a way to equality. Ng6 10.Bf4 f6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.exd6 Qa5 14.a3 0-0]

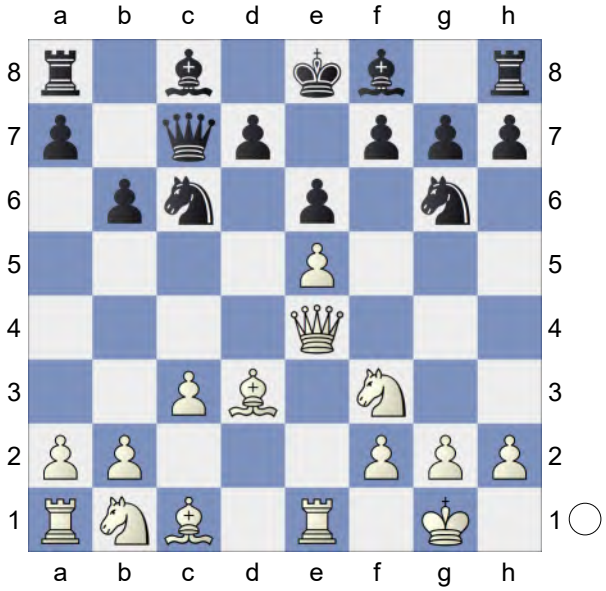
[8.g3 Nde7 9.Na3 Ng6 10.Nb5 Qb8 11.Bf4 a6 12.Nbd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 b6 14.Bg2 Bc5]

8...Nde7

[8...f5 9.exf6 is another way of consolidation, which may be tested in future. Nxf6 10.Qe2 *(10.Qh4 Ne5)* 10...d5 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bg5]

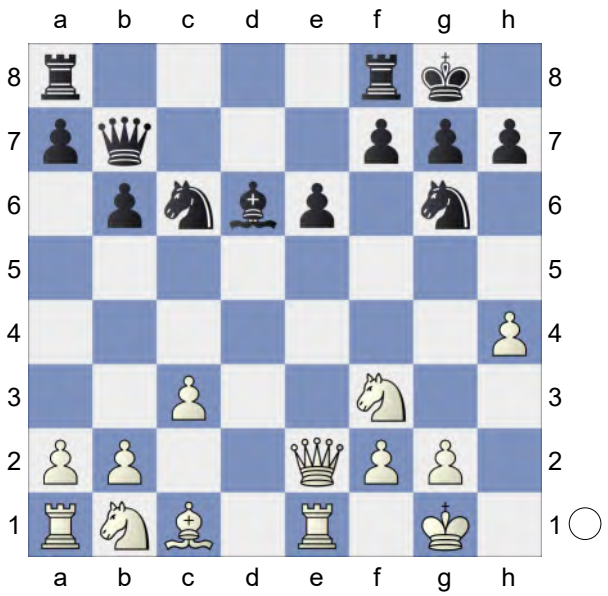
9.0-0 Ng6 10.Re1 b6

[10...d6!?]

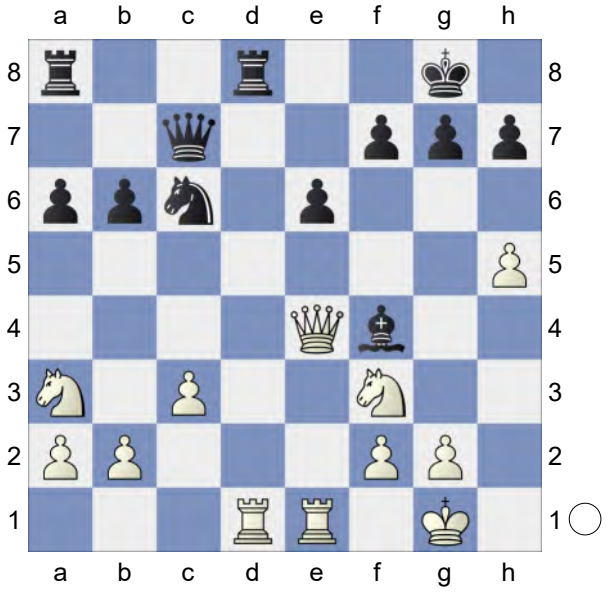


11.h4 Bb7 12.Qe2 d6 13.exd6 Bxd6 14.Ba6 0-0 15.Bxb7 Qxb7

(Diagram)



16.h5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Bxf4 18.Qe4 Qc7 19.Na3 a6 20.Rad1!?N Another new idea of Topalov's team. Recent theoretical discussions were concentrated on **20...Rfd8**

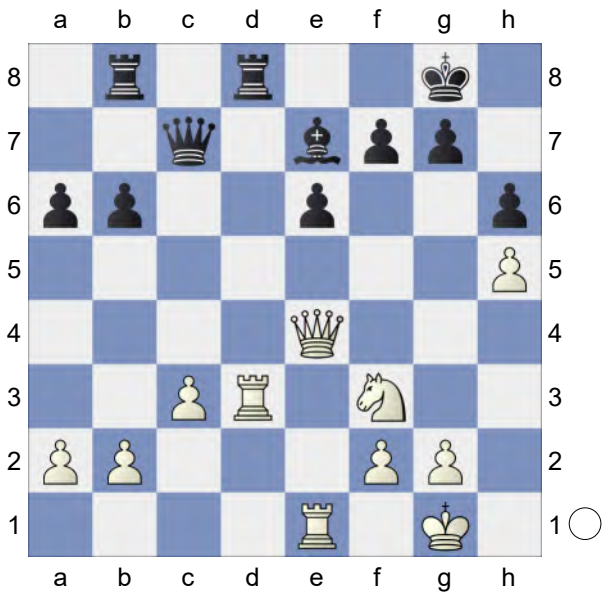


21.Nc2 h6 22.Nb4

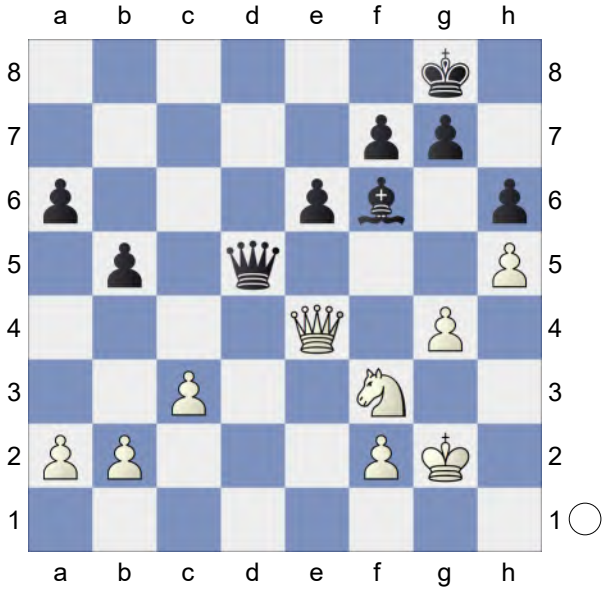
[22.Ncd4∓ Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rac8 24.Rd3]

22...Nxb4?! 23.Qxb4 Bd6 24.Qe4 Rab8 25.Rd3 Be7

(Diagram)



26.Red1 Bf6? A strange blunder. **27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+** It looks like Black overlooked this simple move but the mysterious thing is that even after **28...Qxd8?** Collapsing immediately. **29.g4 b5 30.Kg2 Qd5**

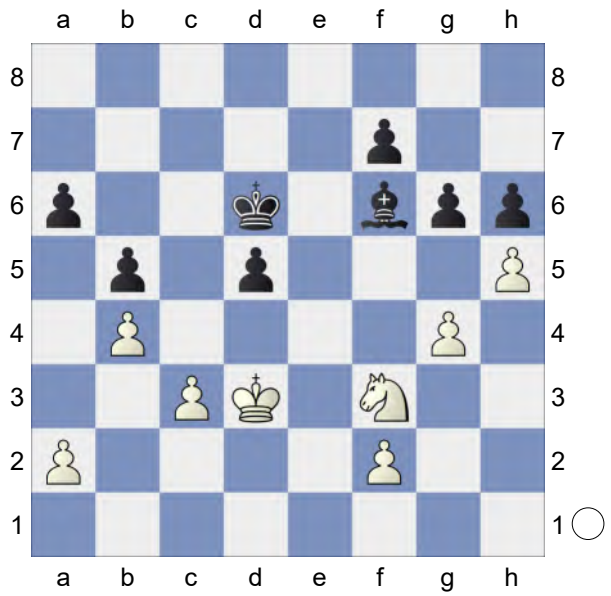


31.Qxd5 exd5 32.Kf1 Kf8 33.Ke2 Ke7 34.Kd3 Kd6 35.b4

[35.Ke3]

35...g6

(Diagram)

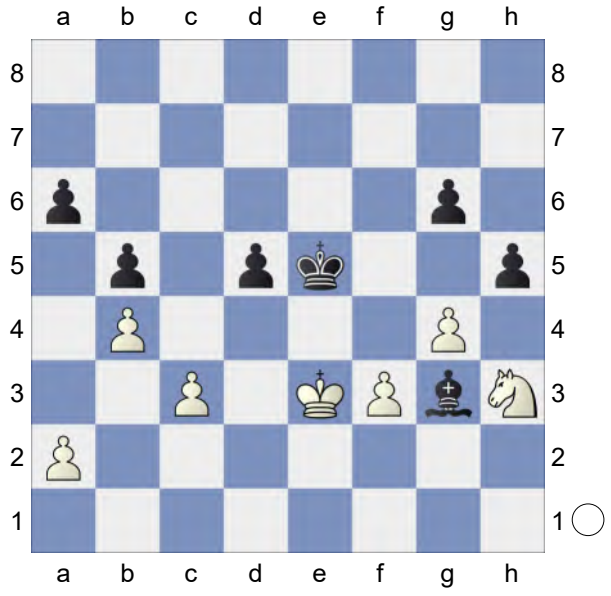


36.hxg6

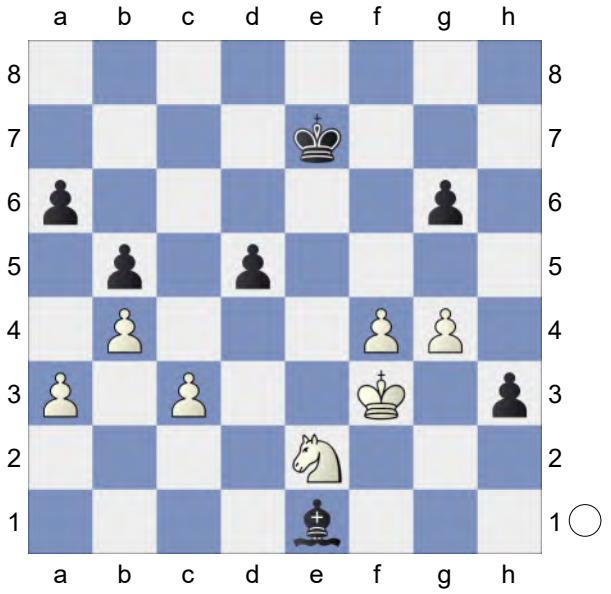
[36.Nd4∓ It would be interesting to know what Topalov had prepared in that case.]

36...fxg6+- ⌓37.Ng1! h5 38.f3 Bh4 and White should gradually win but not **39.Nh3?? Ke5 40.Ke3 Bg3**

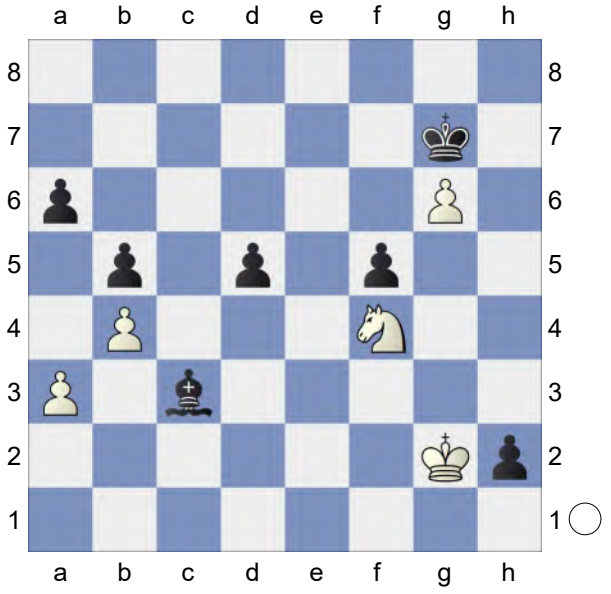
[40...Be1]



41.Ng1!? Be1 42.Ne2 h4 I don't see equality for him. **43.f4+** was necessary but with the queens on the board Black's life is far from easy. **43...Kf6 44.Kf3 h3** , although not very pleasant, was apparently better than the text, e.g. **45.a3 Ke7**

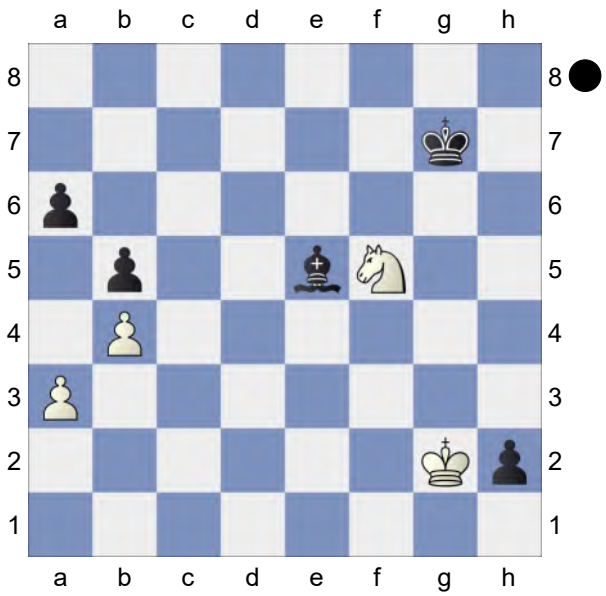


46.g5 Kf7! 47.f5 gxf5! 48.Nf4 h2 regaining the piece with good drawing chances. **49.g6+!** looks stronger, e.g. **49...Kg7 50.Kg2 Bxc3**



51.Nxd5! Be5 52.Ne7 Kf6 53.g7 Kxg7 54.Nxf5+

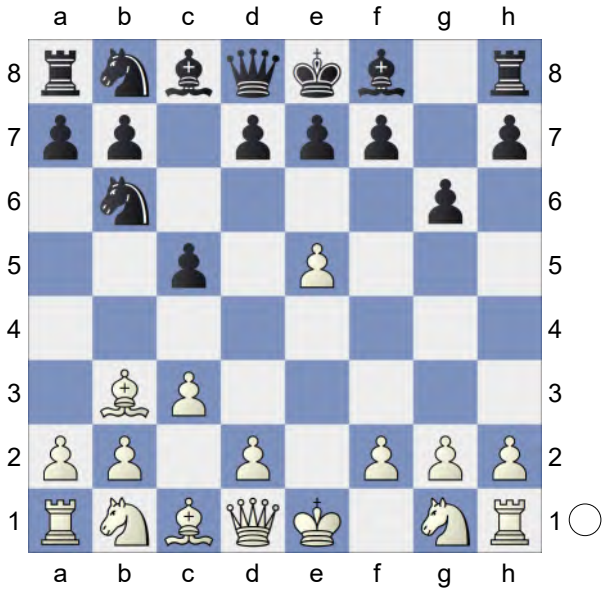
(Diagram)



1-0

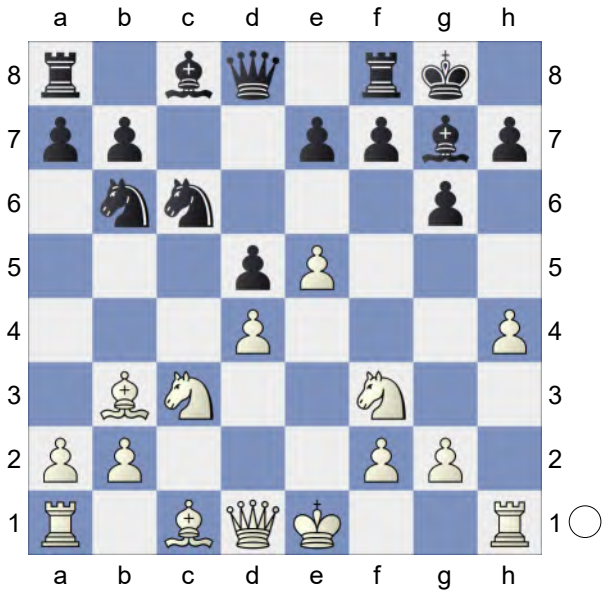
72 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2779**
■ **Iturrizaga Bonelli,Eduardo** **2626**
Aimchess Play In op rapid (6) 12.06.23
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Bologan,V: '62/146 ' Bologan,V: 'Inf 62/146' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 g6**

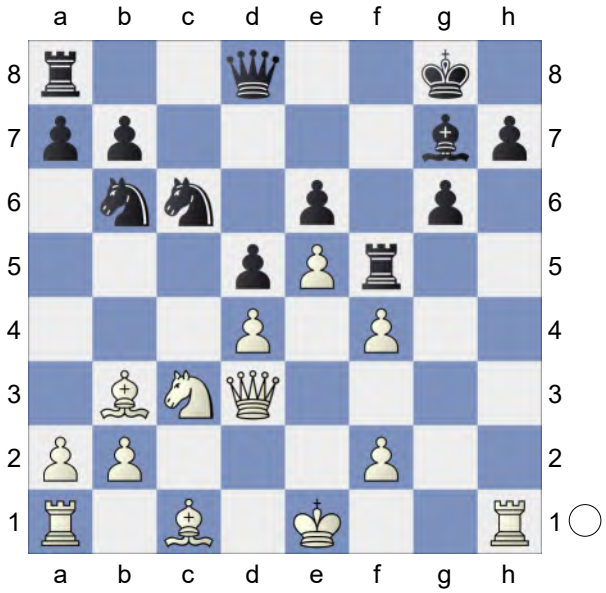


6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bg7 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.h4 d5 0.58/19
[10...d6= 0.16/19 should be considered.]

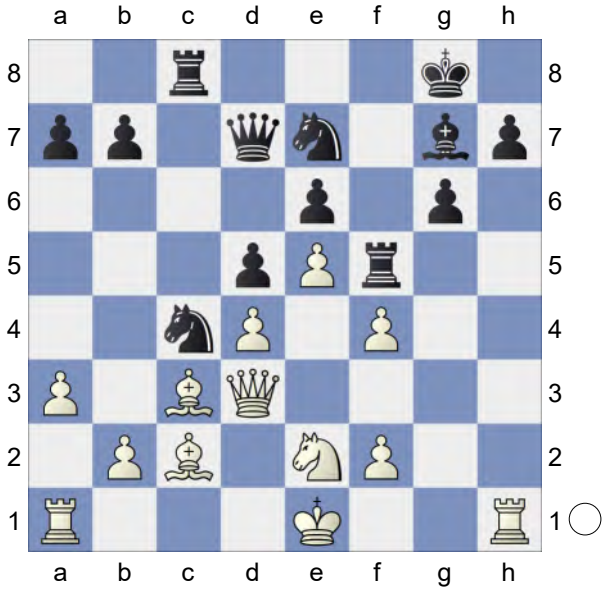
(Diagram)



11.h5± Bg4 12.hxg6 White is slightly better. **12...fxg6 13.Qd3N**
[13.Be3 a5 14.a3 e6 15.Qe2 a4 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.Bd3 b5 18.Nxb5 Qa5+ 19.Nc3 N4xe5 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.Bd2 Rxf3 22.gxf3 Bxf3 23.Qf1 Bxh1 24.0-0-0 Bf3 25.Re1 Nxd3+ 26.Qxd3 Bg4 0-1 6.♘c6 bc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8. ♘d (2600)-Chitrit,N (2540) 39/(103) United States 1985]
13...Bxf3 0.57/19
[13...e6= 0.09/18 was preferrable.]
14.gxf3 e6 15.f4 Rf5

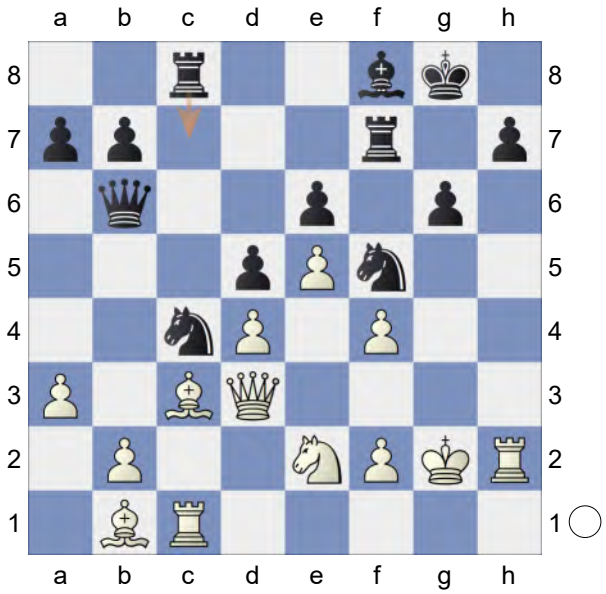


16.a3 0.72/18
[⌓16.Qh3 1.16/19]
16...Qd7 17.Bc2 Raf8 1.23/20
[⌓17...Bf8 0.83/17]
18.Ne2± Ne7 19.Bd2 Nc4 1.33/18
[⌓19...Rc8 0.95/18]
20.Bc3! Rc8



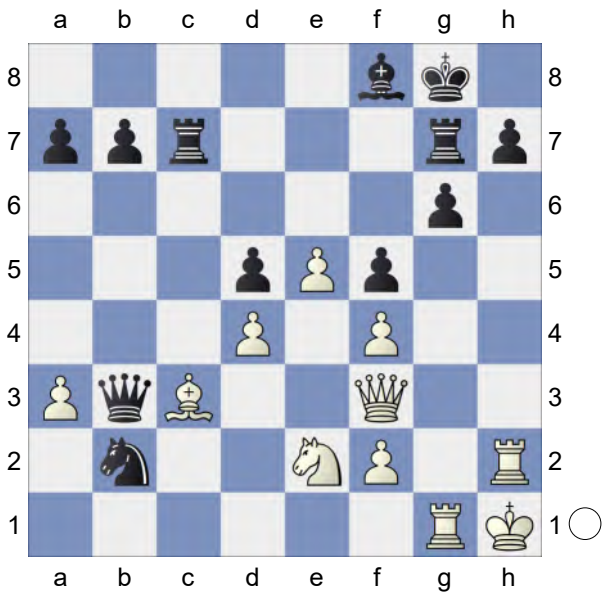
21.Rh2 Rf7 22.Kf1 0.69/21
[22.b3± 1.05/19 Nb6 23.Kf1]
22...Nf5 23.Kg2 0.41/19
[White should play 23.b3!± 0.91/20 Nb6 24.Rh3]
23...Qc6 0.94/20
[23...Bf8± 0.41/19]
24.Rc1 Bf8 25.Bb1 Qb6

(Diagram)

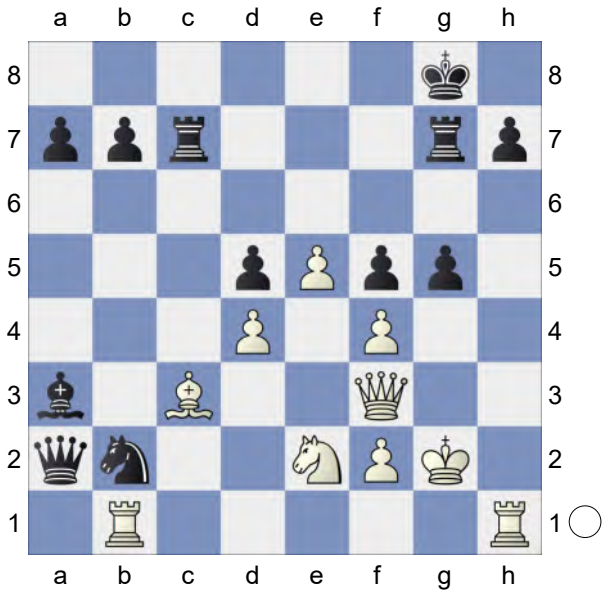


26.Kh1 Rcc7 0.52/20
[26...Rc6!= 0.09/19]
27.Rg1 Nxb2 28.Qh3 Rg7
Active counter play!
[28...Bxa3? 29.Rxg6+ Kf8 30.Bxf5 hxg6 31.Bxg6+- *(31.Bxe6? Rh7-+)*]
[28...Rfd7 seems wilder. 29.Rxg6+ hxg6 30.Qh8+ Kf7]
29.Bxf5 exf5 30.Qf3G -0.01/22
White is not holding back
[White should try 30.Rb1± 0.76/24 Bxa3 31.Qf3]
30...Qb3=
[30...Bxa3? 31.Qxd5+ Kh8 32.Rb1+-]

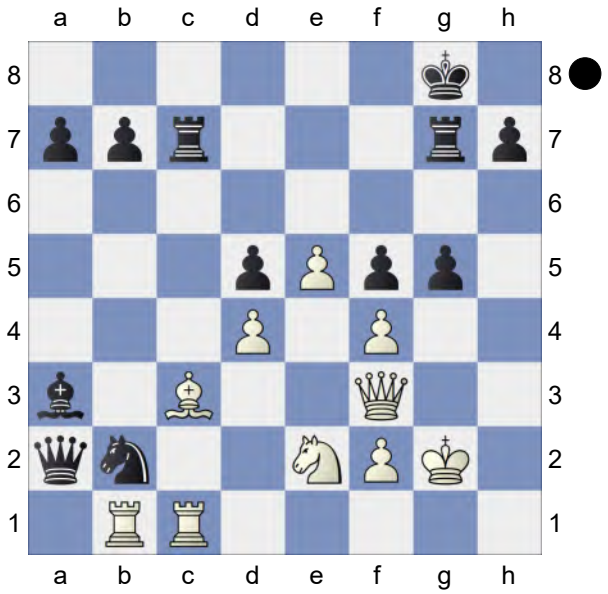
(Diagram)



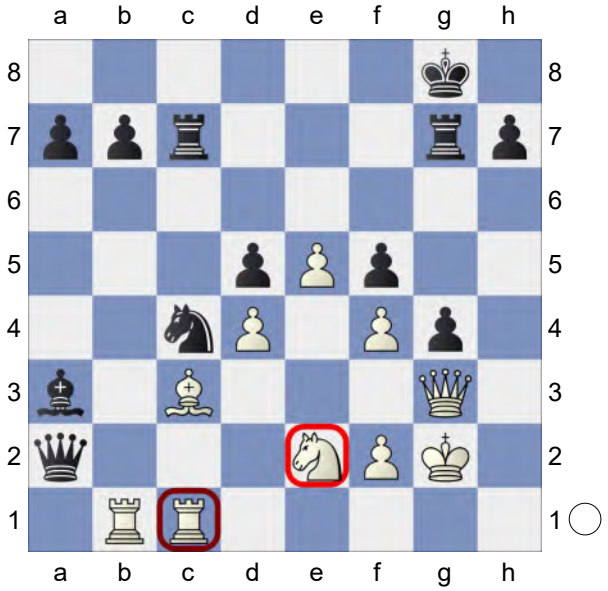
31.Rb1! Bxa3 32.Kg2! Black must now prevent Bxb2. **32...Qa2** 2.92/20
[32...g5± 0.42/21]
33.Rhh1? 0.41/20
[33.Ra1!+- 2.92/20 Rxc3 *(33...Qxa1 34.Qxd5+ Rgf7 35.Rh1+-)* 34.Rxa2 Rxf3 35.Kxf3]
33...g5 1.90/19
[33...Kh8± 0.41/20]



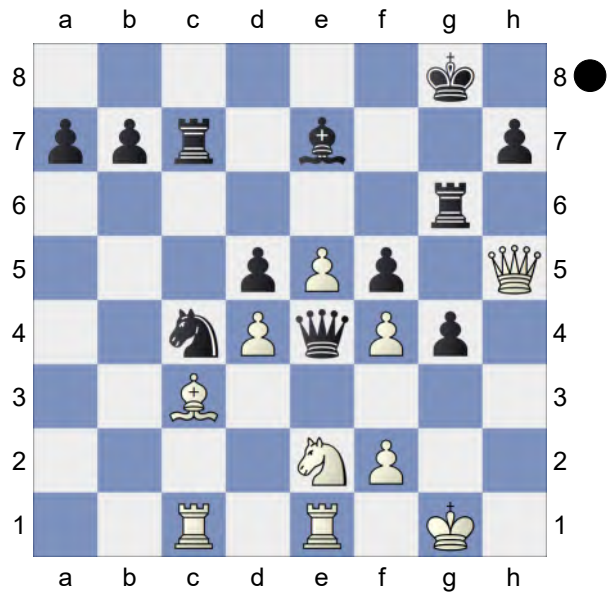
34.Rhc1? -1.41/20
[34.Ra1!+- 1.90/19 g4 35.Rxa2 gxf3+ 36.Kxf3]



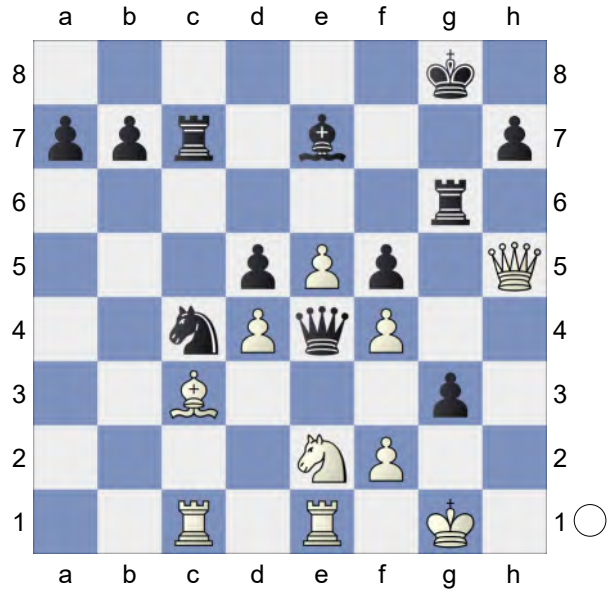
34...g4!∓
[34...gxf4+ 35.Kf1 Kh8 36.e6]
35.Qg3 Bxb2 is the strong threat.
35...Nc4



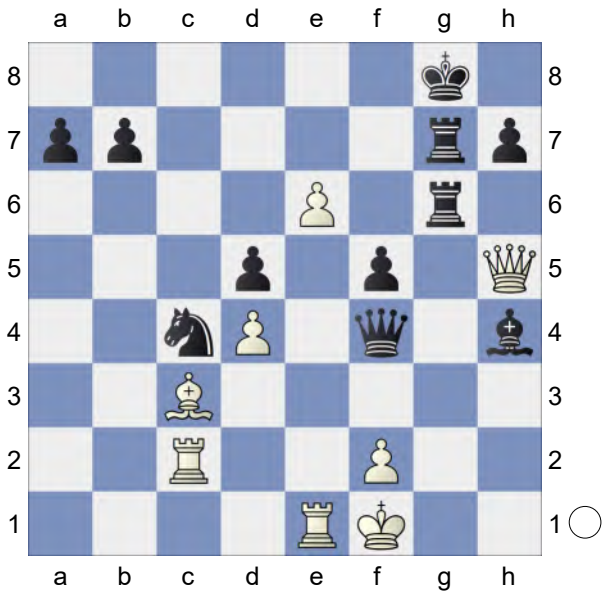
36.Re1 Qc2 Wards off Qd3 **37.Qh4** -2.08/21
[37.Kg1∓ -0.97/19 was necessary.]
37...Be7-+ 38.Qh5 Rg6 Threatens to win with ...Ne3+! **39.Rbc1?** -3.68/21
[39.Kg1 -1.61/19]
39...Qe4+ 40.Kg1
(Diagram)



g3!

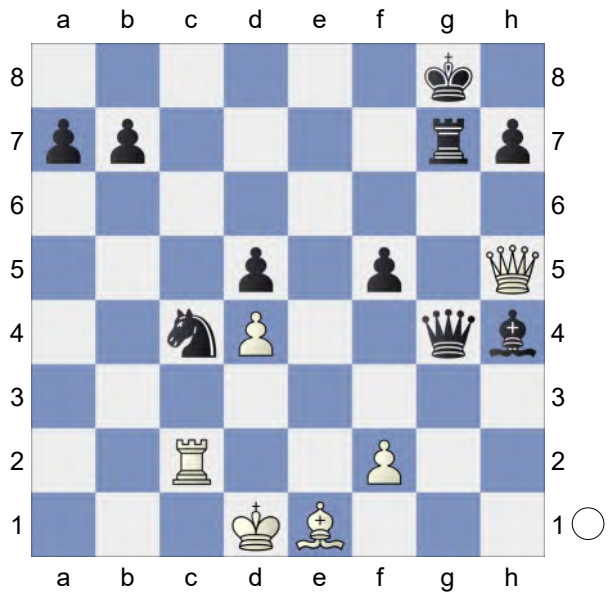


Deflection **41.Nxg3**
[41.fxg3 b5]
41...Qxf4 42.Kg2 Bh4 43.e6 -#9/19
[43.Kh1-+ -4.40/21 Bxg3 *(43...Qxf2? 44.Qxh4 Qxg3 45.Qxg3-+)* 44.fxg3]
43...Rxg3+ 44.Kf1 Rg6 -21.74/23
[⌓44...Rxc3 -#8/18 45.Qg5+ Qxg5 *(45...Bxg5 46.Rxc3 Nd2+* Discovered Attack *47.Kg1 Rxc3 48.Re3 Rxe3 49.fxe3 Qg4+ 50.Kh2 Nf3+ 51.Kh1 Qh3#)* 46.Rxc3 Nd2+ Discovered Attack 47.Ke2 Rxc3 48.Rh1 Qg4+ *(48...Rc2 49.Kd3 Nc4 50.Rg1 Qxg1 51.Kxc2 Qxf2+ 52.Kb3 Qb2+ 53.Ka4 b5#)* 49.Kxd2 Qxd4+ 50.Ke2 Qxf2+ 51.Kd1 Qc2#]
45.Rc2 Rcg7



(-> ...Rg1+) **46.Ke2 Rxe6+ 47.Kd1 Rxe1+ 48.Bxe1 Qg4+** -11.81/24
[⌓48...Qxd4+ -#10/20 49.Rd2 Qa1+ Skewer *(49...Nxd2 50.Qe8#)* 50.Kc2 Qb2+ *(50...Qxe1? 51.Qe2-+)* 51.Kd1 Qb1+ *(51...Nxd2 52.Qe8#)* 52.Ke2 Re7+ 53.Kf1 Qxe1+ *(53...Nxd2+* is a self mate. *54.Kg2 Rg7+ 55.Kh2 Qxe1 56.Qg6 Nf3+ 57.Kg2 Rxg6+ 58.Kxf3 Qxf2#)* 54.Kg2 Rg7+ *(54...Qxd2 55.Qxh4 Rg7+ 56.Kh3 Qg5 57.Qxg5 Rxg5 58.Kh4 Rg6 59.Kh3 a5 60.Kh4 d4 61.Kh5 d3 62.Kh4 d2 63.f4 d1Q 64.Kh3 Qh5#)* 55.Qg6 Rxg6+ *(55...hxg6 56.Ra2 Qe4+ 57.Kf1 Qf3 58.Kg1 Rh7 59.Rc2 Bxf2+* Back Rank *60.Rxf2 Rh1#)* 56.Kh2 Qg1+ 57.Kh3 Qh1#]

(Diagram)



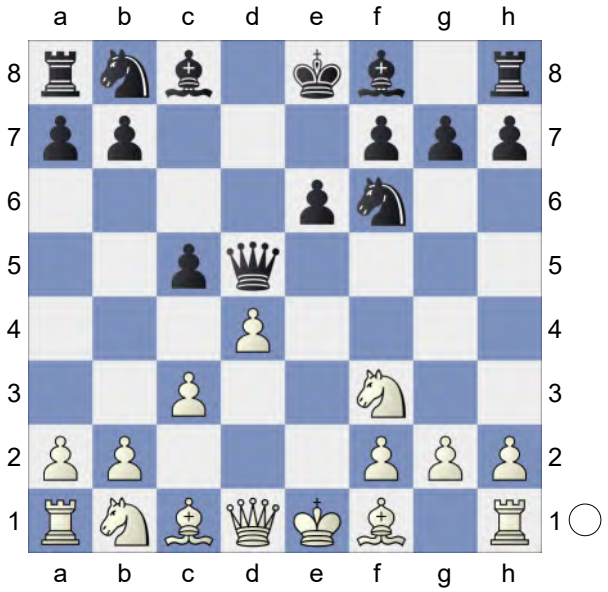
Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.36

0-1

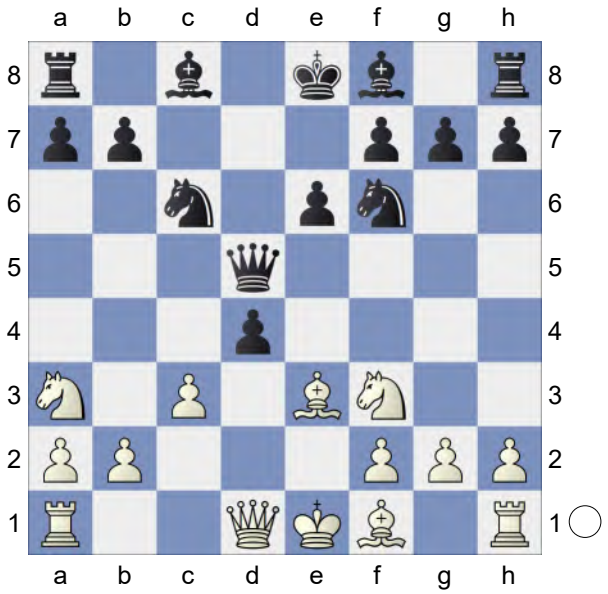
73 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2779**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2742**
Julius Baer Rapid Div 2 W (5.3) 03.09.23
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nf6



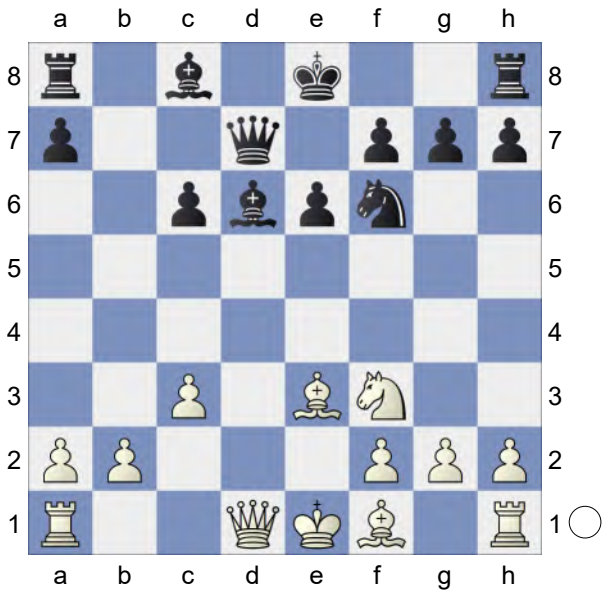
6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! Qd7 Repels Nc7+ **9.Nbxd4 Bd6**
[9...Nd5 10.Bd2 Bd6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Nd4 Qb6 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.0-0 Qc7 15.c4 Nf6 16.c5 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Be5 18.Bb4 Nd5 19.Ba3 Kg8 20.Re1 h5 21.Nf5 Bf6 22.Ne3 Bd7 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Bxd7 1-0 (50) Salgado Lopez,I (2622)-Wojtaszek,R (2715) Wch Rapid Dubai 2014 (14)]

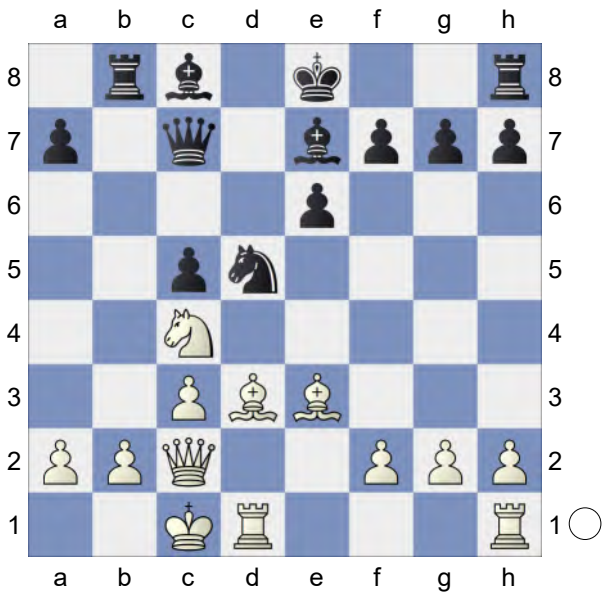
10.Nxc6
[10.Nb5 is more complex. Bb8 11.Bc5 b6 *(11...Ne4 12.Ba3 Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 a6 14.Bd3 Nxf2 15.Kxf2 axb5 16.Bxb5 Ba7+ 17.Kg3 f6 18.Rhe1 Kf7 19.Bd6 Rd8 20.Bc7 Rd7 21.Rxd7+ Bxd7 22.a4 Rc8 23.Bd6 e5 24.Bc4+ Ke8 25.Nd2 Ne7 26.Bxe7* 0-1 (28) Rabiega,R (2468)-Aronian,L (2742) World-chT Rapid 2023 (11) *)* 12.Ba3]

10...bxc6

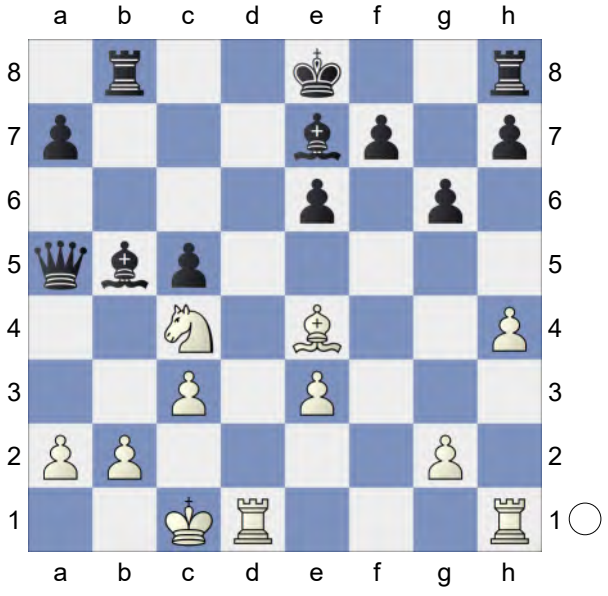


11.Qc2 Qc7N
[11...Nd5 12.Bd2 Qe7 13.Bd3 h6 14.0-0 c5 15.Rae1 Qc7 16.Re4 Bb7 17.Bb5+ Kf8 18.Be2 g5 19.h3 Rb8 20.Bd1 Ne7 21.Ree1 ½-½ Willy,S (2320)-Pham,B (2199) Bellevue PNWCC Artist Point 2024 (1)]

12.Bd3 c5 13.0-0-0 Rb8 14.Nd2 Nd5 15.Nc4 Be7

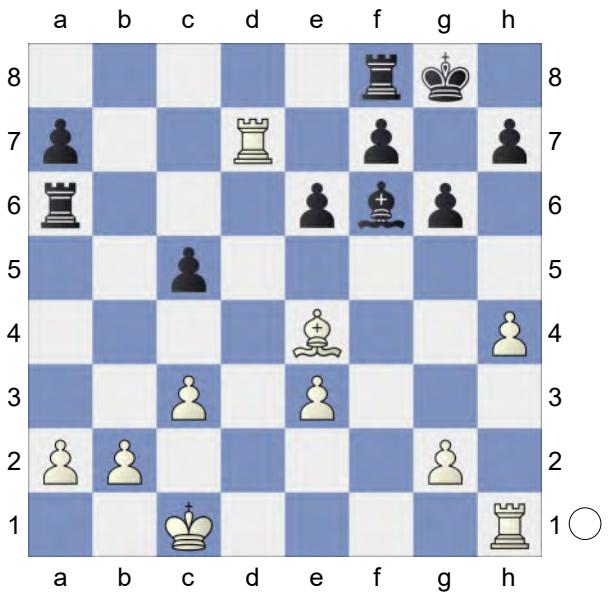


16.Be4 -0.30/21
[⌓16.Bxh7 0.13/20 Bb7 17.Be4]
16...Nxe3 17.fxe3 g6
[17...Kf8 simplifies 18.Qa4 g6 19.Qa5 Qxa5 20.Nxa5 Rb6]
18.h4 Ba6 19.Qa4+ Bb5 20.Qa5 Qxa5

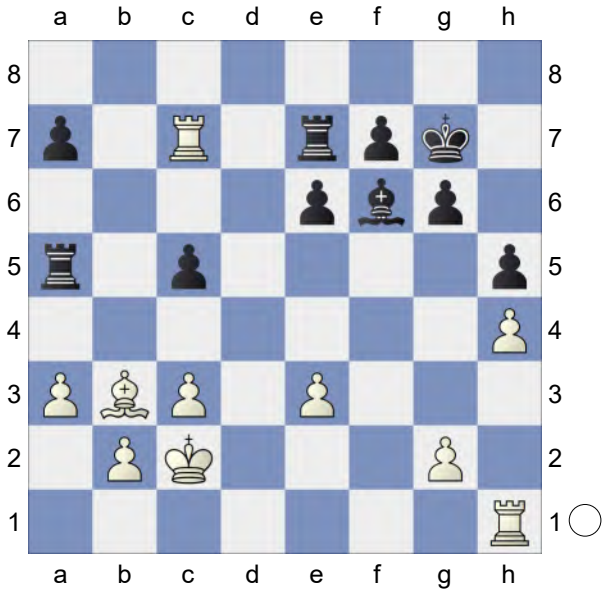


21.Nxa5 0-0 -0.03/21
[21...Rb6!∓ -0.59/20]
22.Nc6 Bxc6 23.Bxc6 Rb6 24.Rd7 Bf6 25.Be4 Ra6

(Diagram)

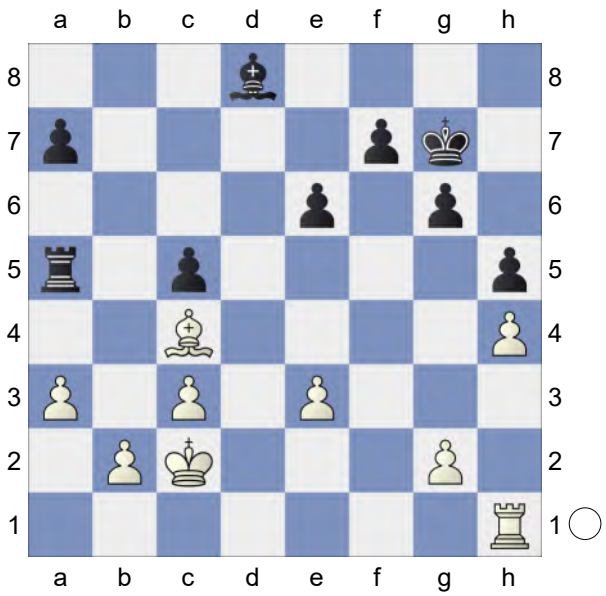


26.a3 h5 27.Bc2 Kg7 28.Rc7 Ra5 29.Bb3! Re8 30.Kc2 Re7



31.Rxe7 Bxe7 32.Bc4 Bd8

(Diagram)

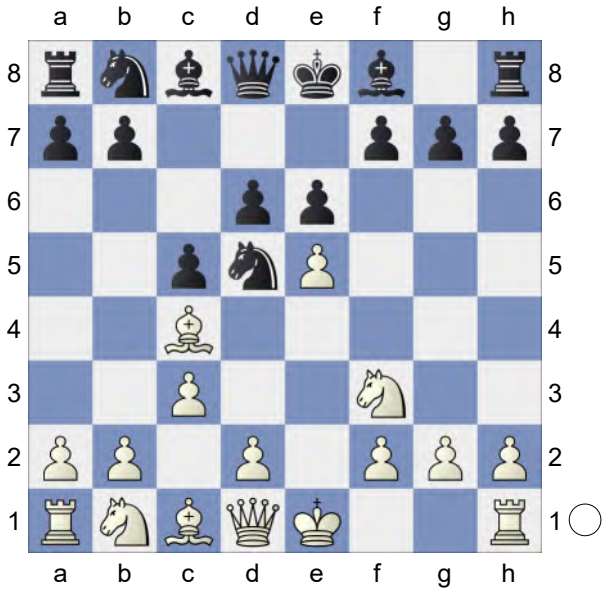


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

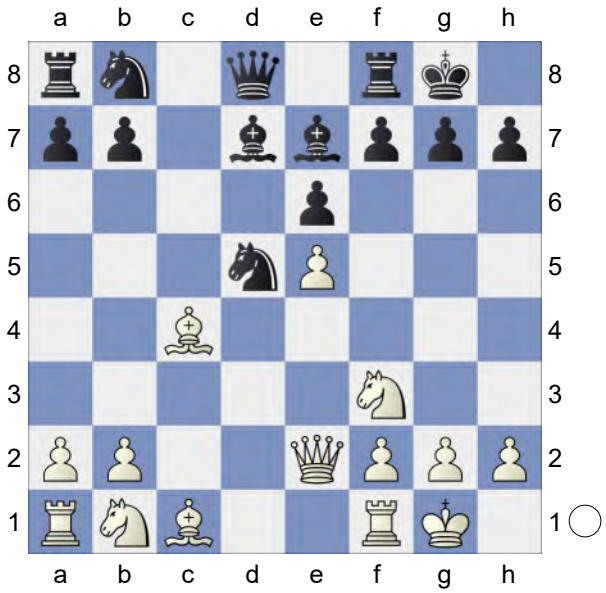
½-½

74 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2779**
■ **Lupulescu,Constantin** **2584**
Zagreb SuperUnited Rapid (6) 06.07.23
[Kitty Kat]

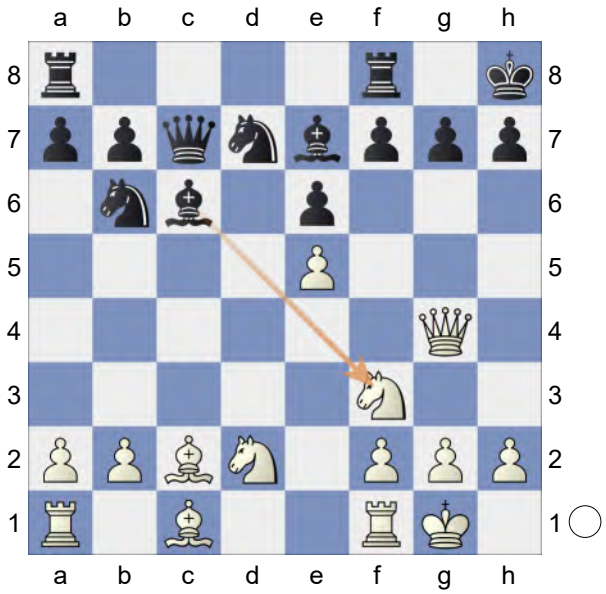
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 d6



6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 dxe5
[9...b6 10.Qe4 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.h4 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nc5 14.Qg4 Re8 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.hxg5 Nd3 17.Rd1 Nxb2 18.Rd4 Qc7 19.Nbd2 Nc3 20.Rb4 Nd3 21.Rc4 Ne2+ 22.Kf1 Qb8 23.Ne4 Rc8 24.Nf6+ 1-0 (29) Herrero Crespo,M (2476)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3_22709 (2600) 42/259 Nikea 1986 (9.2)]
10.dxe5 Bd7N
[10...a6 11.Rd1 b5 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Nc3 Be6 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Rxd5 Rad8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Bf4 Nb4 20.Bd2 Nd3 21.Ba5 Re8 22.a4 bxa4 23.Bc3 Nc5 24.Nd2 f6 25.f4 " -" (49) Ruus,R (1943)-7. ♗d3 ♘c3 8. bc3 c5 9.e6_6 (1649) MEX-ch Mexico City 1963 (6)]
[10...b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Nc3 Qd7 14.Qd3 22) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6-5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7. Bc4 Be7]



11.Qe4 Bc6 12.Qg4 Kh8 The position is equal. **13.Nbd2 Nb6 14.Bb3 N8d7 15.Bc2 Qc7**



aiming for ...Bxf3! **16.Qh3 f5** 0.77/21
[16...Nxe5 17.Qxh7#]

[16...g6!∓ -0.32/21 keeps the upper hand. 17.Ne4 Nxe5]

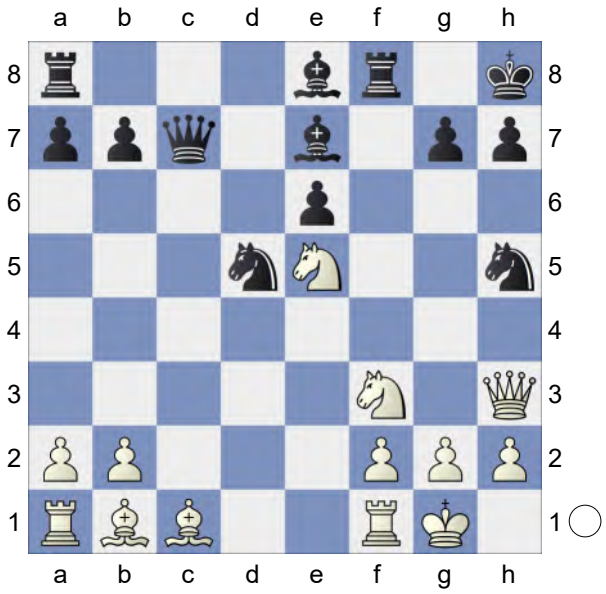
17.exf6± Nxf6 18.Bb1

[18.Qxe6?! Bd5 19.Qe5 *(19.Qf5? Ne4-+)* 19...Qxc2∓]

[18.Ng5?! Bxg2 19.Qxg2 Qxc2=]

18...Nbd5 ...Nf4 is the strong threat.

19.Nc4 Be8 20.Nce5 Nh5



21.g4 0.01/21

[21.Bd2± 0.78/18]

21...Bd6!= 22.Re1 Bxe5 0.50/22

[22...Bb4= 0.06/21 was preferrable. 23.Rd1 *(23.gxh5 Bxe1 24.Ng6+ Bxg6∓)* 23...Bd6]

23.Nxe5±

[23.gxh5 Bf4 24.Bg6 Bxc1 *(24...hxg6 25.hxg6+ Bh6 26.Bxh6∓)* 25.Raxc1 Nf4-+]

23...Nhf6 1.00/20

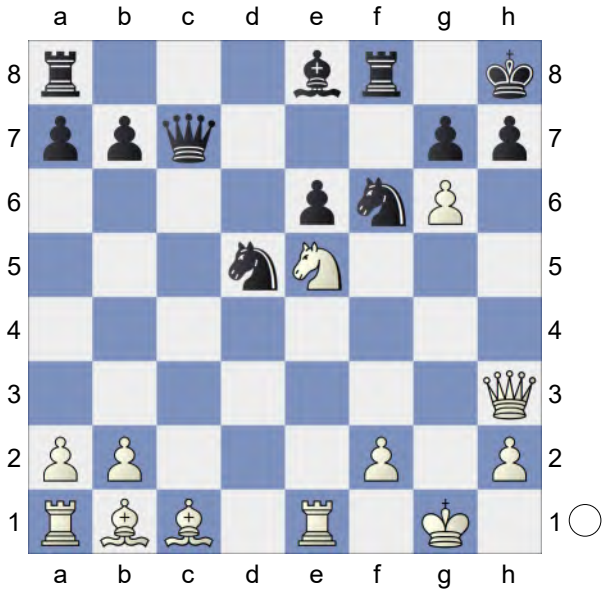
[Black should play 23...Qb6± 0.49/22 24.Re2 *(24.gxh5 Qxf2+ 25.Kh1 Qxe1+ 26.Kg2 Rf2+ 27.Kg3 Rf1+ 28.Kg4 Nf6+ 29.Kg5 h6#)* 24...Nhf6]

24.g5± Nh5 25.g6

[25.Qxe6 Nhf4 26.Bxf4 Nxf4=]

25...Nhf6 1.33/18

[25...Qb6± 0.66/18 26.Rf1 *(26.Qxh5 Qxf2+ 27.Kh1 Qxe1+ 28.Kg2 Rf2+ 29.Kh3 Qf1+* Deflection *30.Kh4 Rxh2+ 31.Kg5 Qxc1+ 32.Kg4 Qf4#)* 26...Nhf6]



26.Bd2

[26.Qxe6? Bd7 27.gxh7 Bxe6-+]

[26.gxh7?! Nd7 27.Ng6+ *(27.Qxe6 Nxe5 28.Qxe5 Qb6=)* 27...Bxg6 28.Bxg6 Ne5±]

26...h6 27.Bd3 Ng8 1.56/19

[⌓27...Qe7 1.10/18 28.Rad1 a6]

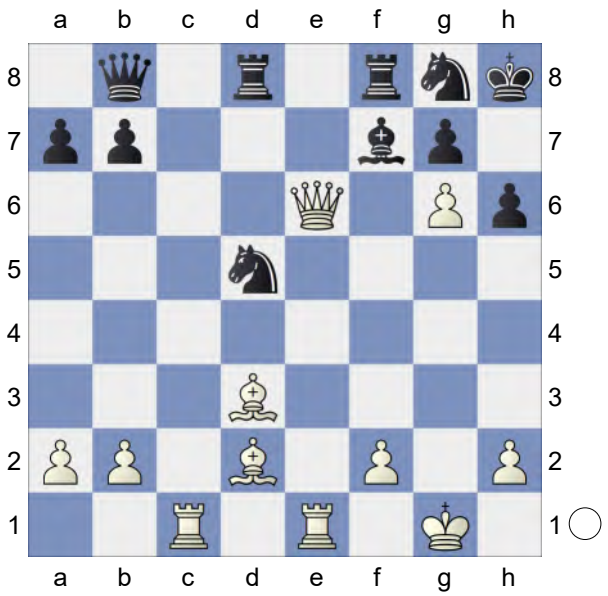
28.Qxe6 Rd8 29.Rac1 Some like it hot

29...Qb8 1.86/19

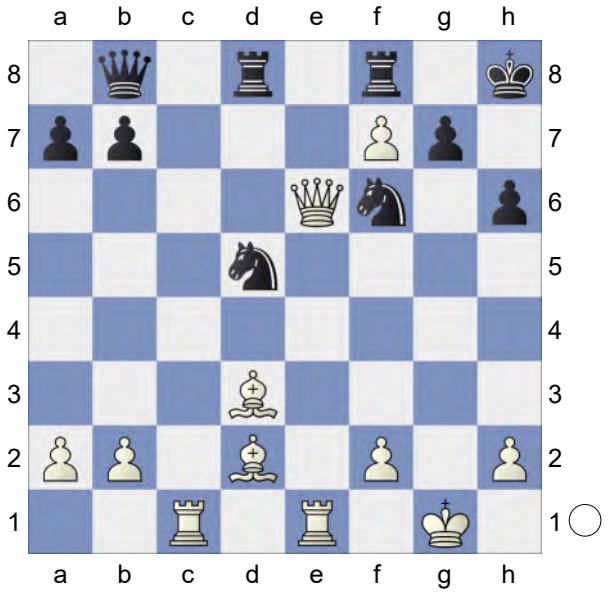
[29...Qe7± 1.39/20 30.Qg4 Qf6]

30.Nf7+ Bxf7

(Diagram)

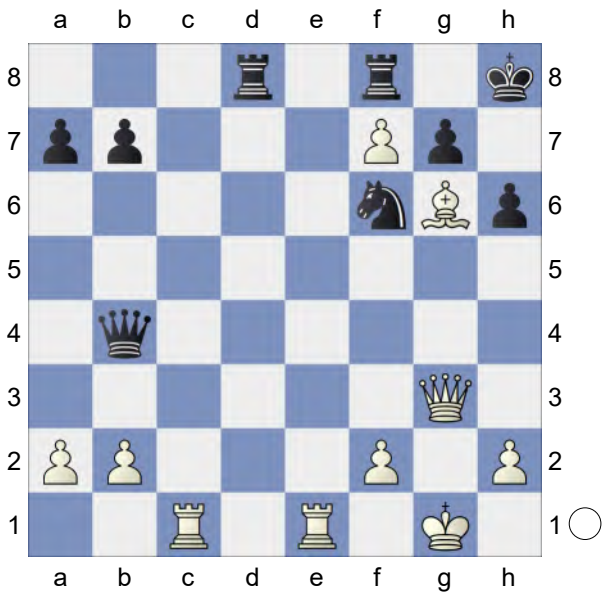


31.gxf7 Black is weak on the light squares **31...Ngf6**



32.Bg6! This pair of bishops is nice. **32...Nf4 33.Bxf4 Qxf4 34.Qe5** Active counter play! **34...Qg4+ 35.Qg3** And now Qxg4 would win. **35...Qb4**

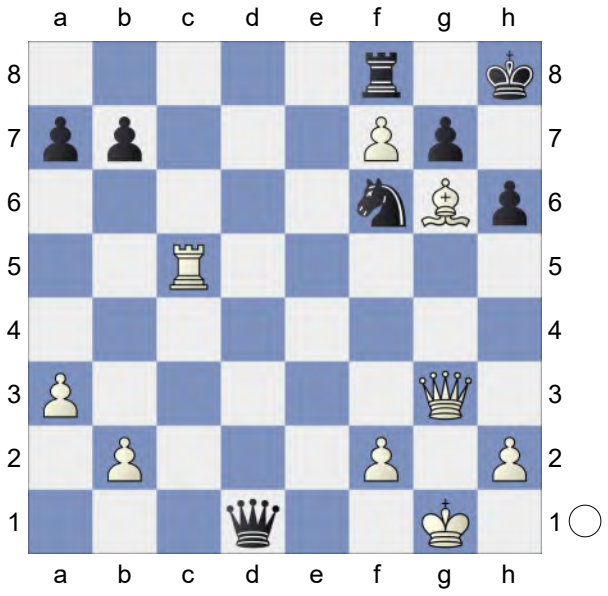
(Diagram)



36.Rcd1 Rc8 37.Re2 Rc5 38.a3 Qc4 3.88/22

[38...Qa4 2.34/19 was called for. 39.Rd3 Rc6 *(39...Rg5? 40.Qxg5 hxg5 41.Rh3++-)*]

39.Rc2 Qa4 40.Rxc5 Qxd1+

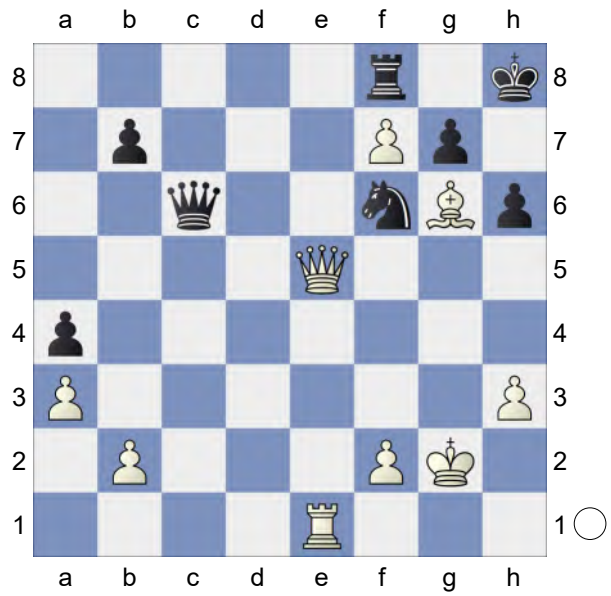


41.Kg2 Qd4 3.12/21

[⌓41...Nd5 1.91/22]

42.Re5+- Qd7 43.Re1 a5 44.h3→ White is out for blood. **44...a4 45.Qe5 Qc6+** 4.89/24

[⌓45...Rxf7 3.25/22 46.Bxf7 Qxf7]



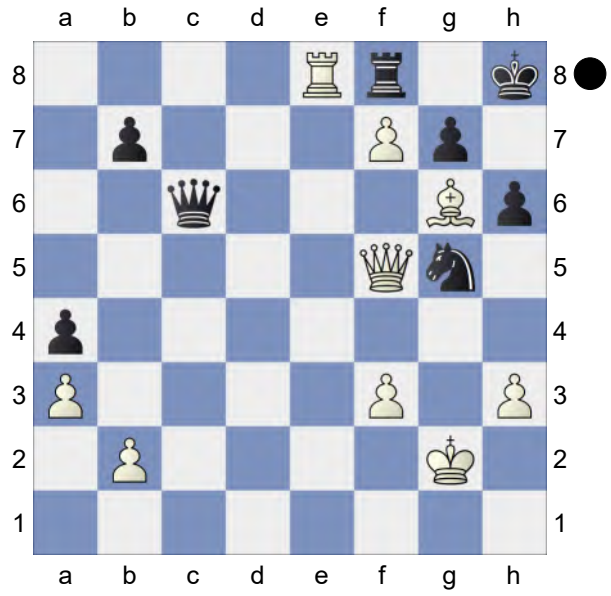
46.Kg1 Nh7 47.Qf5 Ng5 White must now prevent ...Nf3+. **48.Re8?** 0.52/26

[48.Re3+- 3.76/23]

48...Qc1+? 14.37/27

[48...Nf3+± 0.52/26 49.Qxf3 *(49.Kf1 Qc4+ 50.Kg2 Nh4+ 51.Kh2 Qc7+ 52.f4 Qd6=)* 49...Qxg6+ 50.Qg4 *(50.Kh2 Rxe8 51.fxe8N Qxe8=)* 50...Qxf7 51.Rxf8+ Qxf8]

49.Kg2 Qc6+ 50.f3

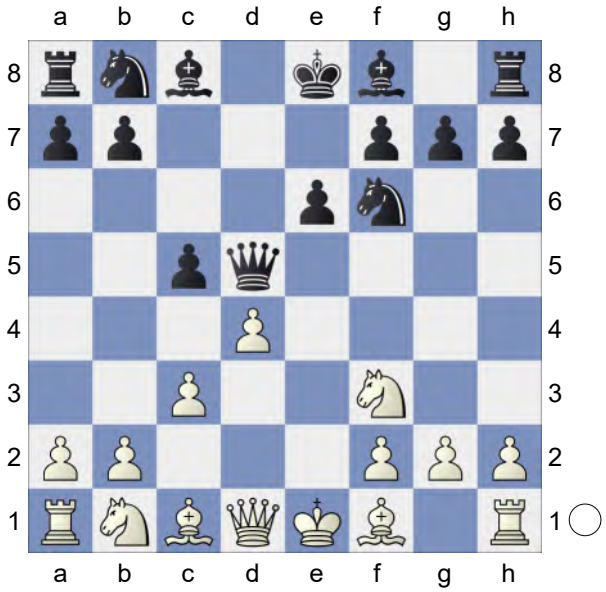


Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.36

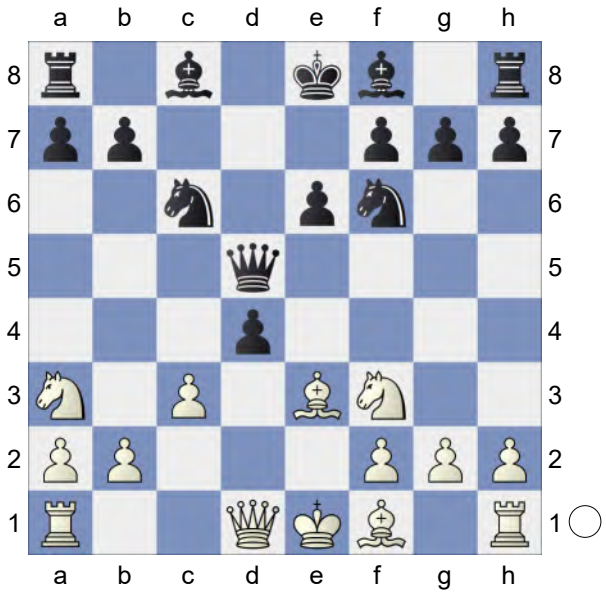
1-0

75 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2779**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2732**
Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz (4) 08.07.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 next Bc4 is good for White. **7...cxd4**



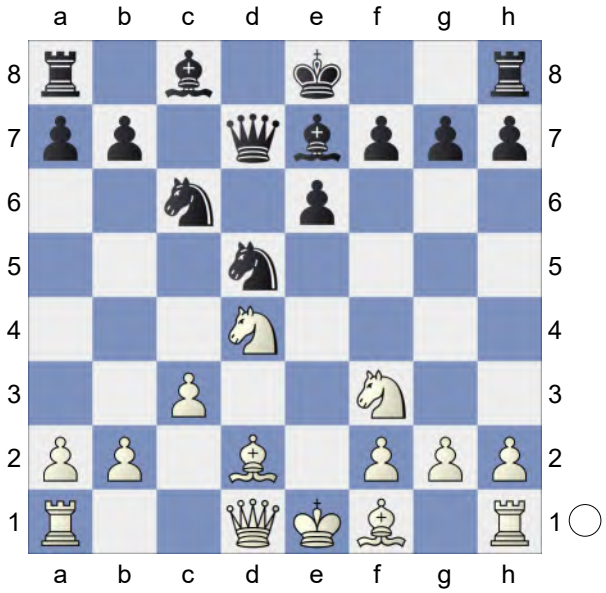
8.Nb5! Qd7 Dodges Nc7+

[8...Qd8 9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Bc4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxd5 Bxd4 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Bc8 20.Rg3 Bd6 21.Qg4 g6 22.Bxh6 Bxg3 23.Qxg3 Qc5 24.Bxf8 1-0 (59) De Bonnieres,P (2635)-Wing Gambit (2630) corr FINJUB50/SF/13 (FIN) 2014 (11)]

9.Nbxd4
[9.Nfxd4 a6 10.Nxc6 Qxc6]

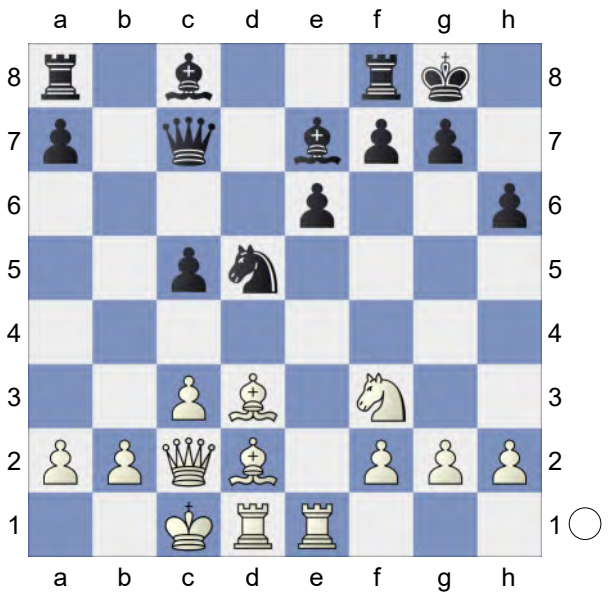
9...Nd5N The position is equal.
[9...Bd6 10.Nb5 Bf8 11.Qxd7+ Kxd7 12.0-0-0+ Nd5 13.c4 N,N-7. Be3 cxd4 8. Nb5 Qd7 with 9]

10.Bd2 Be7

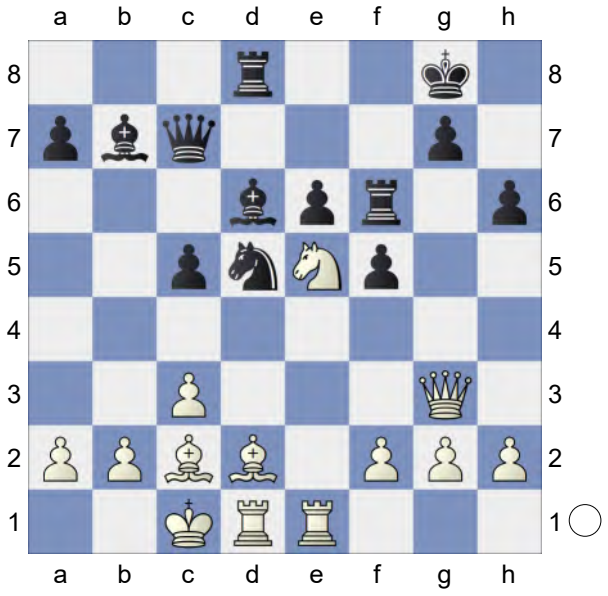


11.Nxc6! bxc6 12.Qc2 0-0 13.Bd3 h6 14.0-0-0 With the idea c4. **14...Qc7 15.Rhe1 c5**

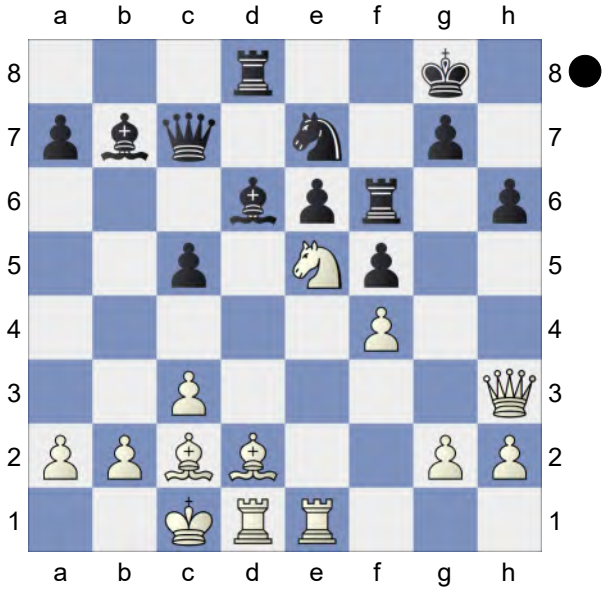
(Diagram)



16.Ne5 Bb7 17.Qa4 -0.37/20
[17.c4= -0.01/20 Bd6 *(17...Nb4? 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Bxb4+-)* 18.cxd5 Bxe5 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Be3]
17...Rad8 0.26/20
[17...Rfd8∓ -0.37/20]
18.Qg4
[18.Bc2!?]
18...f5 0.89/21
[18...Bd6= -0.01/20 19.f4 f5]
19.Qg3± Rf6 20.Bc2 0.01/23
[20.c4± 0.65/21 Nb4 21.Bxb4]
20...Bd6=

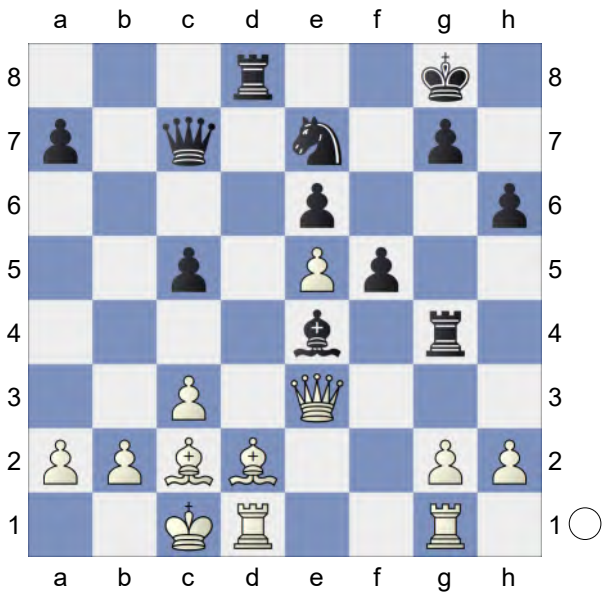


And now ...f4 would win. **21.f4 Ne7** 0.95/21
[21...a5= 0.29/20]
22.Qh3? -0.95/23
[22.c4!± 0.95/21 stays on course.]

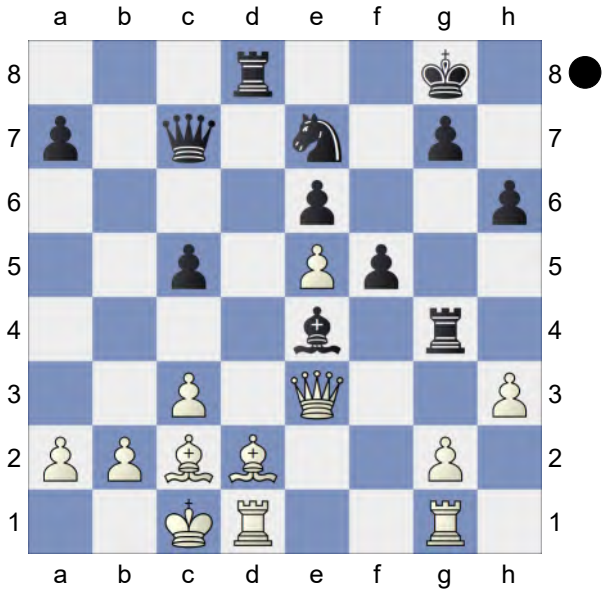


White is more active. **22...Bxe5!∓**
23.fxe5 Rg6 24.Rg1 -1.59/21
[⌓24.g4 -0.85/21]
24...Rg4
[24...Qxe5 25.Qh4 Re8 26.Bf4=]
25.Qe3 -1.89/21
[25.Be3∓ -1.05/18]
25...Be4-+
[25...Rxg2 26.Rxg2 Bxg2 27.Rg1= *(27.Qg3 Be4±)*]
[25...Bxg2 26.Qf2 Bh3 27.Qf3 Rxg1 28.Rxg1=]

(Diagram)

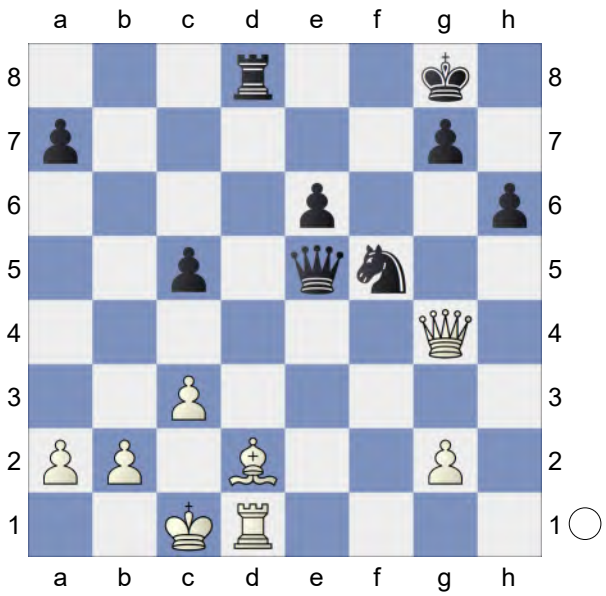


Hoping for ...Nd5. **26.h3**



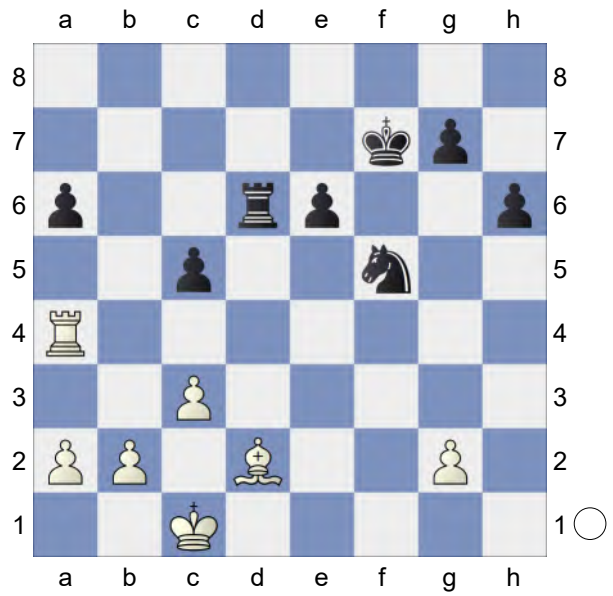
Bxc2!
[26...Rxg2 27.Rxg2 *(27.Bxe4 Rxg1 28.Rxg1 fxe4±)* 27...Bxg2 28.Qg3±]
27.hxg4 Bxd1 28.Rxd1 fxg4 29.Qe4 Nf5 -0.71/23
[29...h5-+ -1.79/20 and Black stays clearly on top. Strongly threatening ... Nf5. 30.Rh1 Qd7]
30.Qxg4∓ Qxe5

(Diagram)

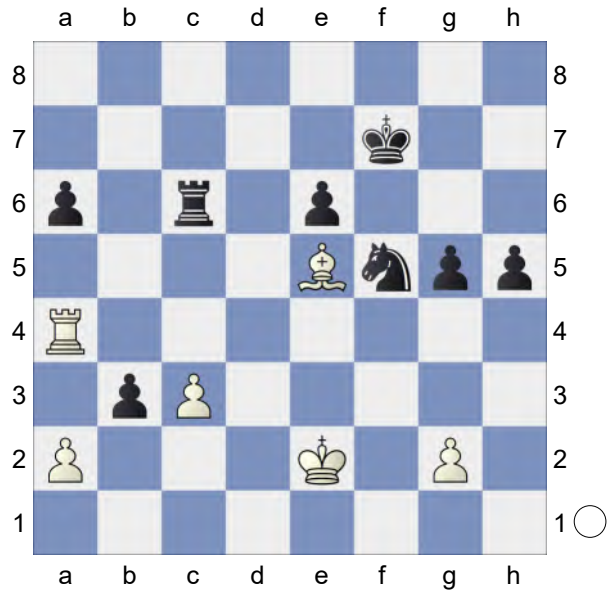


31.Qf3! Dodges Rd3 **31...Qd5**
[31...Ne7 is more complex. 32.Re1 Qd6 33.Bf4 Qd5]
32.Qxd5 -0.79/22
[32.Bf4∓ -0.35/24 feels stronger. Qxd1+ 33.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 34.Kxd1]
32...Rxd5∓ -0.08/24 Endgame. KRB-KRN
[32...exd5∓ -0.79/22 33.Re1 Nh4]
33.Re1 -0.82/23
[33.g4= -0.08/24 remains equal. Nh4 34.Be3]
33...Kf7∓ 34.Re4 a6 -0.39/23
[34...h5∓ -0.76/21]
35.Ra4 Rd6

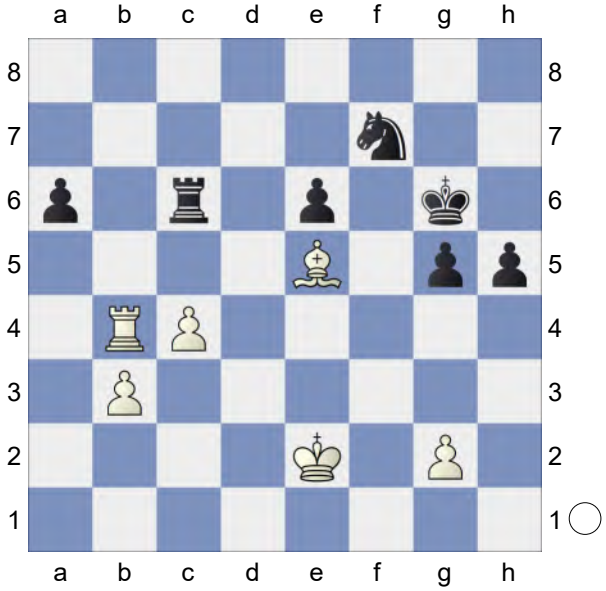
(Diagram)



36.Bf4 Rc6 37.Be5 h5 -0.49/22
[37...Ne3∓ -0.91/23 ...g5! is the strong threat. 38.Kd2 Nd5 *(38...Nxg2? 39.Rg4+-* Trapped Piece, Double Attack *)*]
38.Kd2 -1.20/22
[38.g4∓ -0.49/22]
38...c4 39.Ke2 -1.87/24
[39.b3∓ -0.92/23 was necessary.]
39...g5 -1.29/26
[39...Rc5-+ -1.87/24 40.Bf4 a5]
40.b3 cxb3

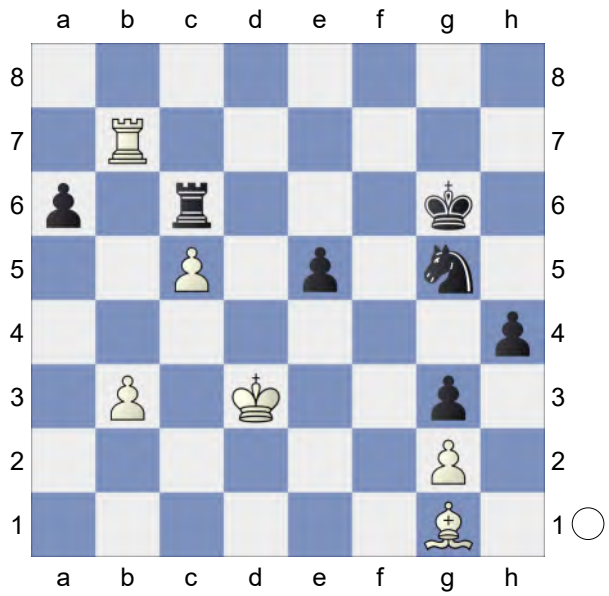


41.axb3 Rc5 42.Bh8 Rc6 0.01/21
[Black should play 42...Nh4∓ -0.96/21 43.g3 Nf5]
43.Rb4 -1.22/21
[43.Be5= 0.01/21]
43...Nd6 -0.72/22
[⌓43...e5 -1.22/21 44.g4 *(44.Bxe5? Re6-+)* 44...hxg4 45.Rxg4 Kg6 *(45...Rxc3 46.Rxg5 Ke6 47.Rg6+ Kd5 48.Rxa6=)*]
44.c4 Kg6 45.Be5 -1.17/23
[⌓45.Ra4 -0.77/23]
45...Nf7 -0.68/23
[45...Ne4∓ -1.17/23 46.Ke3 Kf5]



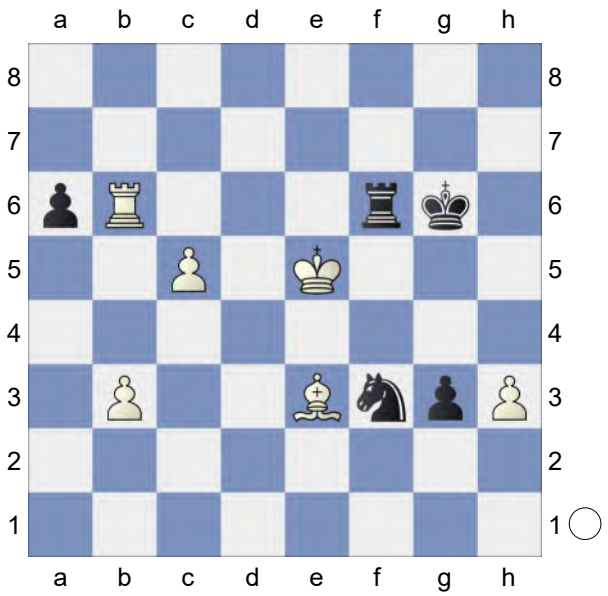
46.Bh2 e5 47.Rb7 h4 48.Kd3 -1.45/22
[White should try 48.Bg1 -0.96/22]
48...g4 49.Bg1 g3 -0.24/20
[49...h3∓ -1.59/22 50.gxh3 gxh3]
50.c5= Ng5

(Diagram)

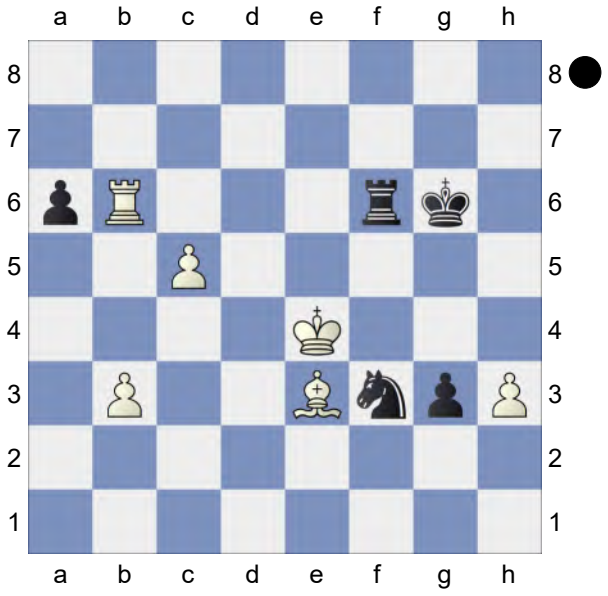


51.Rb6 Rf6 52.Be3! h3! 53.gxh3 Ne6 0.68/20
[53...g2!= 0.18/20]
54.Ke4!±
[54.Rxa6? Nxc5+ 55.Bxc5 Rxa6-+]
54...Ng5+? 9.76/23
[54...Kf7± 0.63/19]
55.Kxe5 4.81/21
[⌓55.Bxg5 9.76/23 Kxg5 56.h4+ *(56.Kxe5?* too greedy. *Rxb6 57.cxb6 g2-+)* 56...Kg6 57.h5+ *(57.Kxe5?* is the wrong capture. *Rxb6 58.cxb6 g2-+; 57.Rxf6+ Kxf6 58.Kf3 Kf7+-)* 57...Kf7 58.Rxf6+ *(58.Kxe5? Rxb6 59.cxb6 g2-+)* 58...Kxf6 59.Kf3]
55...Nf3+ 7.39/20
[⌓55...Nf7+ 4.81/21 56.Kd5 Nd8]

(Diagram)



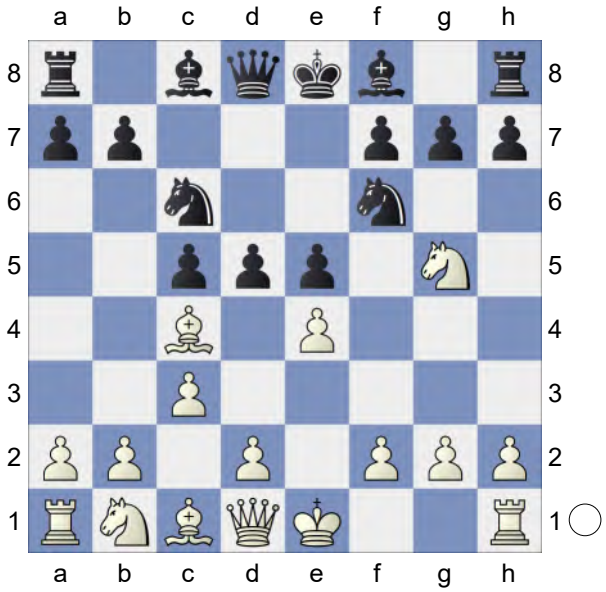
56.Ke4



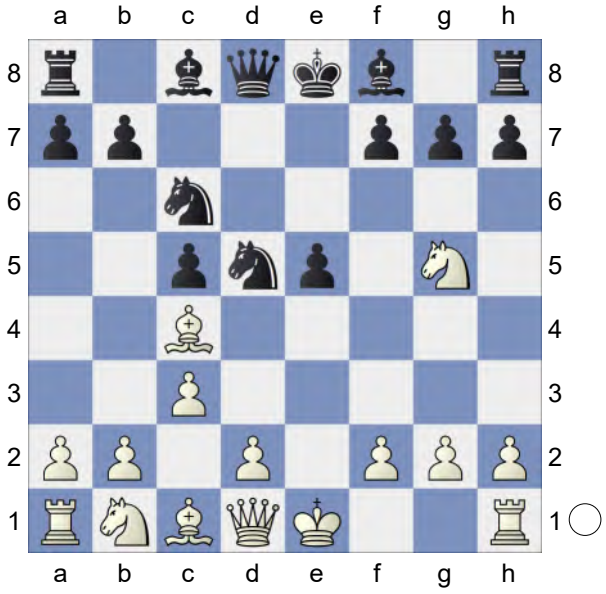
What a fight!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

76 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2779**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
Global Chess League 09.06.2023
[Daniel Fernandez]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Ng5 d5

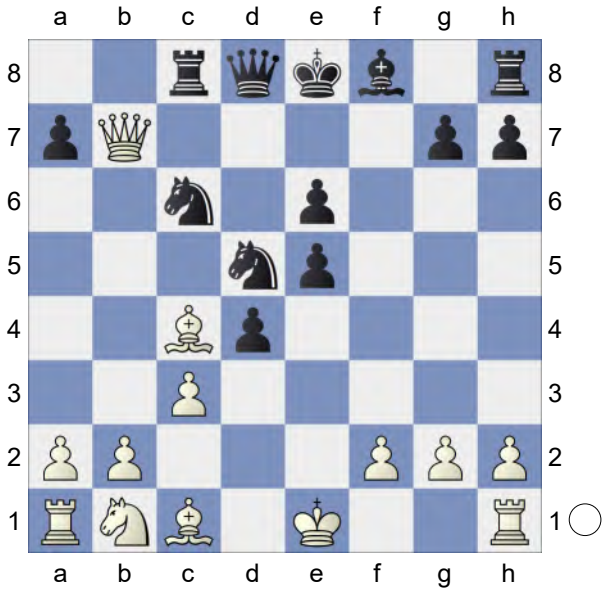


6.exd5 Nxd5



7.d4! Clearly a critical move, but this is one of the first truly top-level tests of it.

7...cxd4!
[7...Be7 0.64/18 7...cxd4 0.18 8.dxc5! Bxg5 9.Bxg5 Qxg5 10.Bxd5±]
8.Qb3 A stable approach, honing in on Black's tactical weaknesses on d5, b7 and f7. The position is equal.
[8.0-0 next cxd4 is good for White. Be7 9.Nxf7 Kxf7 10.Qf3+ Ke6 11.Re1∞ Belyakov,B-Dubov,D Sochi 2017 *(11.a4!?)*]
8...Be6 9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.Qxb7 Rc8



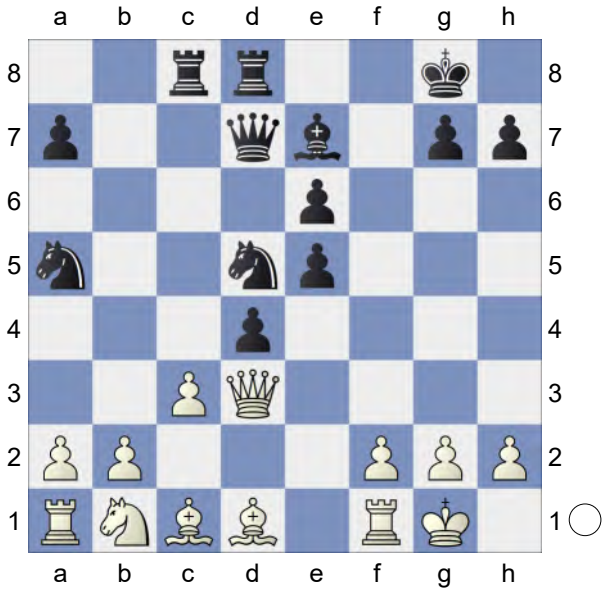
11.0-0 Reaching a critical position. Initially, with material level it seems self-evident that White must be better, but when you drill into it questions start to arise about how they can actually complete queenside development.
11...Qd7N Maybe the main thing Carlsen did wrong all game was this barely perceptible late opening inaccuracy.
[11...Be7 12.Bb5 Qc7! 13.Qxc7 Rxc7 and, with Black's castling rights intact and ideas like . ..Bf6 and ...Nf4 not too far away, three results are possible.]
12.Qb5 -0.04/18
[12.Qxd7+ Kxd7 13.Bb5±

Here Black's centre comes under serious question and White is ready in many cases to ditch the c3-pawn, or advance it and then try to blockade on e4.]

[12.Qxd7+± 0.50/19 Kxd7 13.Bb5]

12...Be7= 13.Bb3 0-0 14.Qd3 Na5 15.Bd1 Rfd8 0.36/17

[15...Nb7= -0.02/16 should be considered.]



16.Bf3 -0.19/21 It seems that at this point the pressure of needing to do something regarding the central pawns got to Carlsen. In reality he had fair chances of an advantage by continuing to leave that particular ball in White's court.

[16.Qh3± 0.36/17]

16...dxc3

[16...Nf6!? is interesting, and creates ideas of ...e4 followed by ...dxc3 which White has to manage quite carefully.]

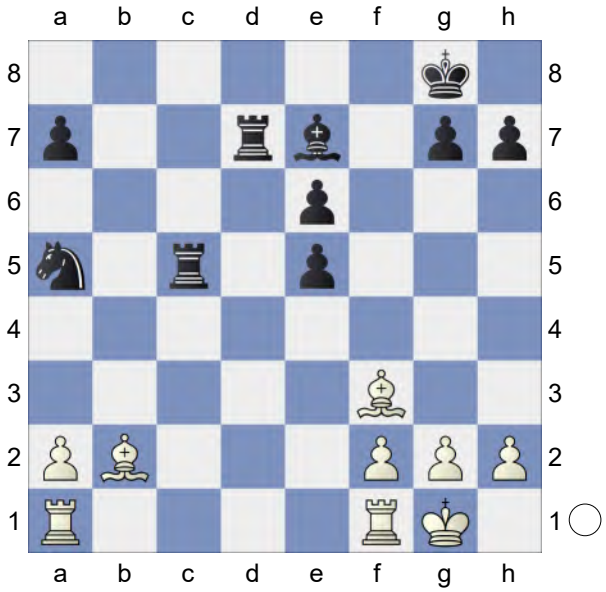
[Another fascinating possibility is 16...Nb7 , intending to shepherd the central pawns onward with help from the second knight.]

[16...Nf6 is more complex. 17.Qe2 d3 18.Qe1 Nc4]

17.Nxc3 Nxc3 18.Qxd7

[If White had realised that there were significant losing chances in the ending, maybe they would have ventured something like 18.Qa6 when the pressure on the e6-pawn keeps Black honest.]

18...Rxd7 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Bb2 Rc5



21.Rad1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 A lot of people would agree a draw here, but not these two! **22...Nc4 23.Bc3 e4!?** Continuing to play with little tricks. The pawn is of course immune and there are excellent chances of Black being able to trade it for a healthier pawn. **24.Bd4**

[24.Bb4 -0.53/20 24.Bd4 -0.16 Rc7 25.Bxe7 exf3 26.Bd8 Rc6 27.gxf3 Ra6↑]

24...Ra5

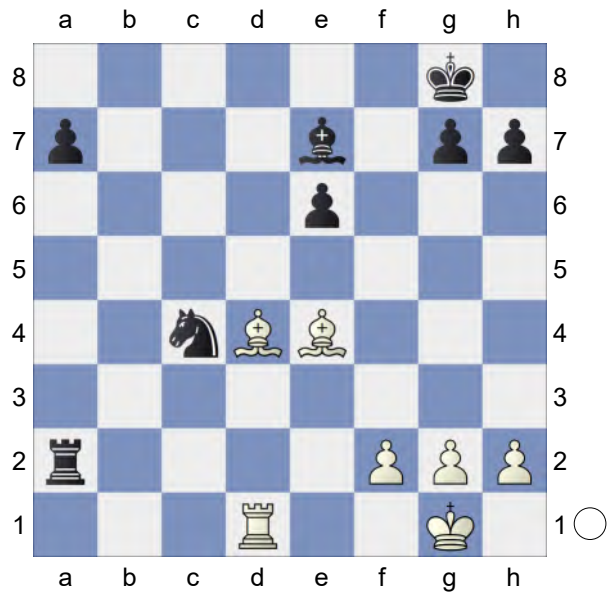
[24...exf3? 25.Bxc5 Bxc5 26.Rc1+-]

[24...Nb2!? 25.Bxb2 Rc2± *(25...exf3 26.Ba3=)*]

25.Bxe4 This pair of bishops is nice.

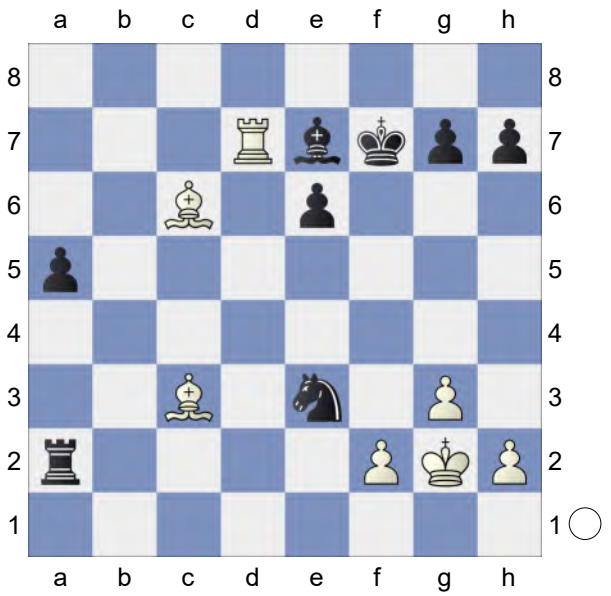
25...Rxa2

(Diagram)

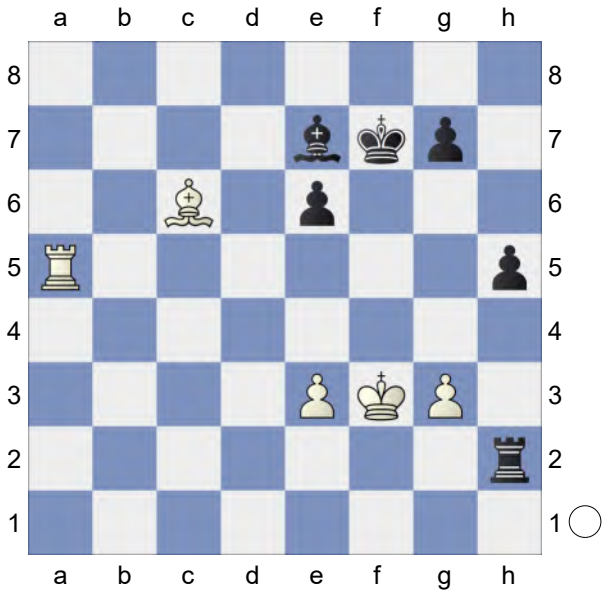


26.g3 -0.62/23
[26.Bb1= -0.07/22 Rd2 27.Rxd2 Nxd2 28.Ba2]
26...Nd2 -0.01/21
[26...Rd2!∓ -0.62/23 27.Rxd2 Nxd2]
27.Bc6 a5 28.Kg2! Kf7 29.Bc3 -0.72/24
[29.Bb5= 0.01/22 keeps the balance.]
29...Nc4 -0.21/22 The knight generates a noticeable volume of tricks, and to avoid these tricks White ends up trading off their bishop pair as well as accepting a fragmented pawn structure.
[29...Bb4∓ -0.72/24 30.Be5 g6]
30.Rd7 Ne3+

(Diagram)

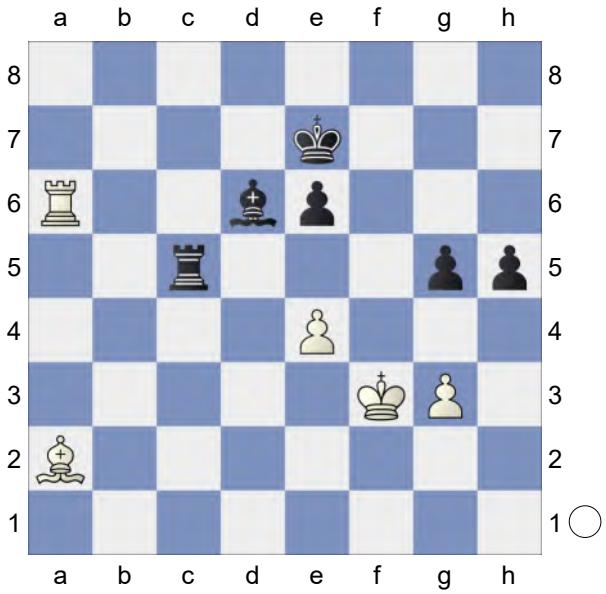


31.Kf3 -0.94/22
[White should play 31.Kh3∓ -0.43/23 Rxf2 32.Bd2]
31...Ra3!∓ 32.Bb2 Rb3 33.fxe3
[33.Bc1 Nf5+ 34.Be3 Rc3]
33...Rxb2 Endgame. KRB-KRB **34.Ra7 Rxh2 35.Rxa5∓** Now, in classical time controls there is no way White should lose this, but in online rapid anything can happen, and Magnus starts pressing in eminently practical fashion. **35...h5**



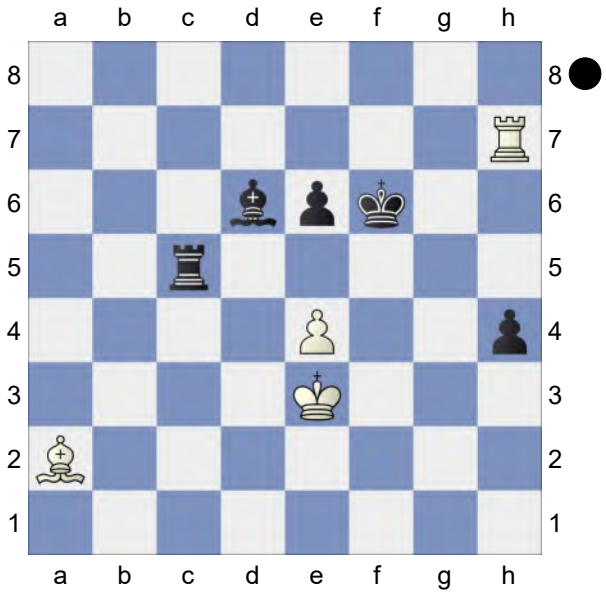
36.Ra6 Bd6 Black is more active.
37.Bb5 Ke7 38.Bc4? -1.97/24

[Active counterplay was of paramount importance: 38.Ra7+ Kf6 White must now prevent ...Rh3. 39.Be8]
[38.Ra7+∓ -0.72/24 is a better defense. Kf6 39.Be8]
38...g5!-+ 39.e4 -2.21/22
[39.Rb6∓ -1.44/21]
39...Rc2 40.Ba2 Rc5
[40...Bc5! setting up a mating net is the cold-blooded advice of the machine.]
[40...Rc3+ 41.Ke2∓]



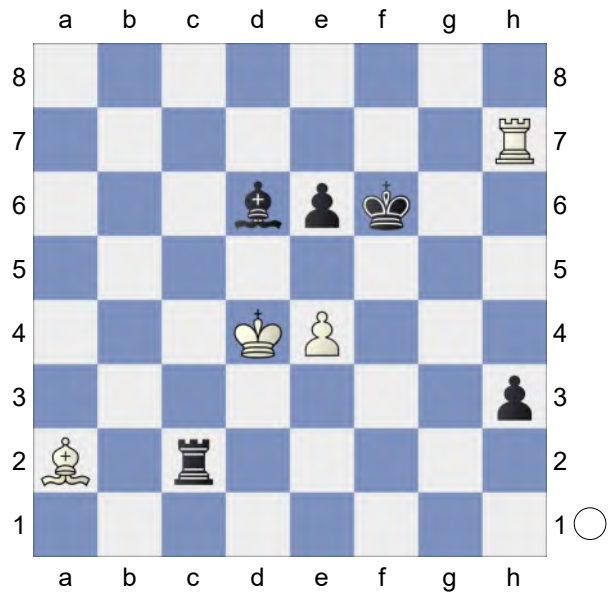
41.Ke3 h4
[41...Bxg3 42.Rxe6+ Kd8 43.Bd5∓]
[41...Rc3+ 42.Kd4 Rc1 *(42...Rxg3 43.e5∓)* 43.Kd3∓]
42.gxh4 gxh4 Strongly threatening ... h3. **43.Ra7+ Kf6! 44.Rh7**

(Diagram)

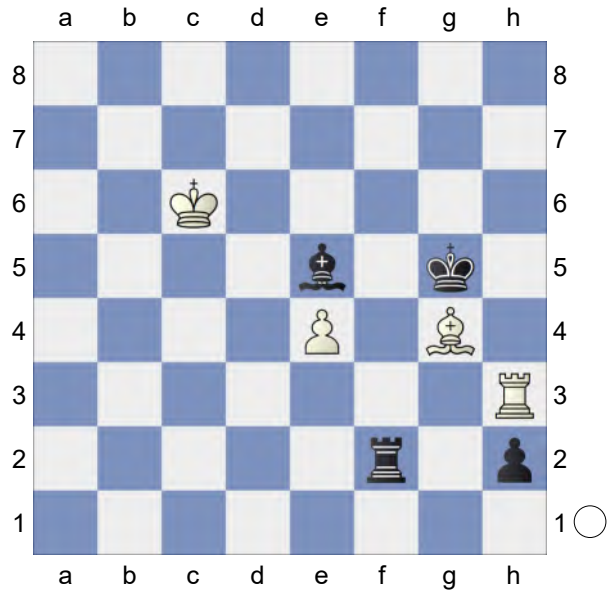


Black has clearly made some progress, but after their next move the half-point changes hands another couple of times.
44...h3 -1.56/24 **45.Kd4?** -3.49/25 Loses the game.
[45.Bxe6! was what White needed to see, followed by holding the inevitable RB v R ending. Kxe6 *(45...h2 46.Bg4* catches the pawn just in time*)* 46.Kd4=]
[45.Bxe6∓ -1.56/24 Kxe6 46.Rh6+ Ke7 47.Kd4]
[45.e5+ Bxe5]
45...Rc2

(Diagram)

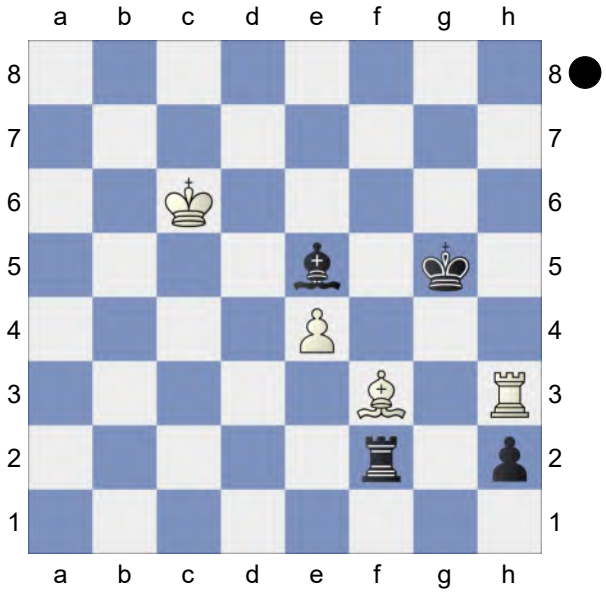


46.Bxe6 Be5+
[46...Kxe6 47.Rh6+ Kf7 48.Rh7+ Kg8 49.Rxh3∓]
47.Kd5 Rd2+ 48.Kc6 h2
[48...Kxe6 49.Rxh3 Bf4 50.Ra3∓]
49.Bg4 Rf2 Inhibits Bf3. **50.Rh3 Kg5**
[Avoiding, of course, 50...Rf1? -0.01/21 50...Kg5 -3.52 51.Rf3+! Rxf3 52.Bxf3=]

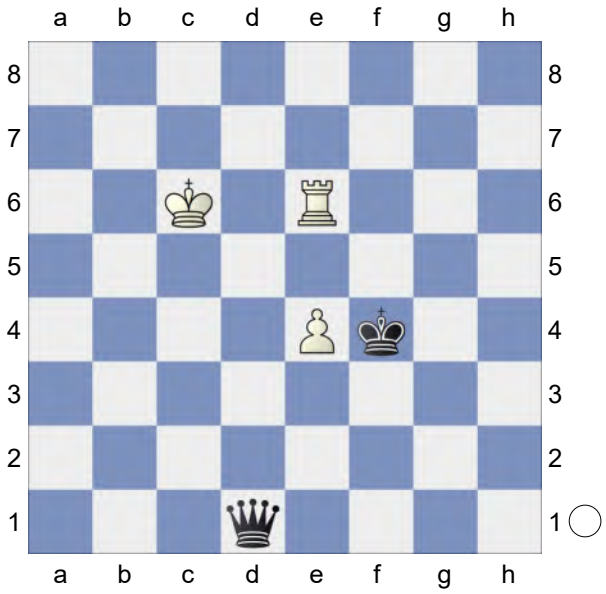


Now play heads into a queen versus rook and pawn ending which, as luck would have it, is lost. **51.Bf3** -9.82/25

[51.Be6 -3.60/24]

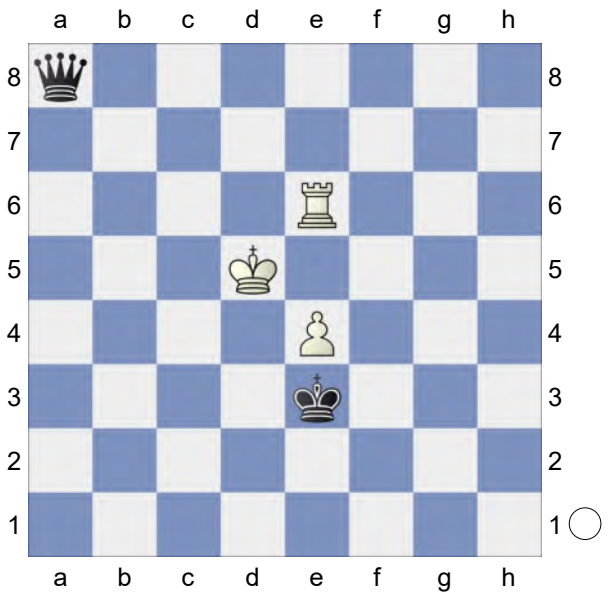


51...Rxf3! Remove Defender, Promotion **52.Rxf3 h1Q** Prevents Rf1. **53.Rf5+ Kg4 54.Rxe5** KQ-KR **54...Kf4 55.Re6 Qd1**

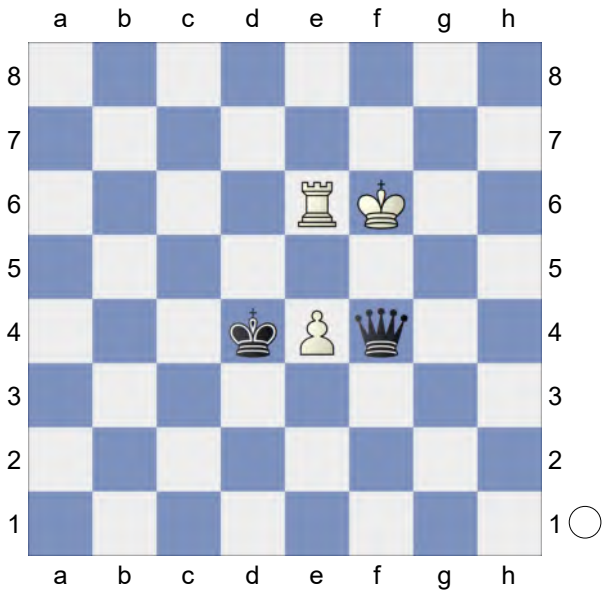


...Qd8 is the strong threat. **56.Kc7 Qd4 57.Re7 Ke3 58.Re6 Qg7+ 59.Kd6 Qf8+ 60.Kd5 Qa8+**

(Diagram)

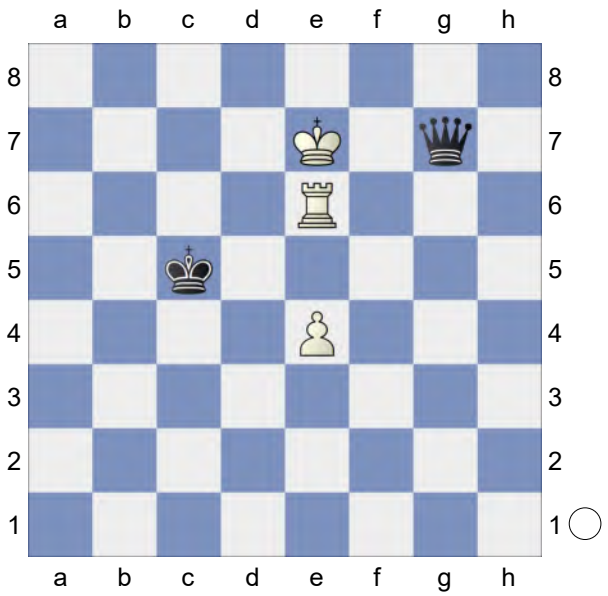


61.Kc5 Qd8 62.Kc6 Qa5 63.Kd6 Kd4 64.Ke7 Inhibits Qd8+. **64...Qc7+ 65.Kf6 Qf4+**



66.Ke7 Kc5 67.Kd7 Qf7+ 68.Re7 Qf6 69.Re6 Qd4+ 70.Ke7 Qg7+

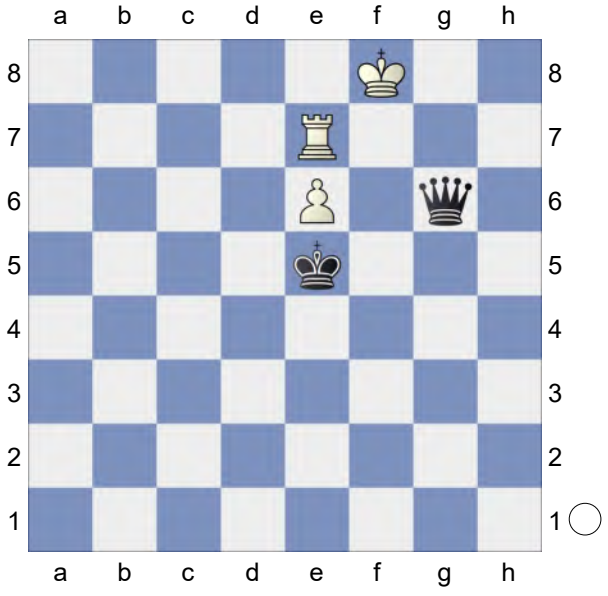
(Diagram)



71.Ke8 Qh7 72.Re7 Qg6+ 73.Kf8 Kc6 74.e5 Kd5 75.e6 -10.32/29

[⌓75.Re8 -5.15/28]

75...Ke5



76.Rg7 Qf6+

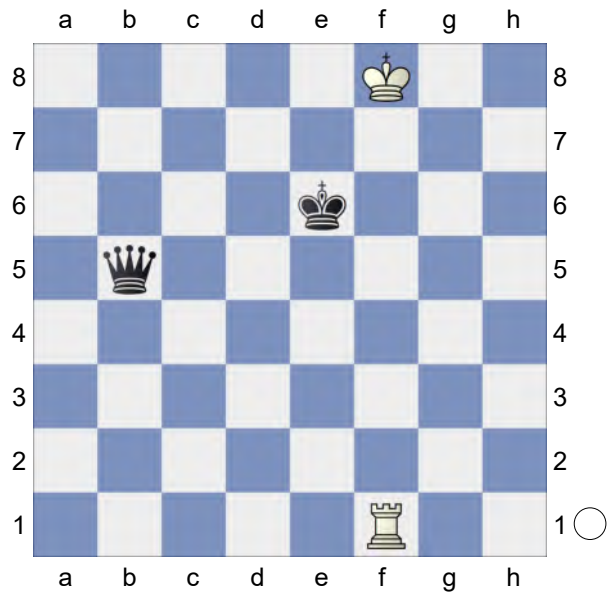
[And not 76...Qxe6 77.Re7=]

77.Rf7 Qd8+

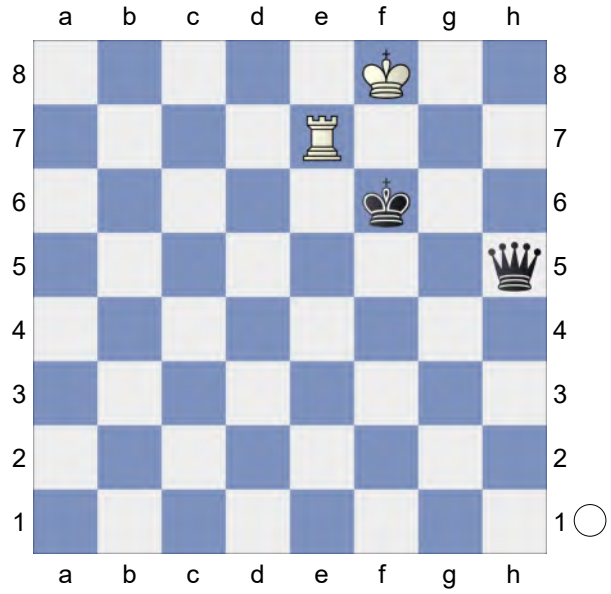
[Weaker is 77...Qxe6 78.Re7=]

78.Kg7 Kxe6 Black mates. **79.Rf1 Qg5+ 80.Kf8 Qb5**

(Diagram)



81.Rf7 Qh5 82.Re7+ Kf6

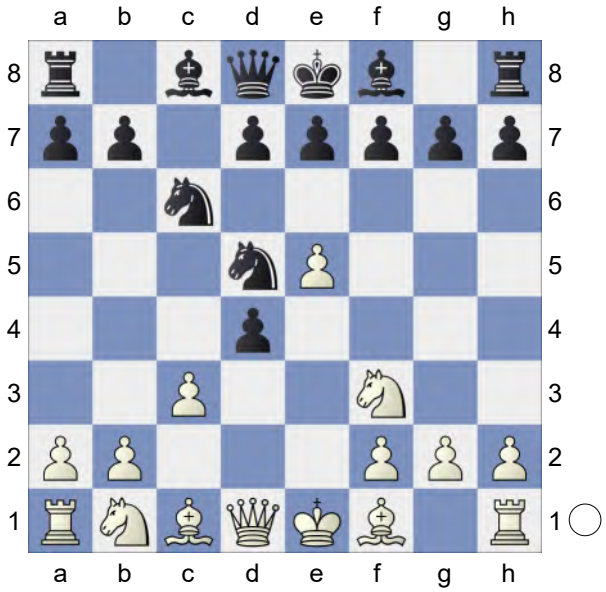


Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.27 (precise)

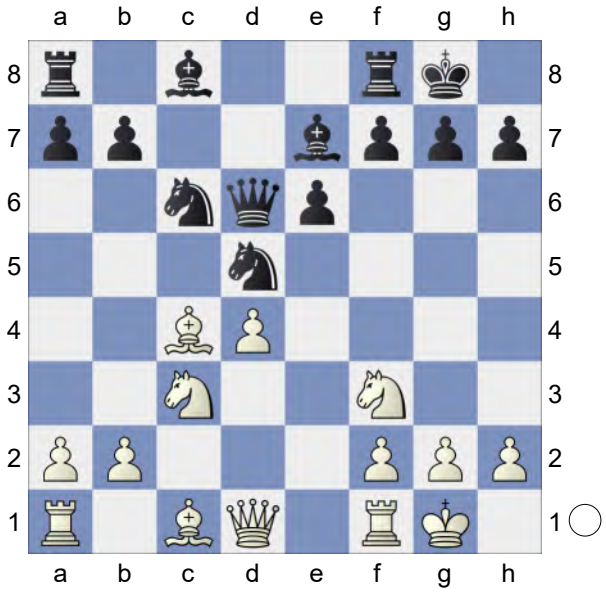
0-1

77 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2775**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2708**
Biel GM 41st (5) 25.07.2008
[Kuzmin,Alexey]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6

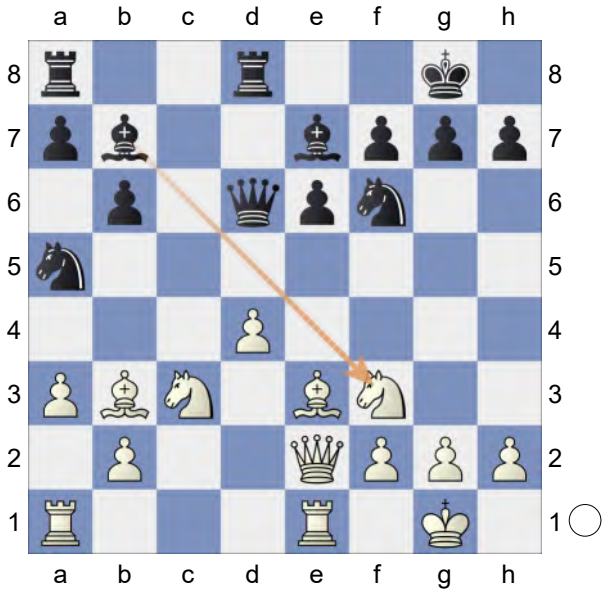


6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 e6
[7...dxe5 8.dxe5 Nb6 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Bb3 g6 11.Nc3 Bg7 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.0-0 Bg4 14.e6 Bxe6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Rac1 h6 17.Bh4 Kf7 18.b3 Rac8 19.Ne4 Nb4 20.a4 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8 0-1 (40) Delaplace,T (2596)-4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2758) 40/635 Dortmund 1985 (4)]
8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6N Black has tried several ways to avoid the gambit line.
[9.a3 0-0 10.Bd3 *(10.Re1 Qb6 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Qd3 Nf6 13.Be3 Rd8 14.Nc3 Be7 15.d5 Qc7 16.Nb5 Qb8 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Nbd4 c5 19.Nc6 Rxd3 20.Nxb8 Rxe3 21.Rxe3 Rxb8 22.Rb3 Rb6 23.Rd1 Ne4 24.Ne5 Nd6* 1-0 (31) Howell,D (2528)-Mestel,A (2470) 4NCL 2007-8 Wakefield Park ENG 2008 (5)*)* 10...Bd7 11.Qe2 dxe5 12.dxe5 Qc7 13.Bd2 Rfd8 14.h4 Be8 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.Bxc3 Rd7 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.h5 Rd5 19.Qe4 g6 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Bc2 Rxd1 22.Bxd1 Nb8 23.Qe3 Bb5 1-0 (37) Lassen,H-Schwarz,D Cincinnati 1983]
[9.Qe2 0-0 10.Qe4 dxe5 11.dxe5 Qc7 12.Bd3 g6 13.Bh6 Rd8 14.Nbd2 Bd7 15.Rac1 Be8 16.Rfd1 Rac8 17.Bf1 Qb8 18.Nc4 b5 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.exd6 Rxd6 21.Nd4 Nce7 22.Rxc8 Nxc8 23.Qe5 f6 (24) B 22/52 2000]
9...Qxd6 10.Nc3 This isn't the best move. **10...0-0**



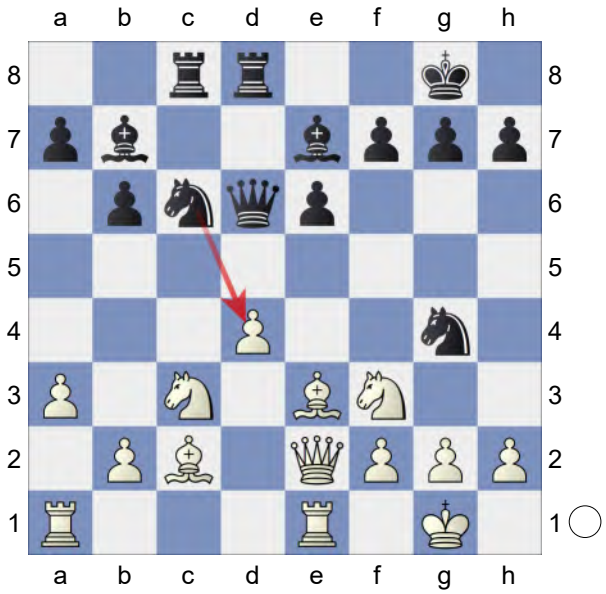
11.Re1 Rd8 12.Bb3 This move doesn't really trouble Black. **12...Nf6** The position is equal. **13.Be3**
[13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Bf4
A) 14...a6 15.Nc7 Ra7 16.d5 *(16.Rc1!?)* 16...exd5 17.Rc1;
B) 14...Bb4]
13...b6 14.a3 Bb7∞ Chances are approximately equal in this double-edged position.

[14...Ba6]
15.Qe2?! Na5
[15...Rac8]



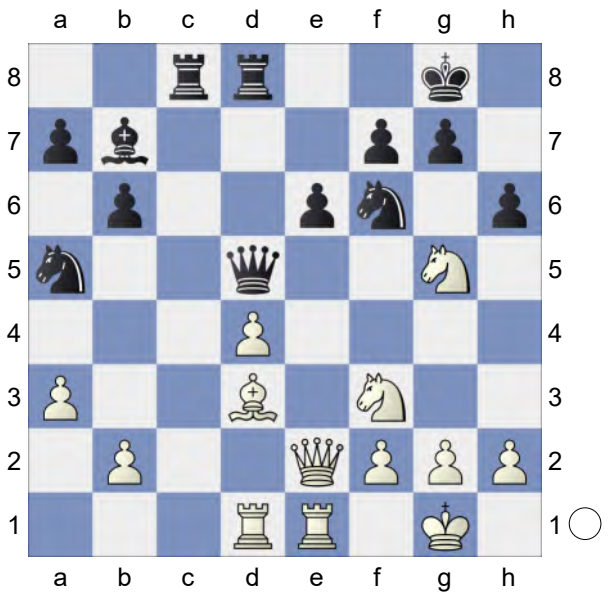
16.Bc2 -0.13/19
[16.Ba2 Ng4 17.d5!]
[⩲16.Ba2 0.30/21]
16...Rac8= 17.Ne5 Dodges Ng4
[17.Bd3 Ng4 18.Ne4 Qb8]
17...Nc6!? 18.Nf3 Na5 19.Ne5 Wards off Nc4 **19...Nc6 20.Nf3 Ng4→**
[20...Nd5]
[20...Nd5 simplifies 21.Ne4 Qd7 22.Rad1 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Na5]

(Diagram)



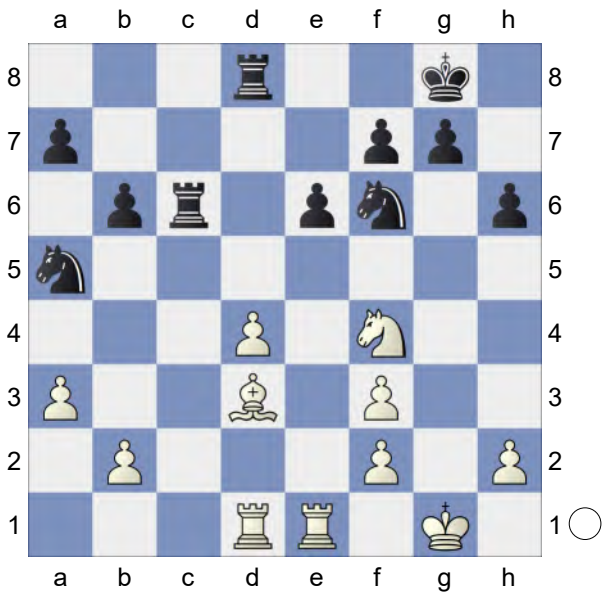
Black mounts an attack. **21.Rad1**
[21.d5 exd5 White should prevent ... Nxe3. *(21...Na5)*
A) 22.Rad1 Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Qc5 24.Qxc5 Bxc5 25.Nxd5 -0.86/21 *(25.Rxd5∓ -0.40/22 Rxd5 26.Nxd5)* 25...Nd4!;
B) 22.Bf5 Threatens to win with Nb5. 22...Nxe3 23.Bxc8 Nxg2! 24.Bxb7 Nf4 (-> …Qg6+) 25.Qf1 Qd7! ...Qg4+ is the strong threat. 26.Ne2! Nxe2+ 27.Qxe2 Qxb7]
21...Na5! aiming for ...Bxf3. **22.Ne4 Qd5**
[22...Qc7]
23.Bg5
[23.Bd3]
[23.Bf4 Nf6]
23...Bxg5 24.Nexg5 -0.99/22
[24.Nfxg5 f5]
[24.Nc3 Rxc3 25.bxc3 Be7-+]
[24.Nfxg5= -0.27/23 remains equal. f5 25.Bb1]
24...Nf6!∓ 25.Bd3∞ h6

(Diagram)

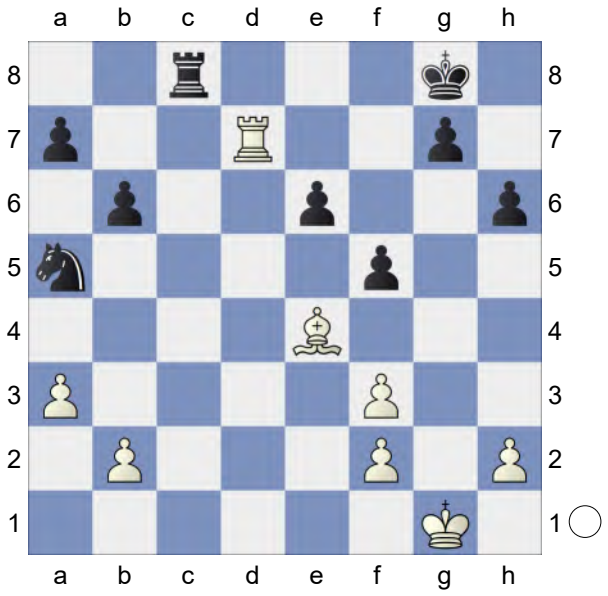


26.Nh3G
[26.Ne4 Nxe4 27.Bxe4 Qxe4 28.Qxe4 Bxe4 29.Rxe4 Rc2 Repels Re2]
Carlsen had two interesting options;
a) **26...Qh5!? 27.Nf4!? Qg4 28.Qe3 Bxf3 29.Qxf3**
[29.h3? -3.39/20 29.Qxf3 -1.51 Nd5]
29...Qxf3
[29...Rxd4 30.Bh7+ Kxh7 31.Rxd4 *(31.Qxg4 Nxg4 32.Rxd4 e5∓* Deflection, Double Attack*)* 31...Qxf3 32.gxf3∓]
30.gxf3 Rc6± -0.92/22 The advantage in development promises White better chances.
[30...Nb3]
[30...Rxd4 31.Bh7+ Kxh7 32.Rxd4∓]
[30...Nc4-+ -1.67/24 31.Re2 Rxd4 32.Bh7+ Nxh7 33.Rxd4 e5]

(Diagram)

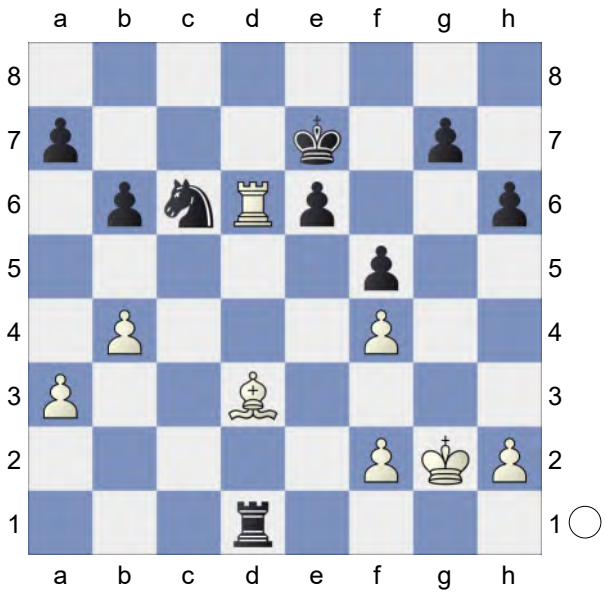


31.d5 -1.30/21 **Nxd5∓ 32.Nxd5 Rxd5 33.Be4 Rxd1±** Black's knight on d4 is beginning to feel out of place... Of course, White wasn't intending to win the exchange: **34.Rxd1∓** Endgame. KRB-KRN **34...Rc8⩲** Dodges Rd8+ Black will have sufficient counterplay after **35.Rd7 f5**
[35...Rc1+ 36.Kg2 f5 37.Ba8 *(37.Bd3 Rd1)* 37...Nc4]



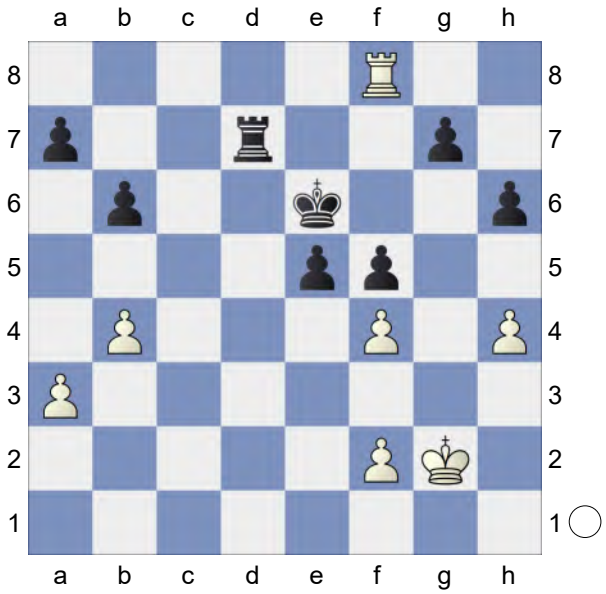
36.Bd3 Rc1+ 37.Kg2 -1.34/23
[37.Bf1 Nb3 38.Kg2 Rc2 39.Rxa7

Rxb2 40.Bc4 Nc5!]
[White should try 37.Bf1 -0.97/26]
37...Rd1!∓ 38.b4 Nc6
[38...Nb3? 0.22/25 38...Nc6 -1.35 39.Bxf5]
[38...Nc4 39.Bxc4 Rxd7 40.Bxe6+ Rf7! With the idea ...Kf8! 41.f4 Kf8 42.Bxf7 Kxf7 43.Kf3]
39.f4 Dodges Ne5
[39.Rc7 Rxd3 40.Rxc6 Rxa3 And now ...Kf7 would win. 41.Rxe6]
39...Kf8 40.Rd6 -2.43/25
[40.Kf3 -2.53/25 40.h4 -1.78 Ke8 41.Rd6 Ke7]
[40.h4 -1.99/25 might work better.]
40...Ke7G
[40...Ne7! Hoping for ...Nd5. 41.Kf3 Ng6]

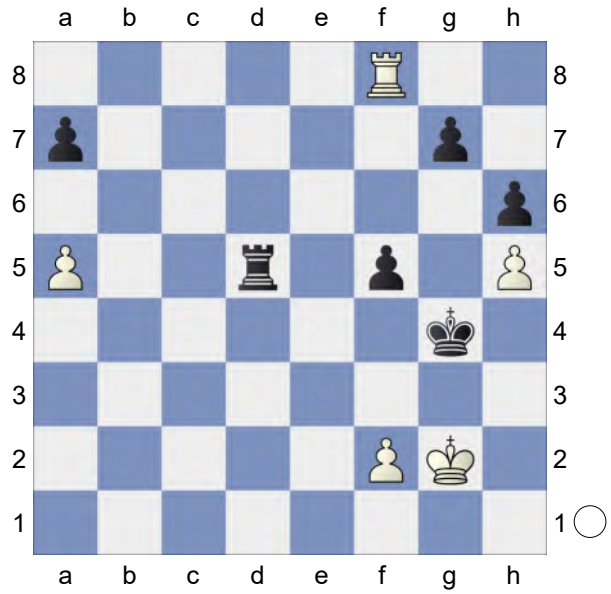


41.Rxc6 Rxd3∓ KR-KR **42.Rc7+ Rd7 43.Rc8 Kd6±** b) **44.h4!? e5 45.Rf8 Ke6!**
[Don't play 45...exf4?! 46.Rxf5 Ke6 47.Rxf4=]

(Diagram)



46.fxe5± The possibility of the capture by the rook is one reason for avoiding the exchange on c6.
[46.Re8+" Predojevic,B (2651)-Belov,V (2571)/Plovdiv BUL 2008/ Re7 47.Rxe7+ -2.16/22 *(47.Ra8∓ -1.48/21)* 47...Kxe7-+ 48.fxe5 g5! 49.f4 -11.20/30 *(⌓49.hxg5 -4.14/26 hxg5 50.Kf3)* 49...gxf4-+ 50.Kf3 Ke6 -8.33/24 *(⌓50...b5 -21.49/27 51.Kxf4 Ke6 52.h5 a6 53.Kf3 Kxe5 54.Ke3 f4+ 55.Kf3 Kf5 56.Ke2 Ke4 57.Kf2 f3 58.Kg3 Ke3 59.Kg4 f2 60.Kf5 f1Q+ 61.Ke6 Ke4 62.Kd6 Qf6+ 63.Kc7 Kd5 64.a4 Qc6+ 65.Kb8 Qb6+ 66.Ka8 Kc6 67.axb5+ Kc7 68.bxa6 Qxa6#)* 51.Kxf4 b5 52.h5 a6]
46...Kxe5 47.h5 -1.69/24
[47.Rc8∓ -1.02/21 keeps fighting.]
Passively looks **47...Kf4-+ 48.a4± Kg4?! 49.a5 bxa5**
[Worse is 49...Kxh5 50.Rxf5+ Kg4 51.Rb5=]
50.bxa5 Rd5
[50...f4]
[Weaker is 50...Kxh5 51.Rxf5+ Kg6 52.Rf4=]

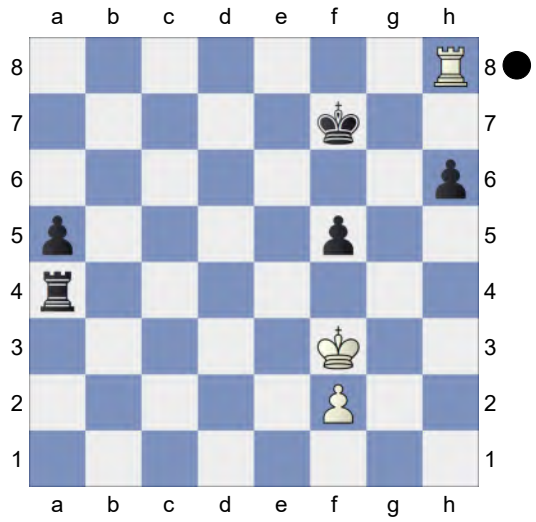


51.Rf7 Rxa5 52.Rxg7+ Kxh5 53.Kf3 -2.50/27 This move loses the game for White.

[53.Kg3∓ -1.18/27]

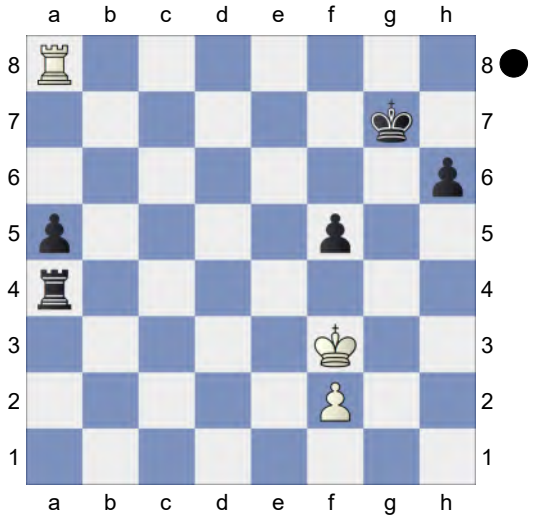
53...Ra4!-+ 54.Rg8 a5 55.Rg7

[55.Rf8± There is the illogical 55...Kg6?! 0-1 Kochetkov,G (2420)-Lederman,L (2310)/Beersheba 1998/EXT 2000 (43)Weaker is ≤56.Rg8+ Kf7! 57.Rh8



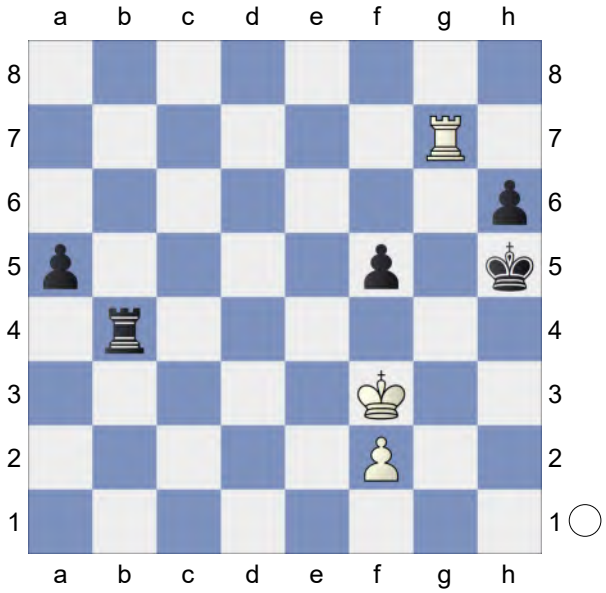
Kg7! 58.Ra8

(Diagram)



h5!]

55...Rb4



56.Rg1± 1-0 Carlsen,M (2733)-Gelfand,B (2737)/Nice FRA 2008/The Week in Chess 698 (33) **56...a4** White must now prevent ...a3. **57.Rh1+?** -9.45/28 White has saved a tempo by avoiding a2-a3 and tries to exploit that fact.

[57.Rg8 -2.86/26]

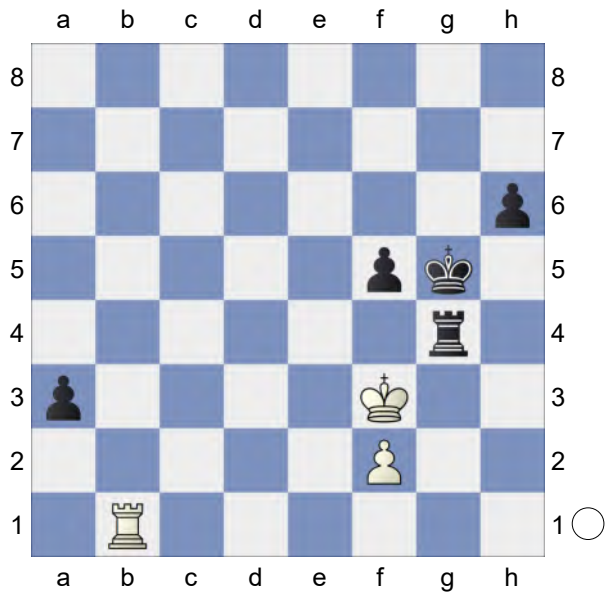
57...Kg5 Black is clearly winning.

58.Rg1+! Rg4 59.Rb1± -10.14/27

[⌓59.Ra1 -4.66/27 Rf4+ 60.Kg3]

59...a3

(Diagram)

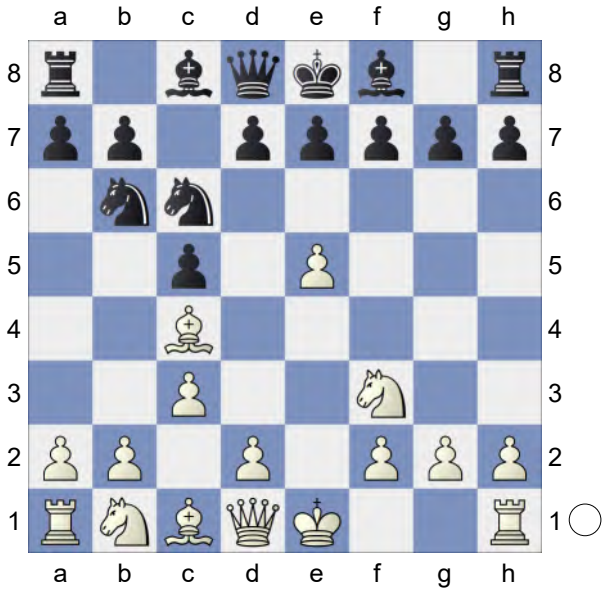


Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise) . An unexpected result.

½-½

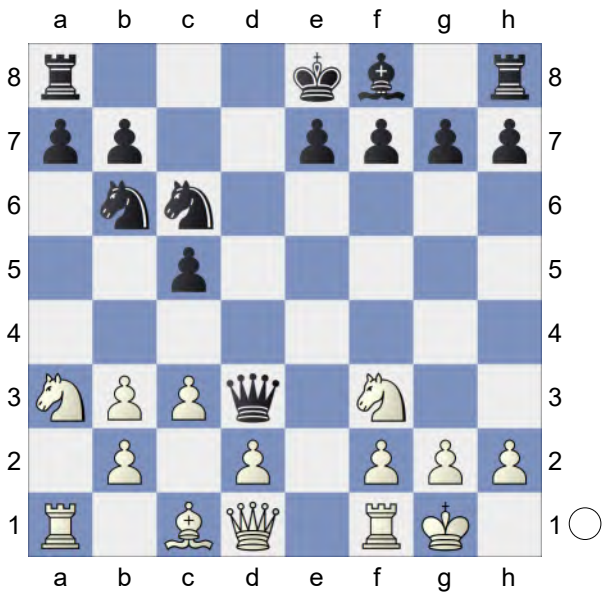
78 **B22**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2773**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2516**
GRENKE Chess Classic 2019 (8.4)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



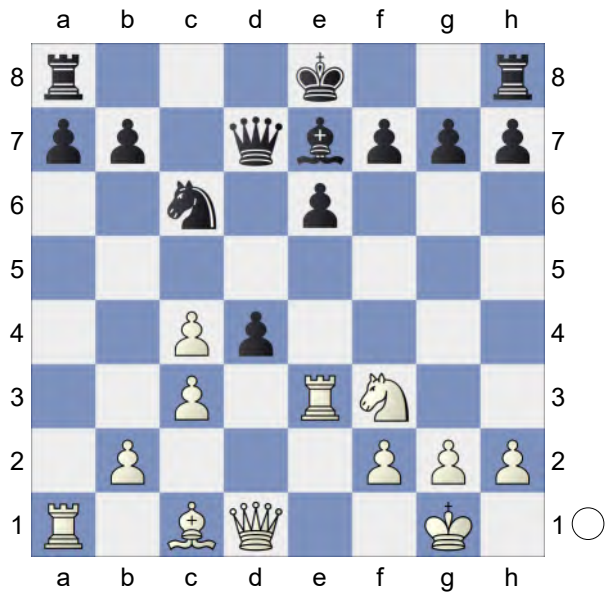
6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6
9.Na3 Threatens to win with Nb5.
9...Bxb3 10.axb3 The position is equal.
10...Qd3

(Diagram)



11.Re1 e6 12.Re3 Qd7 13.Nc4 Nxc4 14.bxc4 Be7N
[14...Rd8 15.b3 *(15.Qa4 Be7 16.Rb1 0-0 17.b4 b6 18.bxc5 Bxc5 19.Re1 e5 20.Ba3 Bxa3 21.Qxa3 Rfe8 22.d4* ½-½ Wittram,T (2565)-9.♘b3 a6 10.f4 (2513) 57/(492) Israel 1993 (3) *)* 15...Be7 16.Bb2 0-0 17.d4 Bf6 18.Qc2 cxd4 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Bxd4 Bxd4 21.Rd1 e5 22.Qd2 Rfe8 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Qxd4 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 Kf8 e-mail bag: Nh3 v Leningrad-Parr,F URS-ch Soviet Union 1983]
15.d4 cxd4

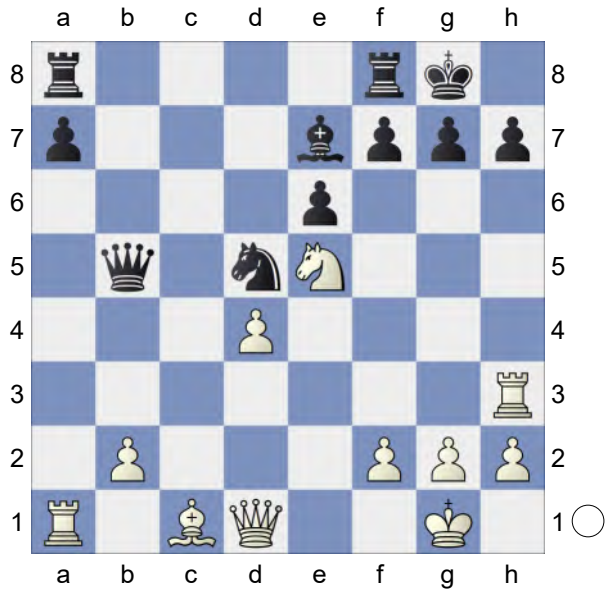
(Diagram)



16.cxd4 0-0 17.Rd3 b5 18.cxb5 Nb4 19.Ne5 Qxb5 20.Rh3 Strongly threatening Qh5.

[20.Rg3 is more complex. g6 21.Bh6 Rfd8 22.Qf3]

20...Nd5



21.Rb3 Repels a5 **21...Qe8 22.Rg3** Black must now prevent Bh6. **22...f5**

[22...Bf6 with more complications. 23.Qh5 g6 24.Bh6 Bg7]

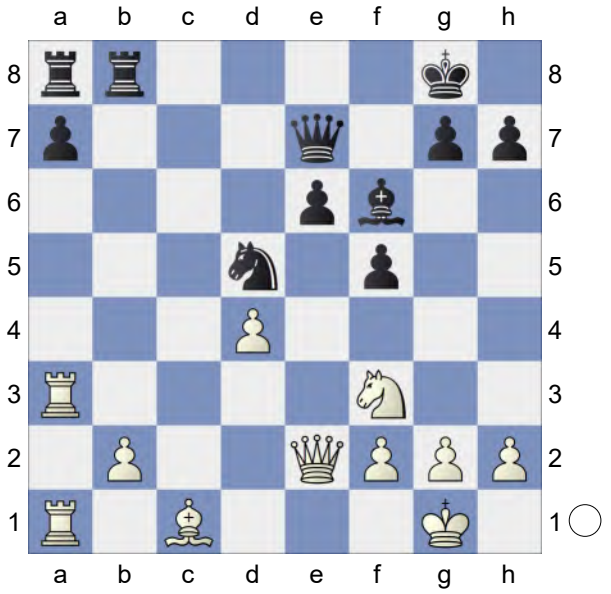
23.Qe2 0.08/18

[23.Bd2± 0.55/18]

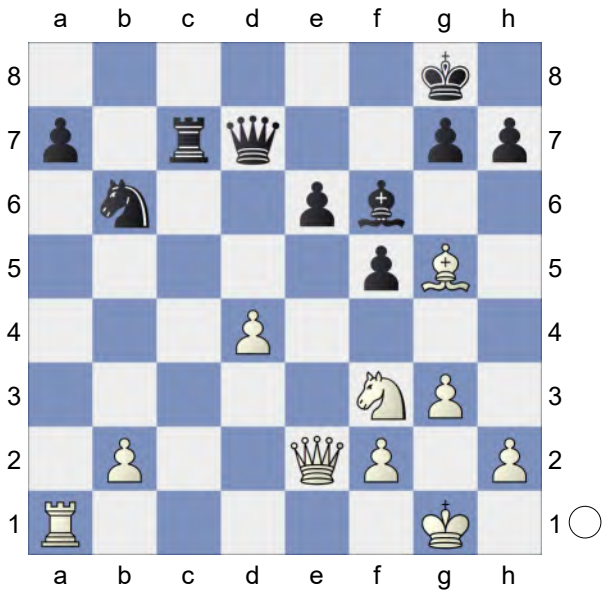
23...Bf6 0.49/18

[23...a5= 0.08/18 was preferrable.]

24.Rga3± Qe7 25.Nf3 Rfb8



26.Ra6 Rb6 27.Rxb6 Nxb6 28.Bf4 Rc8 29.g3 Qd7 30.Bg5 Rc7

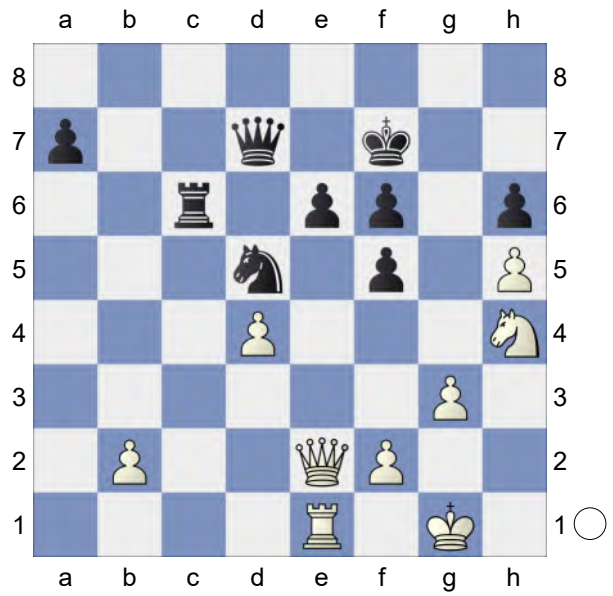


31.Re1

[31.Bxf6 simplifies gxf6 32.Ne1 Qd6 33.Ng2]

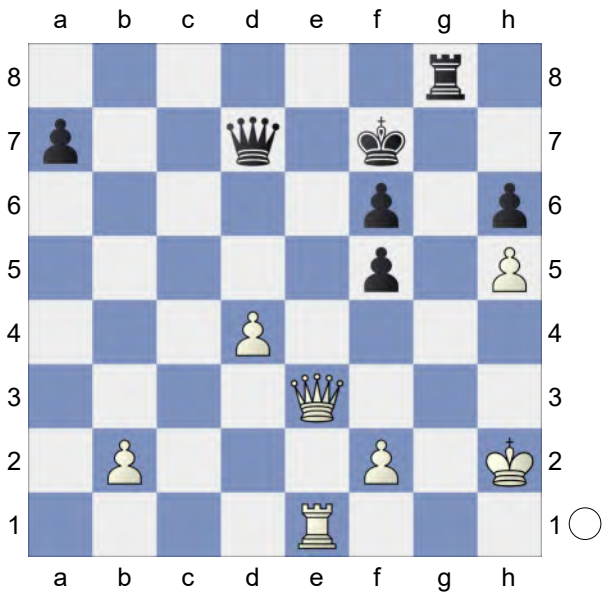
31...Kf7 32.h4 Rc6 33.h5! h6! 34.Bxf6 gxf6 35.Nh4 Nd5

(Diagram)

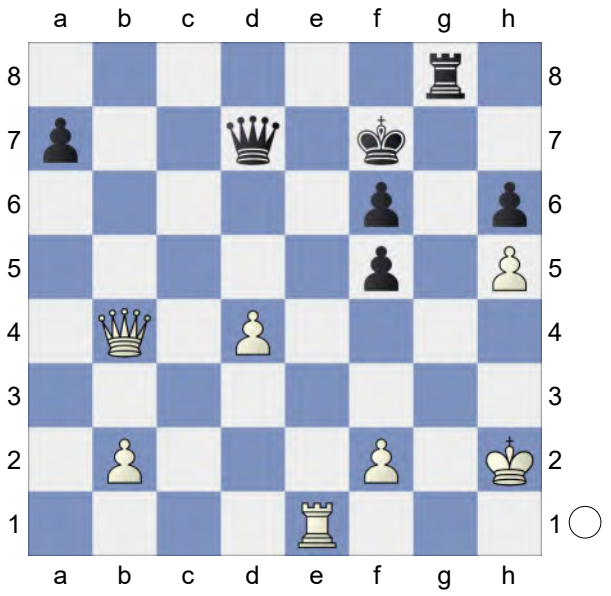


36.g4 Ne7 37.Qe3 -0.01/21
[37.gxf5± 0.48/22 Nxf5 38.Nxf5 exf5 39.d5]
37...Rc8 1.11/23
[37...fxg4= -0.01/21 38.Qxh6 g3 39.Qh7+ *(39.fxg3 Qxd4+ 40.Kg2 Qxb2+ 41.Kh3 Qf2=)* 39...Ke8]
38.gxf5!±
[38.Qxh6?! Rg8 39.Ng6 *(39.Qh7+? Rg7-+)* 39...Qxd4=]
38...Rg8+ 39.Kh2 Some like it hot
39...Nxf5 4.01/21 A mistake that costs the game.
[39...Qd6+± 1.30/20 40.Kh3 Rg5]
40.Nxf5+- exf5±

(Diagram)

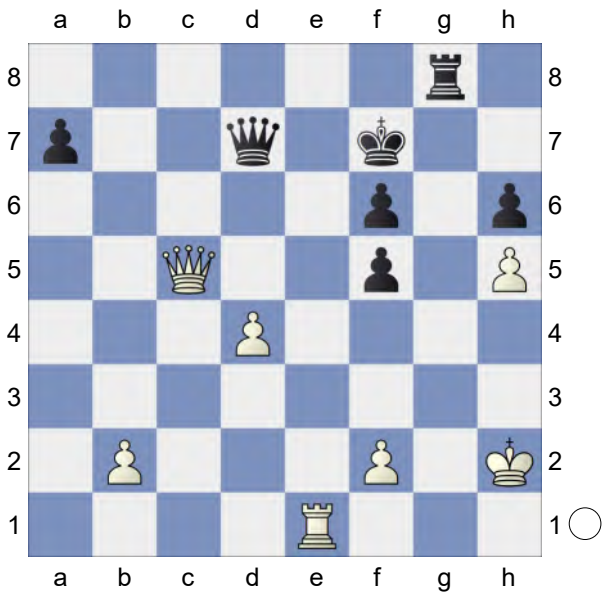


Endgame. KQR-KQR **41.Qb3+**
[41.Qxh6? Qc7+-+]
41...Kf8 42.Qb4+ Kf7



43.Qc4+ Kf8 44.Qc5+ Kf7

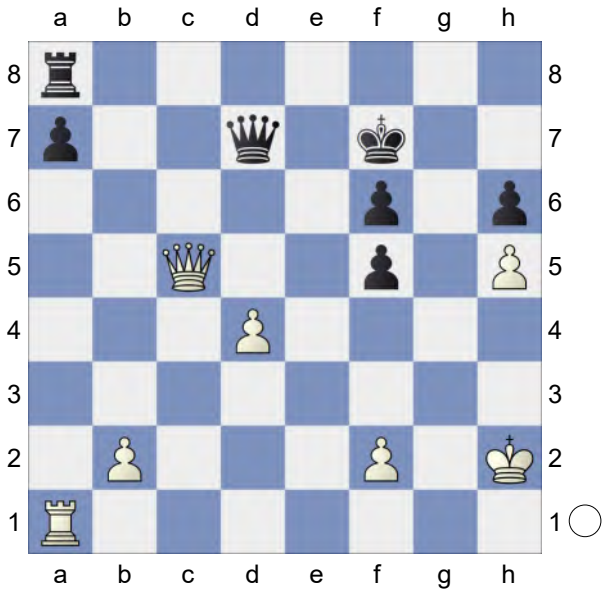
(Diagram)



45.Ra1!↑ Keeping Black busy. **45...Ra8** 6.56/21

[Not 45...Rg5? 46.Rxa7 Rxh5+ 47.Kg2+-]

[45...Rb8 1.64/22 46.Qc4+ *(46.Rxa7 Rb7=; 46.Qxa7 Qxa7 47.Rxa7+ Ke6±)* 46...Kg7]

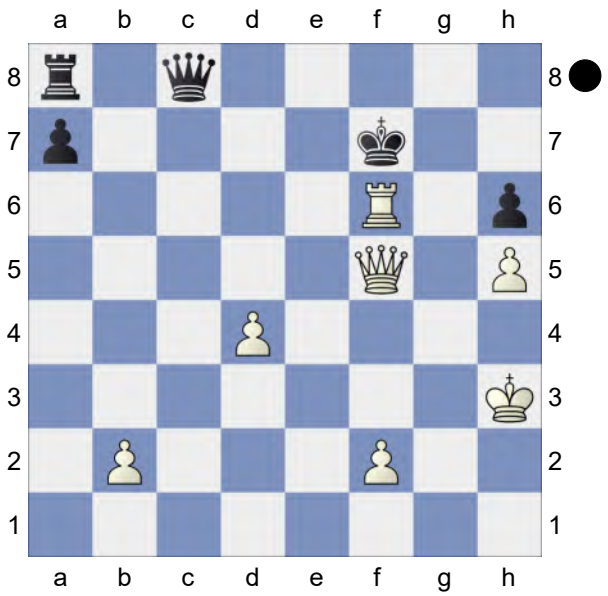


46.Ra6+- White is clearly winning.

46...Qe8 47.Qxf5

[Weaker is 47.Rxa7+ Rxa7 48.Qxa7+ Kg8=]

47...Qb8+ 48.Kh3 Qc8 49.Rxf6+

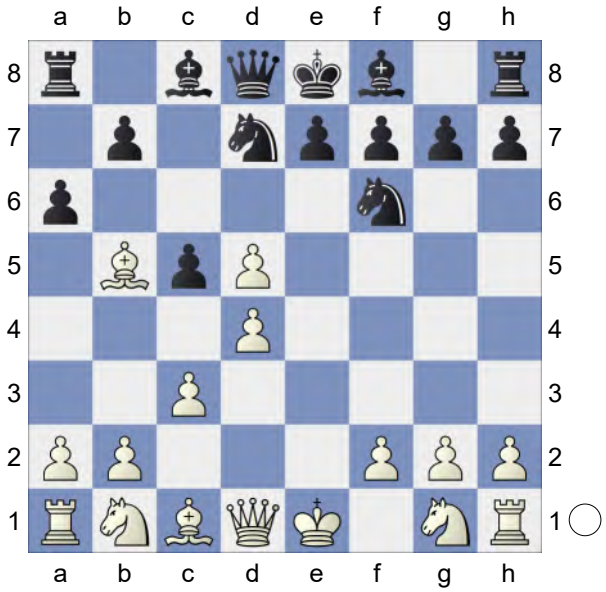


Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.36

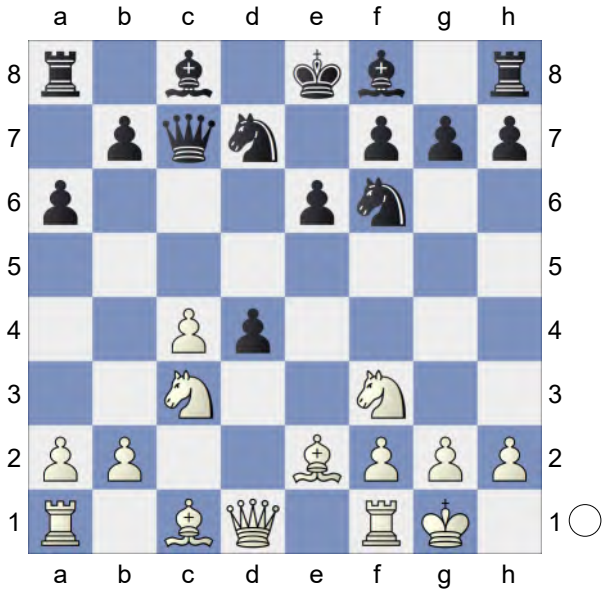
1-0

79 **B22**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2771**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2727**
Wch Blitz Samarkand (18) 30.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

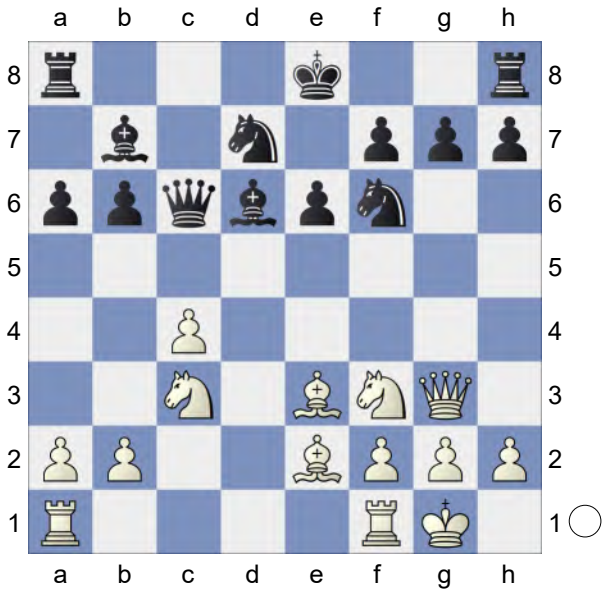
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.d4 a6



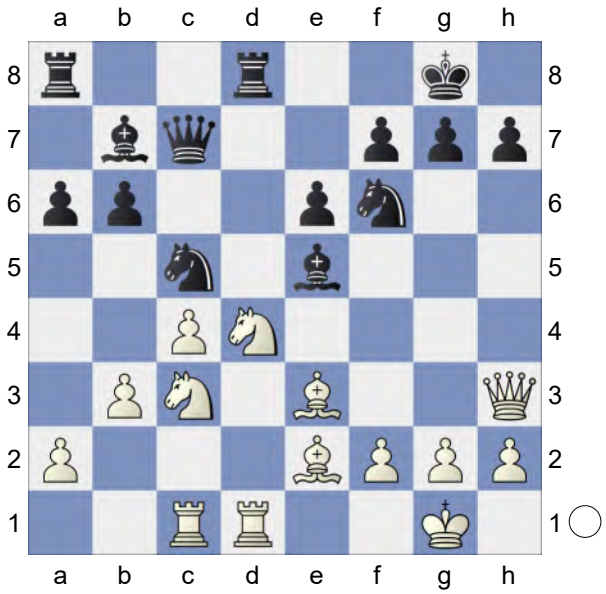
6.Be2 Nxd5 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 White is slightly better. **8...Qc7 9.c4 N5f6 10.Nc3 cxd4**



11.Qxd4 b6N
[11...Bc5 12.Qh4 0-0 13.Rd1 b6 14.Qf4 e5 15.Qg3 11) 2...d5 3.exd5 Nf6-2... d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd]
12.Bf4 Qc5 13.Be3 0.32/19
[13.Qxc5± 0.75/19 Bxc5 14.Na4]
13...Bb7 14.Qh4 Qc6 15.Qg3 Bd6



16.Qh3
[16.Qxg7 Rg8 17.Qh6 Ng4∓]
16...0-0 17.Rfd1 And now Nd4 would win. **17...Qc7 18.Rac1 Rfd8 19.Nd4** aiming for Nxe6! **19...Be5 20.b3 Nc5**

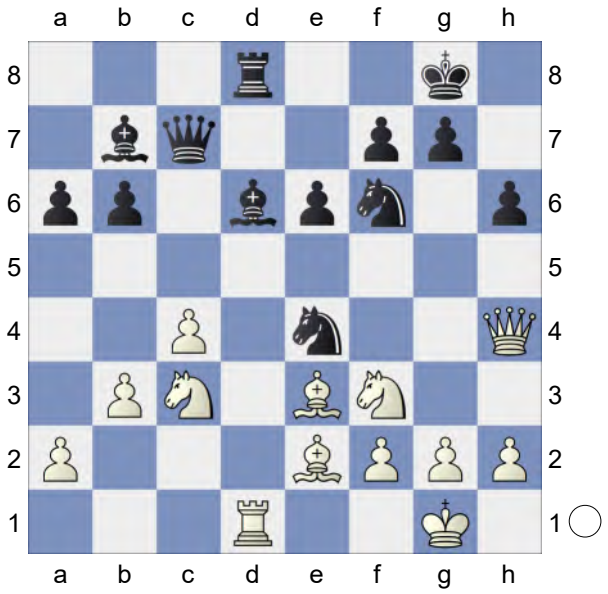


21.Nf3 -0.25/21

[21.b4 0.18/19 was preferrable. Nce4 22.Na4]

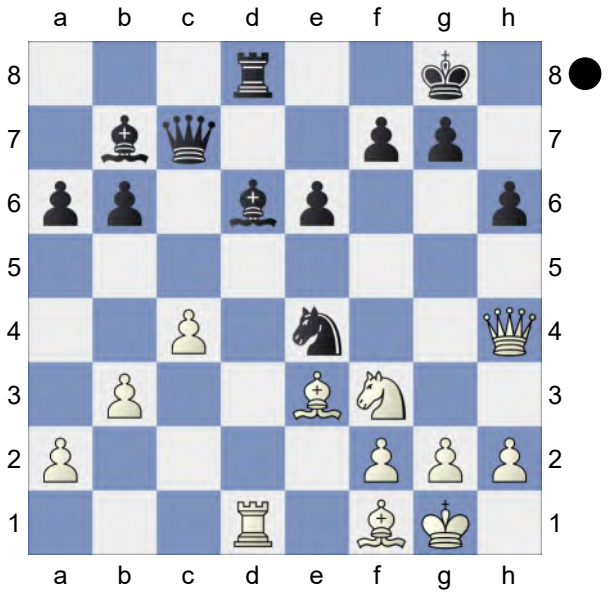
21...Rxd1+= 22.Nxd1 Bd6 23.Nc3 Rd8 24.Rd1 h6 25.Qh4 Nce4 -0.28/21

[25...Bxf3!∓ -0.68/21 26.Bxf3 Be5]



26.Nxe4 Nxe4 27.Bf1? -2.59/20

[27.Rd3= -0.07/20 and White has nothing to worry.]



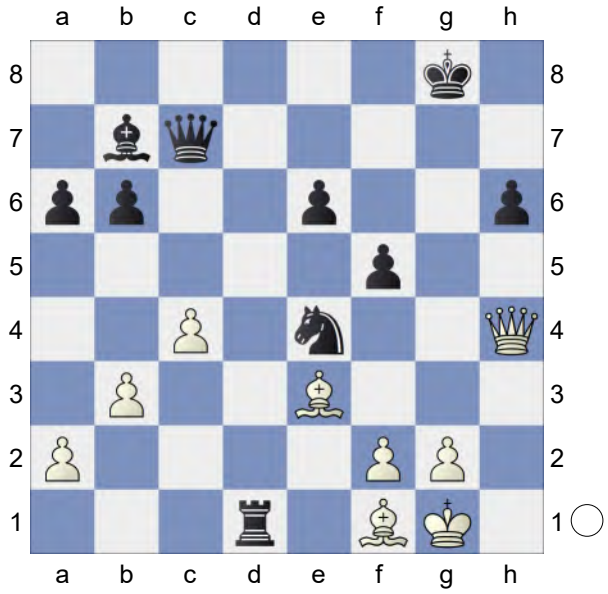
Loses the game. **27...Bxh2+!-+** Discovered Attack **28.Nxh2**

[28.Qxh2? Qxh2+ 29.Nxh2 Rxd1-+]

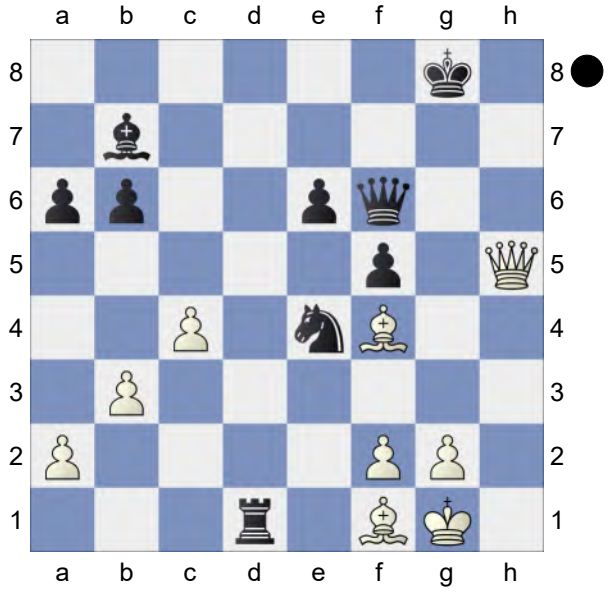
28...Rxd1 29.Ng4 -4.96/23

[⌓29.Bxh6 -3.11/23 Nc3 30.Qg5]

29...f5 30.Nxh6+ gxh6



31.Qxh6 Qf7 Inhibits Qg6+. Strongly threatening ...e5. **32.Bf4 Qf6** Prevents Be5 **33.Qh5**

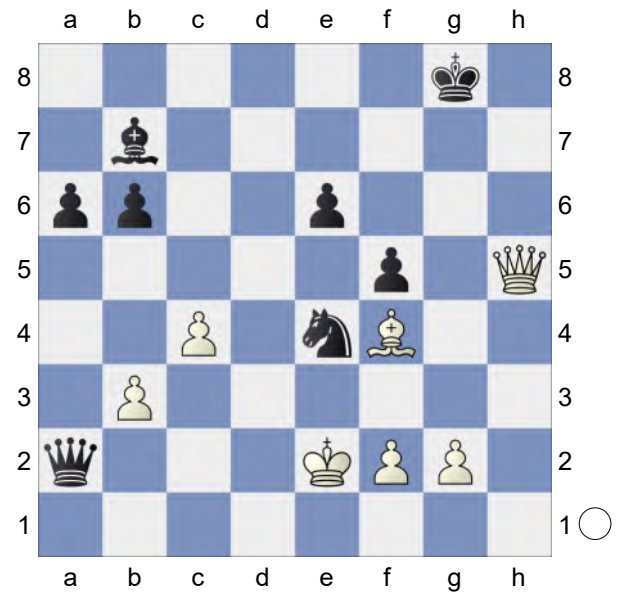


Rxf1+! 34.Kxf1

[34.Kh2 Rxf2]

34...Qa1+ 35.Ke2 Qxa2+

(Diagram)



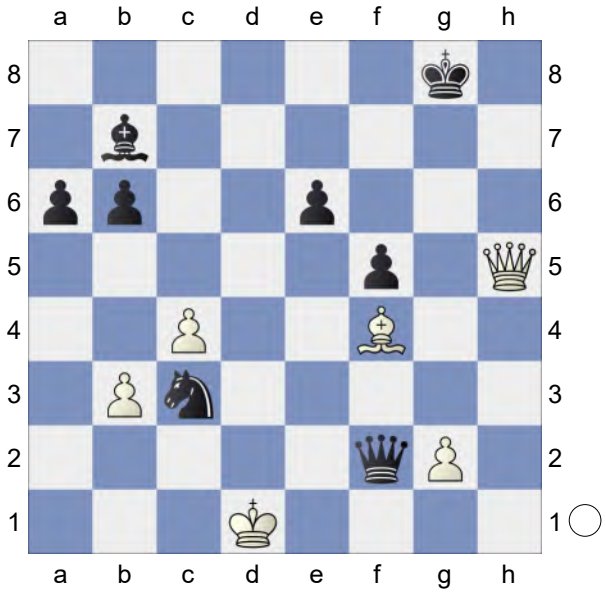
36.Kd1 Qb1+ 37.Ke2 Qc2+

[37...Qxb3 38.Qe8+ Kg7 39.Be5+ Nf6 40.Qe7+ *(40.Qxe6 Qc2+ 41.Ke1 Qe4+ 42.Kd2 Qc6=)* 40...Kg8 41.Qxe6+ *(41.Bxf6 Qc2+ 42.Ke1 Qc1+ 43.Ke2 Qxc4+ 44.Kd2 Qd5+ 45.Ke1 Qe4+ 46.Kd2 Qd5+ 47.Ke2 Qe4+ 48.Kd1 Qa4+ 49.Kd2 Qa2+ 50.Ke1 Qb1+ 51.Kd2 Qa2+ 52.Ke1 Qb1+ 53.Ke2 Qc2+ 54.Ke1 Qb1+=)* 41...Kf8 42.Qxf6+ Ke8 43.Qg6+ *(43.Qxf5 Qxc4+ 44.Ke3 Qf7=)* 43...Kd8 44.Qd6+ *(44.Qxf5 Qxc4+ 45.Kd2 Qd5+ 46.Ke2 Qc4+ 47.Kd2 Qb4+ 48.Kd1 Qa4+ 49.Ke2 Qc4+=)* 44...Ke8 45.Qb8+ Ke7 46.Qxb7+]

38.Ke1 Qxf2+

[38...Qxb3 39.Qe8+ Kg7 40.Be5+ Nf6 41.Qe7+ *(41.Qxe6 Qb4+ 42.Ke2 Qf8∓)* 41...Kg8 42.Qxe6+ *(42.Bxf6 Qb1+ 43.Kd2 Qa2+ 44.Kc3 Qa1+ 45.Kc2 Qa2+ 46.Kc3 Qa1+ 47.Kc2 Qa2+ 48.Kc3=)* 42...Kf8 43.Qxf6+ *(43.Bxf6 Qb4+ 44.Kd1 Bxg2=)* 43...Ke8 44.Qe6+ *(44.Qxf5 Qb4+ 45.Kf1 Qxc4+ 46.Kg1 b5=)* 44...Kd8 45.Qd6+ *(45.Qxf5 Qb4+ 46.Kd1 Qxc4=)* 45...Ke8 46.Qb8+ Ke7 47.Qxb7++-]

39.Kd1 Nc3+

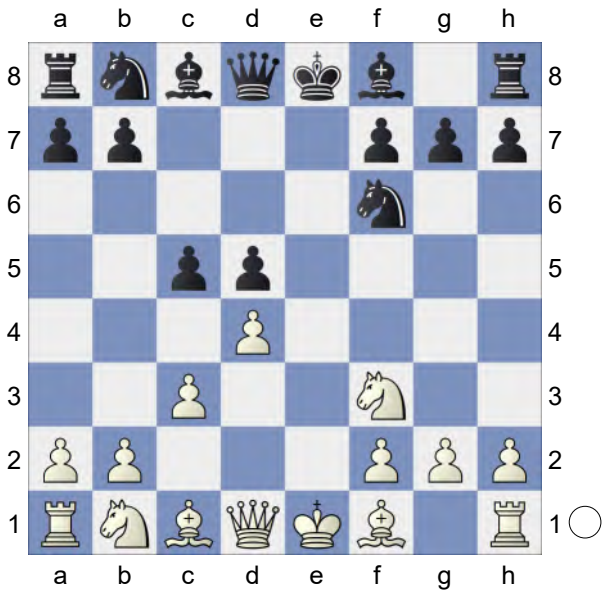


Weighted Error Value: White=1.09/ Black=0.05 (flawless)

0-1

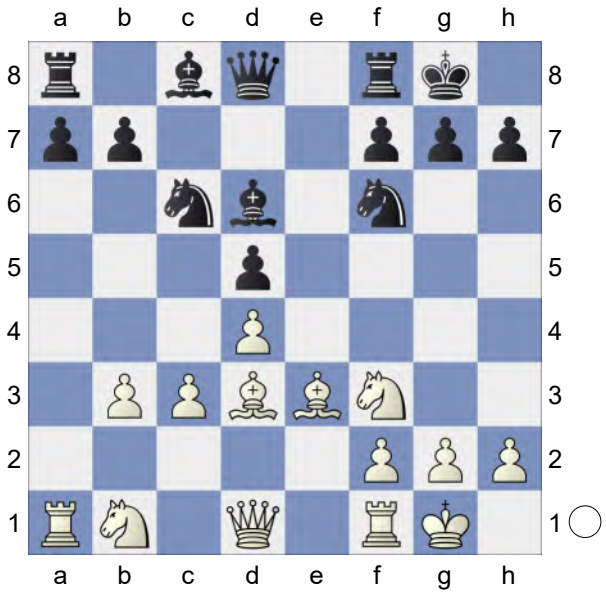
80 **B22**
□ **Deichmann** **2771**
■ **Fairchess On Youtube** **3079**
Blitz 26.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6N
[5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nbd2 a6 10.Bd3 Ba7 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Be3 Bb8 14.Nbd4 0-0 15.Be2 Re8 16.Qa4 Bh5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.g3 Ba7 19.Kg2 Bg6 20.Nxc6 ½-½ (43) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Berkes,F (2596) 4NCL 2005-6 Birmingham ENG (1)]

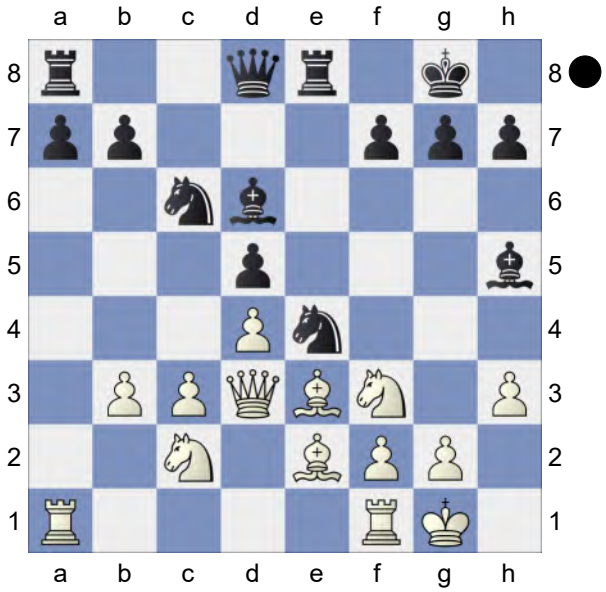


6.Be3 c4 7.b3 cxb3 8.axb3 Nc6 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0

(Diagram)

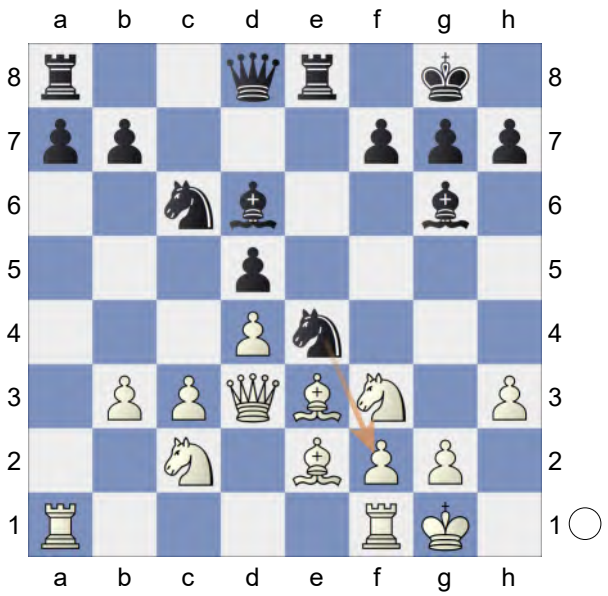


11.Na3 -0.02/17
[11.Bg5± 0.34/19]
11...Bg4 12.h3 The position is equal.
12...Bh5 13.Be2 Re8 14.Nc2 -0.67/19
[White should play 14.Bg5= -0.15/19]
14...Ne4∓ Black is more active. **15.Qd3** -2.39/21
[White should try 15.c4∓ -0.54/20]

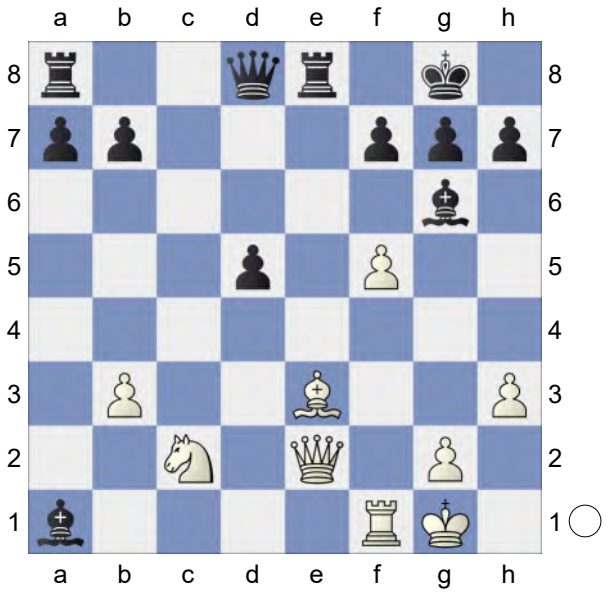


15...Bg6!-+

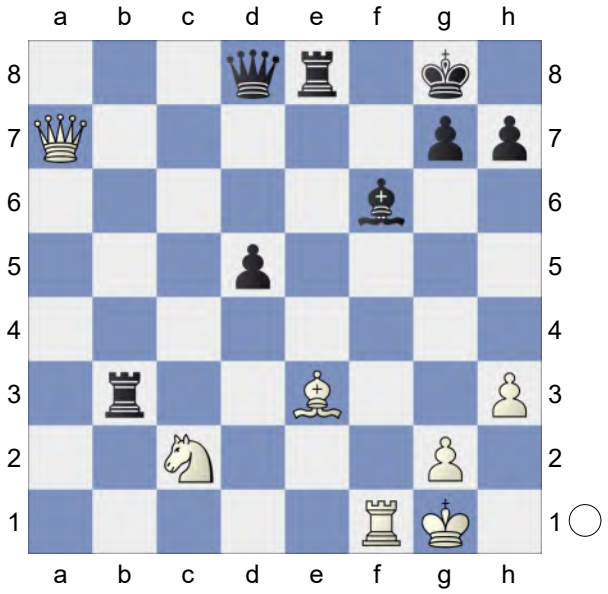
(Diagram)



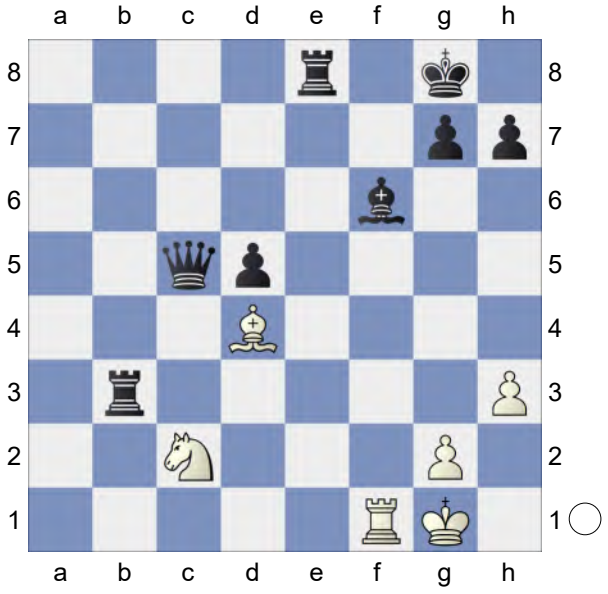
16.Ne5 -2.96/23
[⌓16.Qd1 -2.05/21]
16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.f4 -5.06/21
[⌓18.Nd4 -3.29/21]
18...Nxc3 Discovered Attack **19.f5 Nxe2+ 20.Qxe2 Bxa1**



21.fxg6 Bf6 22.gxf7+ Kxf7 23.Qb5 -5.46/20
[⌓23.Qd2 -3.46/17]
23...Kg8 Hoping for ...Rc8. **24.Qxb7?** -6.57/21
[24.Bf2 -3.73/21]
24...Rb8 -3.05/19
[⌓24...Rc8 -6.57/21 25.Nb4 Rxe3 26.Nxd5 Re6 27.Nxf6+ Rxf6]
25.Qxa7 Rxb3

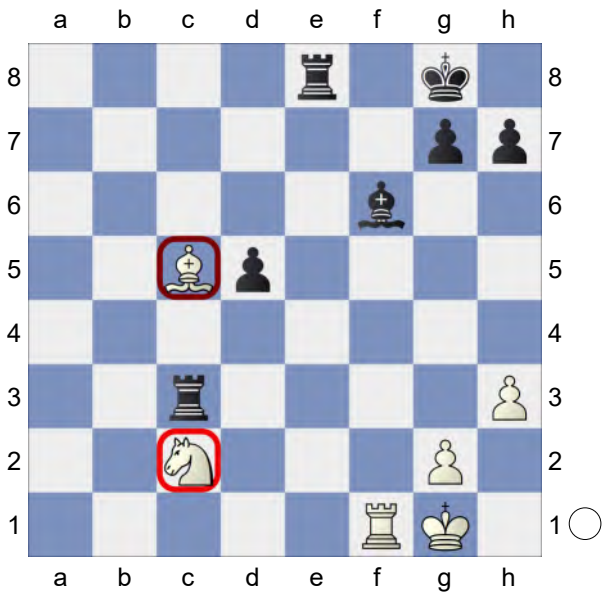


26.Bd4 Qe7 27.Qc5 -10.27/23
[27.Qa2 -3.06/21 Reb8 28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.Ne1]
27...Qxc5



Deflection **28.Bxc5 Rc3**

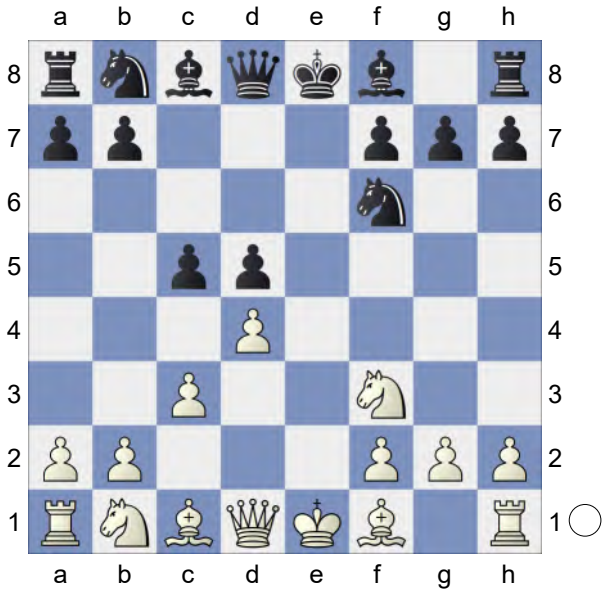
(Diagram)



White got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=1.03/ Black=0.63
0-1

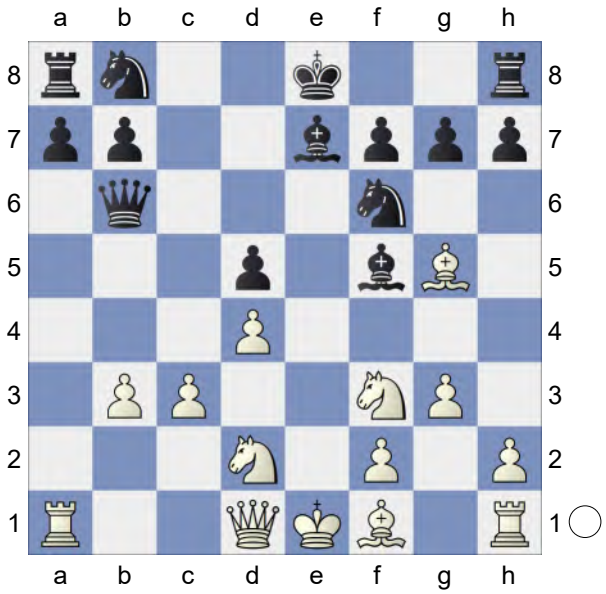
81 **B22**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2771**
■ **Leko,Peter** **2701**
Dortmund SuperGM 27th (4) 14.07.1999
[Golod,Vitali]

1.e4 Golod,V Golod,V Golod,V Golod,V Golod,V: 'Golod,Vitali Golod,Vitali: 'Golod,V'' **1...c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5**
[4.e5]
4...exd5
[4...Qxd5 5.Nf3]
5.Nf3 Nf6
[5...Nc6]



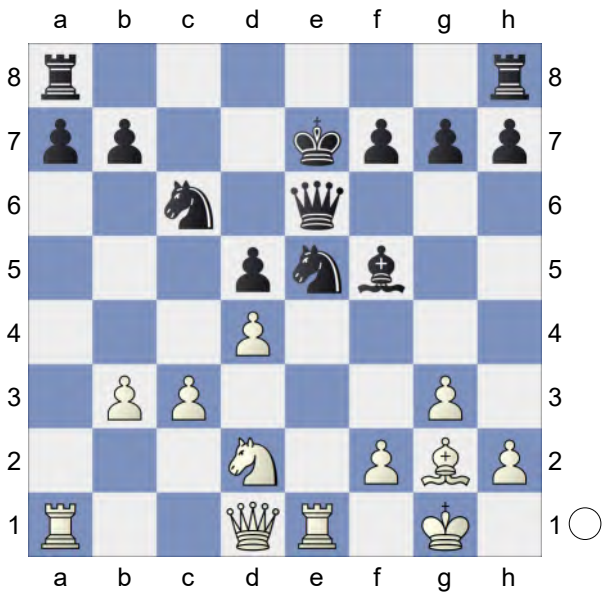
6.Bg5 c4
[6...Be7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.Qe2+ Be6 10.Nbd2]
7.Nbd2 Be7 8.g3 Qb6!? 9.b3 cxb3!? ♔a8-h1,♔♔c7(┐e5) **10.axb3** with the idea c4,♘d6 **10...Bf5**

(Diagram)

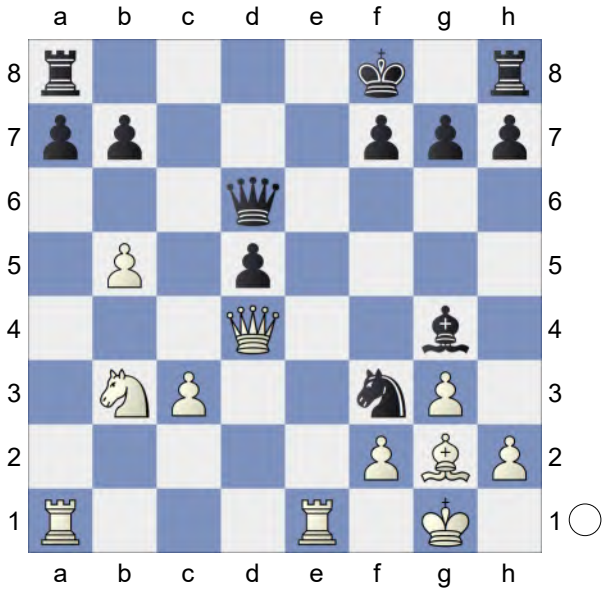


11.Bg2 Qe6+
[11...Bd3 12.Ne5 Ba6 13.Be3]
12.Ne5
[12.Qe2 Qxe2+= *(12...Bd3!?* Is the main line.See comments to Hector,J-Ziegler,A/Goteborg 1999/CBM 69(1-0)(Golod,V)(37)Besides:8...♕a5;8...f5;8...♕h4;8...♗a6;8...♗e7;8...♕b6;8...c5 and 8...h6-was checked in the previous games. *13.Qxe6 fxe6 14.Ne5 Ba6 15.c4)* Can be recommended: 13.Kxe2!? -you can see comments to game Kasparov,G-Leko,P/Linares,1999/CBM 70(½-½)(Golod,V)(48)]
12...Nfd7!? 13.Bxe7 Nxe5 Δ♖c8,♕d6
[Worse is: 13...Qxe7 in view of: 14.0-0! Nxe5 15.dxe5]
14.0-0 Kxe7 15.Re1 with the idea:16.♗b3 or 16.♗d3 and 17.c4 **15...Nbc6**
[Another alternative is: 15...f6 After: 16.c4 black has two equals options: 11...c4 or 11... f5]

(Diagram)

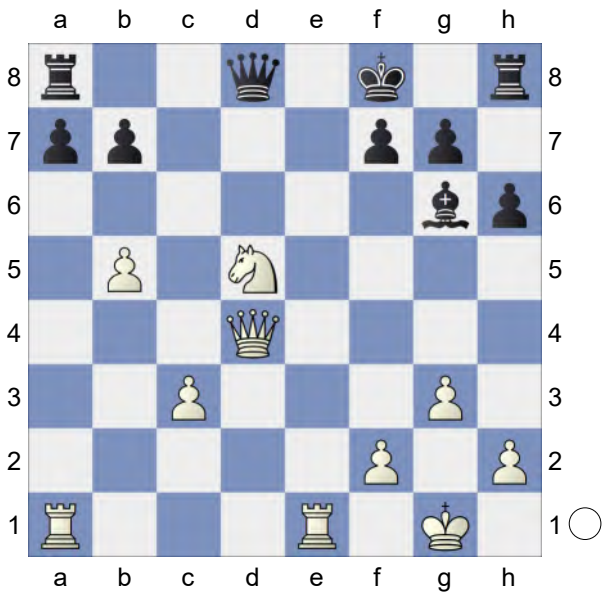


16.b4!? **Kf8!?** **Δ♕b6** **17.b5?!** **Qd6=**
Black transfers to nearly egual endgame.
[17...Qd7 **±/±⊥** After: 18.dxe5 *(*Dubious: *18.bxc6* because of: *Nxc6)* 18...Ne7! Black transfers to nearly egual endgame. See comments to Kasparov,G-Leko,P/Linares,1999/CBM 70(½-½)(Golod,V)(48)]
18.dxe5 **Nxe5!?** with the idea d5,a5 and ♗a6 **19.Nb3!?N** **Bg4!?**
[19...Nd3 20.Re3 Nc5= 21.Nxc5? Qxc5 22.Qxd5 Qxd5 23.Bxd5]
20.Qd4
[20.Qxd5 Qxd5 21.Bxd5 Nf3+ 22.Bxf3± Bxf3!? =23.Re3 See comments to Svidler,P-Illescas Cordoba,M/Dos Hermanas,1999/CBM 71(½-½)(Golod,V)(26) Slightly worse is: 23...Bg4 *(23...Bd5?! 24.Nc5! b6□ 25.Nd7+ Kg8 26.Nxb6 axb6 27.Rxa8+!?= Bxa8!? 28.Re8#)* 24.b6!? a6 -transfers to game Kasparov,G-Leko,P/Linares,1999/CBM 70(½-½)(Golod,V)(48) Golod,V: '=' '=' '=' '='-transfers to game Kasparov,G-Leko,P/Linares,1999/CBM 70(½-½)(Golod,V)(48) Golod,V: '=' '-transfers to game Kasparov,G-Leko,P/Linares,1999/CBM 70(½-½)(Golod,V)(48) Golod,V: '='" Dubious right away: 25.Nc5 in view of: Rb8! 26.f3 *(26.Rae1±)* 26...Bf5 *(26...Bh3! 27.g4)* 27.g4 Bc8 28.Rd1 g6 29.Nd7+ Bxd7 and white has a slight positional advantage in the endgame. ≤30.Rxd7 Kg7= Badly: 31.Ree7 because of:]
20...Nf3+



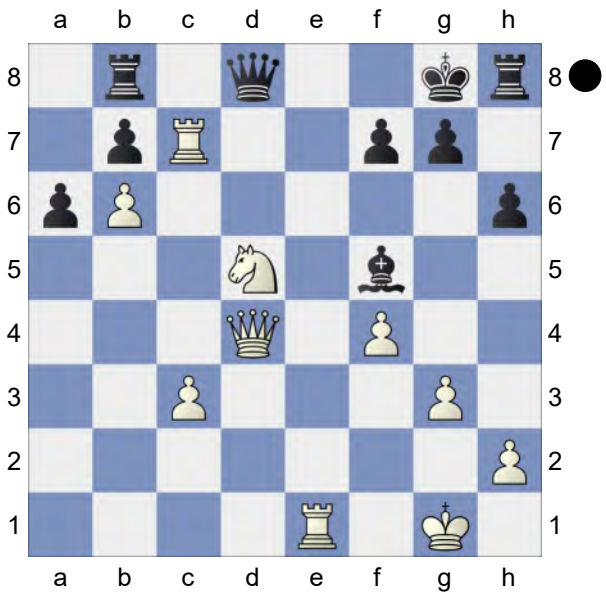
with the idea ♔a6(╖c2) **21.Bxf3** **Bxf3**
22.Nd2
[22.Rxa7? Rxa7!∓ 23.Qxa7? g5 24.Nd2 g4 25.Qd4]
22...Bh5!? **Δ♔f7✕e6** **23.Nc4** **Qd8**
24.Ne3 **Bg6** **25.Nxd5** **h6**

(Diagram)



26.b6 a6
[26...axb6 27.Nxb6 Rb8 28.Nd7+=]
27.Re7 Rb8
[Also possibility: 27...Qxe7!? △28.Nxe7 Kxe7 29.Qc5+]
28.Rae1 Kg8 29.f4 Senseless: **29...Bf5** in view of: **30.Rc7**
[30.Rc7 Bg4 *(30...Kh7 31.Rxf7)* 31.Ne7+ Kh7=
*(*Can be recommended: *31...Kf8!?* In my opinion slightly better is: *32.Ng6+)* 32.Qe4+!? f5 *(* Worse is: *32...g6* because of: *33.Nxg6)* 33.Nxf5 Bxf5 34.Qxf5+! △Kg8 35.Ree7 Qd1+ 36.Kg2 Qd2+ 37.Kh3 ±/=]

(Diagram)

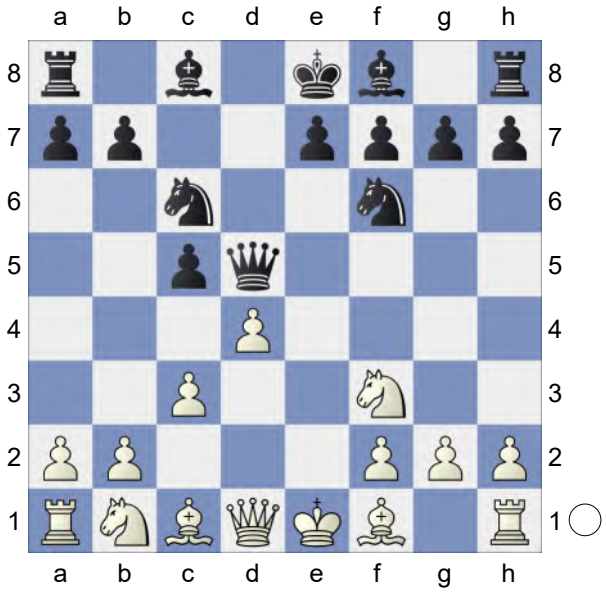


½-½

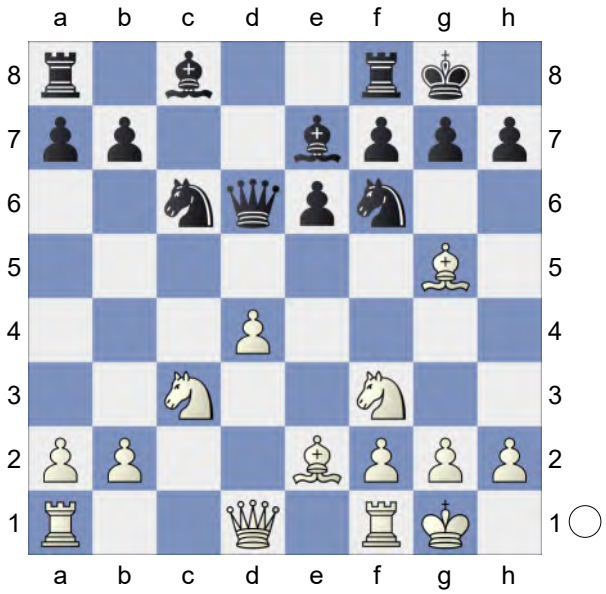
82 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2770**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2789**
Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid (11) 15.03.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6



6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Bg5 0-0



11.Qd2

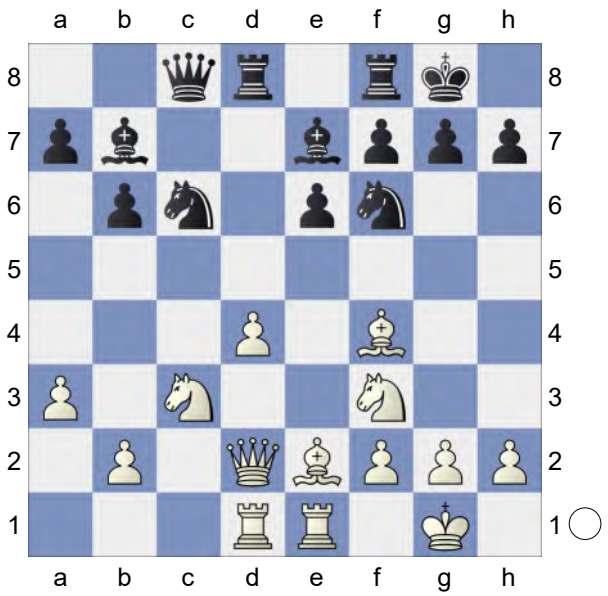
[11.Rc1 Nd5 *(11...Rd8 12.Nb5 Qd7 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd5 15.Qd2 a6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nd6 b5 18.Rc5 Bb7 19.Rfc1* B 22/32-N,N 2000 *)* 12.Bxe7 Ncxe7 13.Ne5 b6 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Ne4 Qd8 16.Ng5 Nf5 17.Qd2 h6 18.Ngf3 Nd6 19.b4 Qe7 20.b5 Rfc8 21.a4 Qf6 22.Rxc8+ Rxc8 23.Rc1 Qd8 24.h3 Rc7 25.g3 Qc8 (40) Afek,Y (2370)-Mittelman,G (2350) 63/(124) Israel 1995]

11...b6N

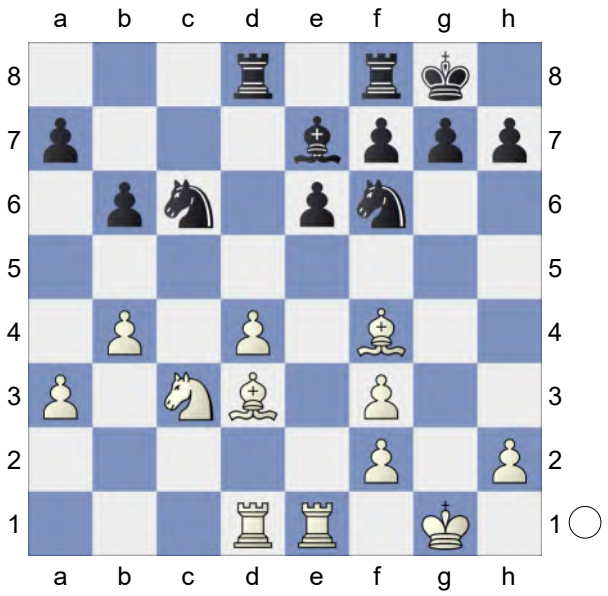
[11...Rd8 12.Rfd1 b6 *(12...Nd5 13.Rac1 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 h6 15.Qd2 Nf6 16.h3 Bd7 17.a3 Be8 18.Qe3 Ne7 19.Bd3 Qb6 20.Qe2 Rac8 21.Bb1 Bc6 22.Ne5 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 Qxd4 24.Nxc6 Nxc6 25.Qb5 Qf4 26.Rd1 Qc7 27.Ne4* (45) Model Games-Chekhov,S*)* 13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Qxd2 16.Rxd2 Rxd2 17.exf6 Rxe2 18.fxe7 Bd7 19.Rd1 f6 20.Nc3 Rxb2 21.Rxd7 Re8 22.Be3 Kf7 23.Rxa7 Rc8 24.Nd1 Rb1 25.Rd7 Rc7 26.Rd4 ½-½ (48) 5....g6-Chapter III 154/163 Abu Dhabi 2022]

12.Rad1 Bb7 13.Rfe1 Rad8 14.Bf4 Qd7 The position is equal. **15.a3 Qc8**

(Diagram)

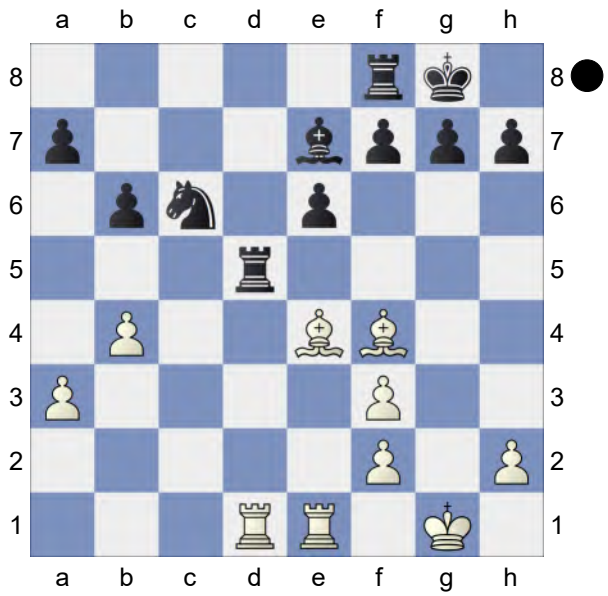


16.Bd3 Na5 17.Qe2 Qa8 18.b4 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxf3 20.gxf3 Nc6

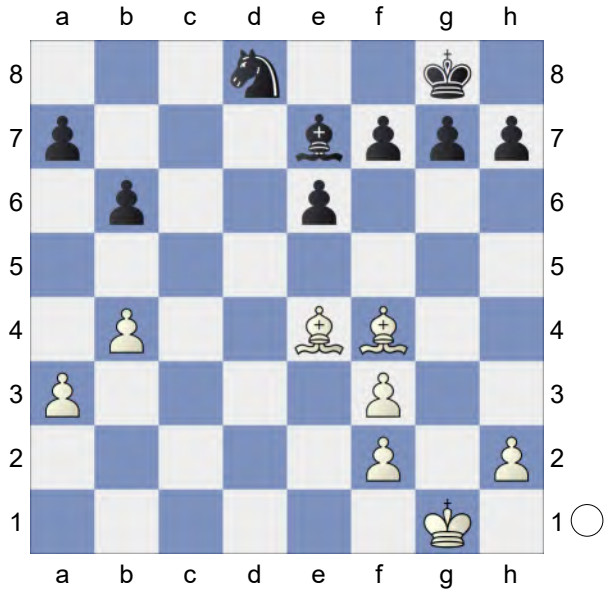


21.d5 -0.96/22 **Nxd5∓**
[21...exd5? 22.b5 Bb4 *(22...Bd6? 23.Bxd6 Rxd6 24.bxc6+-)* 23.axb4 Nxb4 24.Bf5+-]
22.Nxd5 Rxd5
[22...exd5? 23.b5 Bd6 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.bxc6 Rxc6 26.Re7+-]
23.Be4

(Diagram)

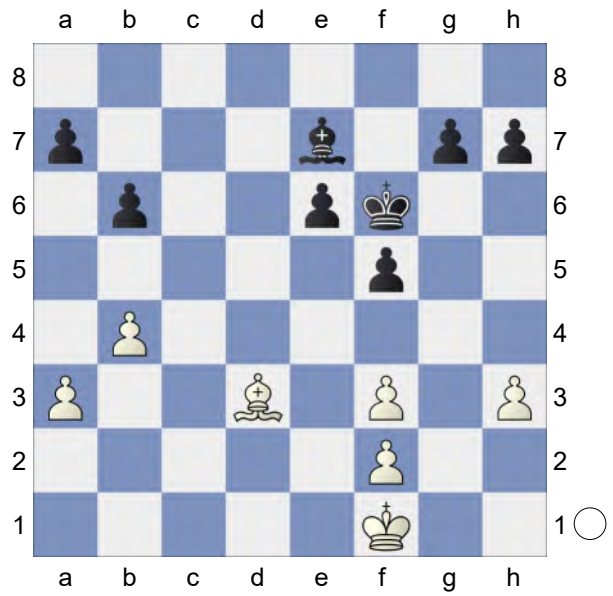


Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Nxd8

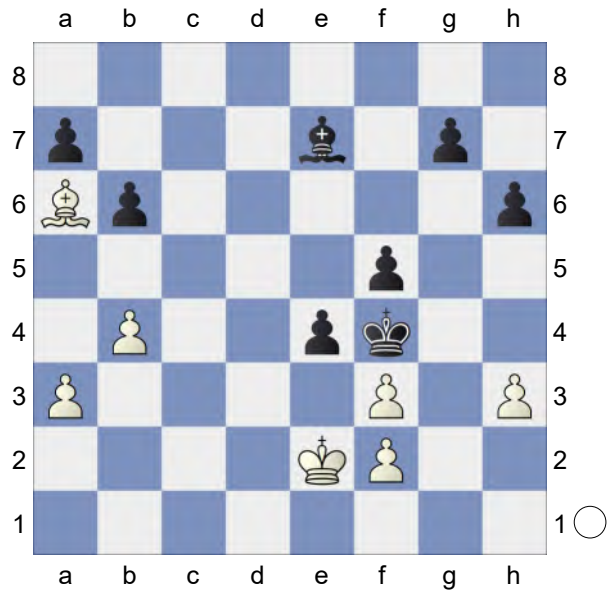


Endgame. KBB-KBN **26.Bc7 f5**
27.Bxd8 -1.65/22
[27.Ba8∓ -1.08/23 was necessary.]
27...Bxd8 KB-KB **28.Bd3 Be7 29.h3 Kf7 30.Kf1 Kf6**

(Diagram)

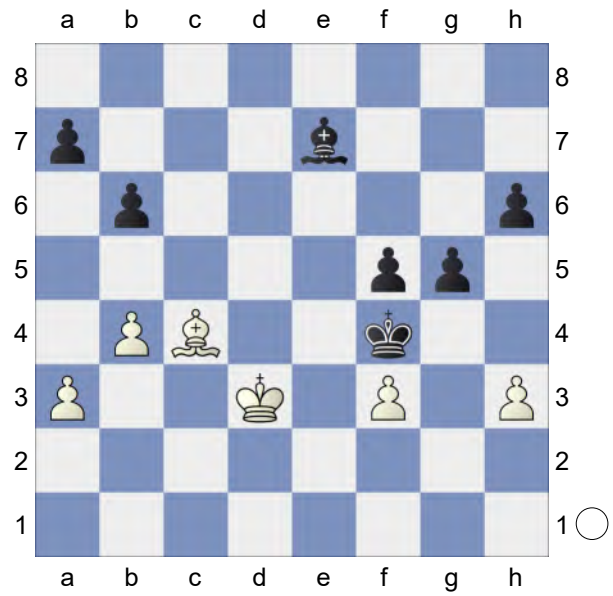


31.Bc4 e5 -1.35/26
[31...Bd6-+ -1.80/23 32.Ke2 Bf4]
32.Bg8 h6 33.Bc4 Kg5 34.Ba6 Kf4 35.Ke2 e4

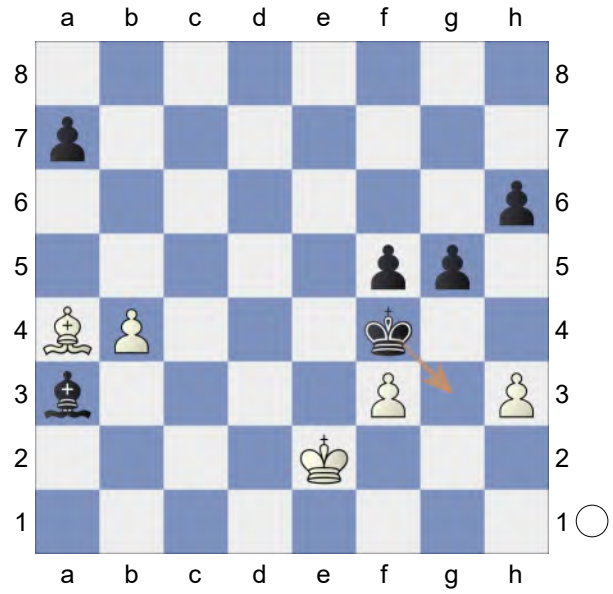


36.fxe4 Kxe4
[36...fxe4 37.Kf1∓]
37.Bd3+ Kf4 38.Bc4 Ke5 -1.30/23
[38...g5-+ -1.75/27 39.Ba6 g4 40.hxg4 fxg4]
39.Kd3 g5 40.f3 Kf4

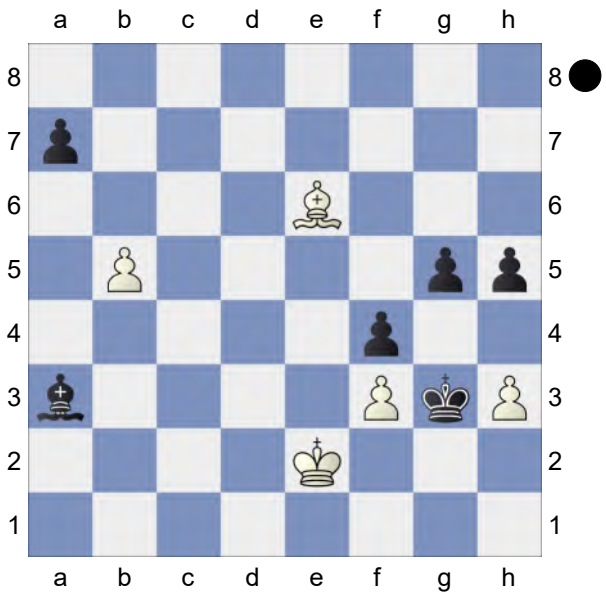
(Diagram)



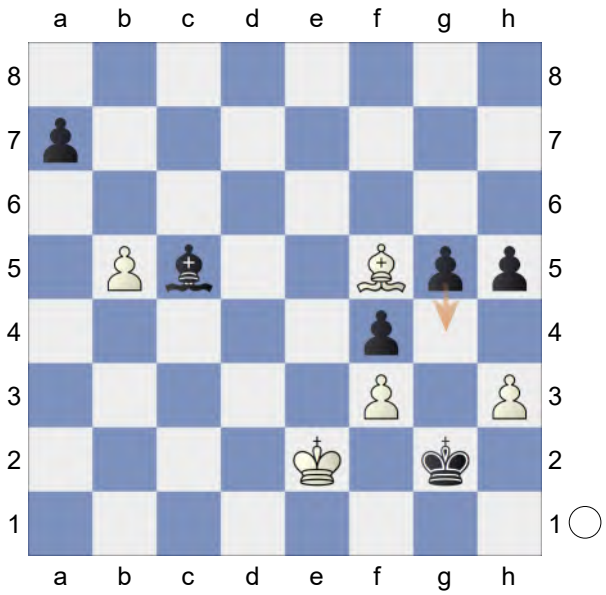
41.Be6 b5
[41...Kxf3?! 42.Bxf5 Kf4 43.Bg4∓]
42.Ke2 -1.40/25
[⌓42.Kd4 -0.98/28]
42...Bf6 ...Bb2 is the strong threat.
43.Bd7 Bb2 44.a4 bxa4 45.Bxa4 Ba3



Strongly threatening ...Kg3! **46.b5 Kg3 47.Bc2 f4**
[47...Kxh3?! 48.Bxf5+ Kg3 49.Bg4=]
48.Bf5 h5 Against Bg4. And now ...Kg2 would win. **49.Be6?** -9.48/24
[49.Bg6∓ -1.29/31]

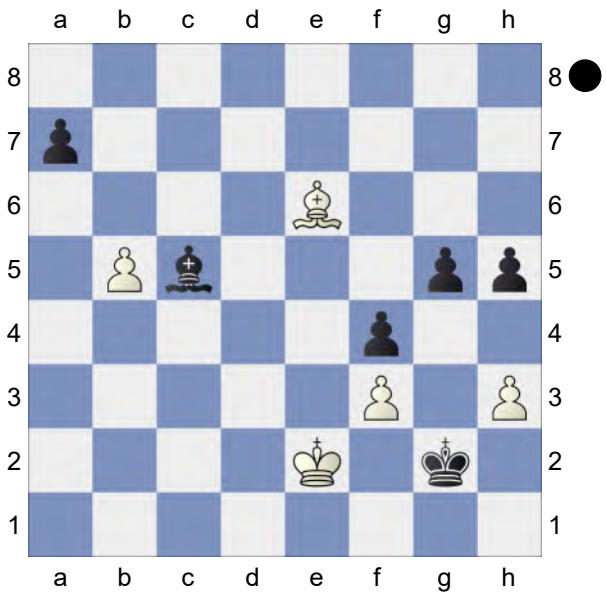


L o s e s t h e g a m e . **49...Kg2!-+**
Black is clearly winning. **50.Bf5 Bc5**

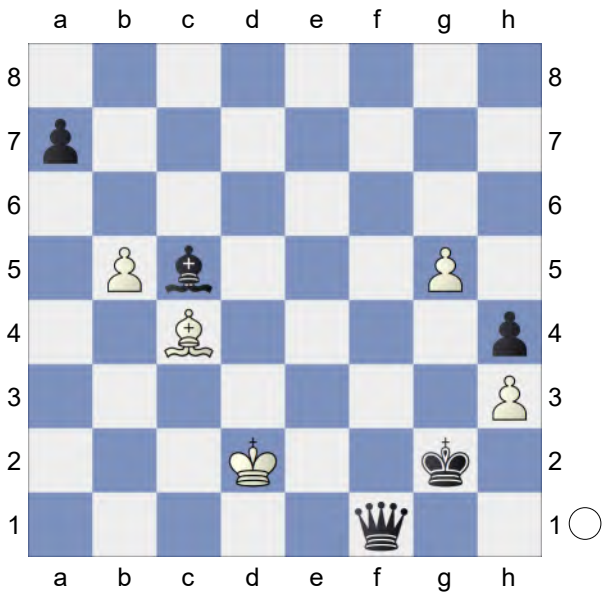


Threatens to win with ...g4! **51.Be6**

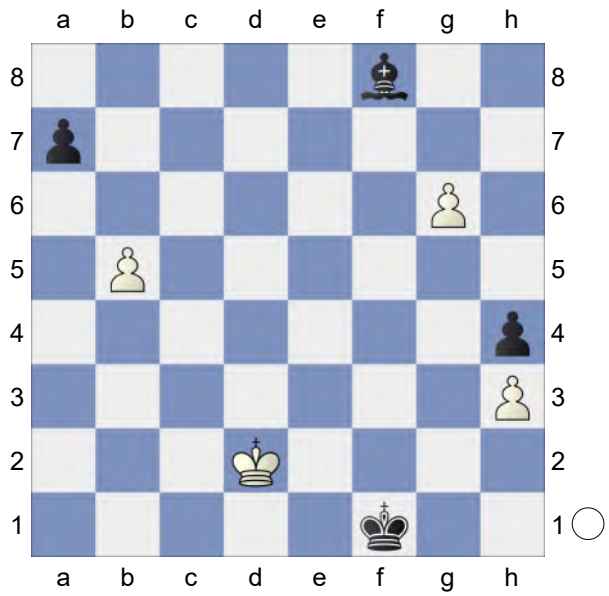
(Diagram)



g4! Promotion **52.fxg4**
[52.hxg4 h4]
52...f3+
[Not 52...Kxh3 53.Kf3= *(53.gxh5+ Kh4=)*]
53.Kd2 f2
[Inferior is 53...Kxh3 54.gxh5+ Kh2 55.h6=]
54.Bc4 h4
[Weaker is 54...f1R 55.Bxf1+ Kxf1 56.gxh5∓]
55.g5 f1Q



56.Bxf1+ Kxf1 57.g6 Bf8



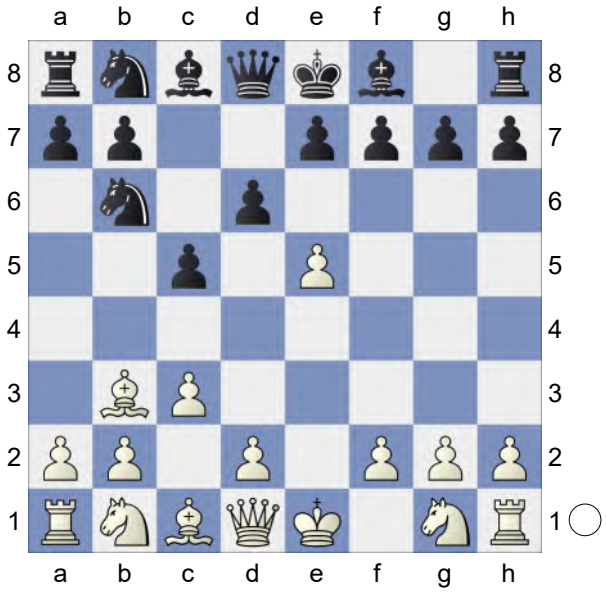
Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.06 (flawless)

0-1

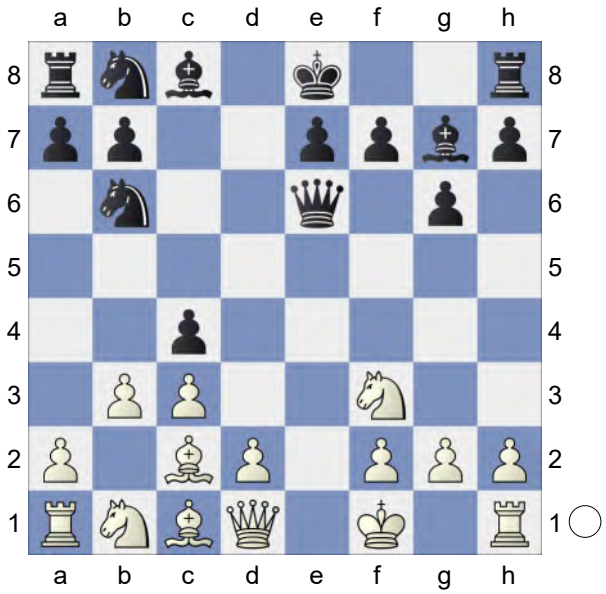
83 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2770**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2780**
FTX Crypto Cup Prelim rapid (12)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

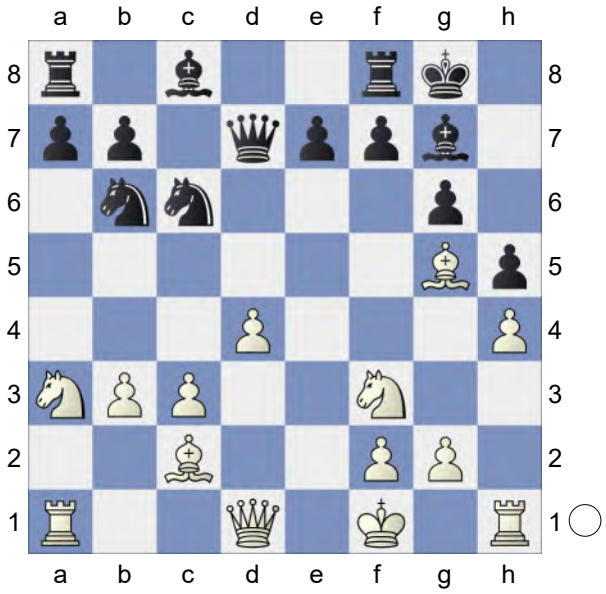
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 d6



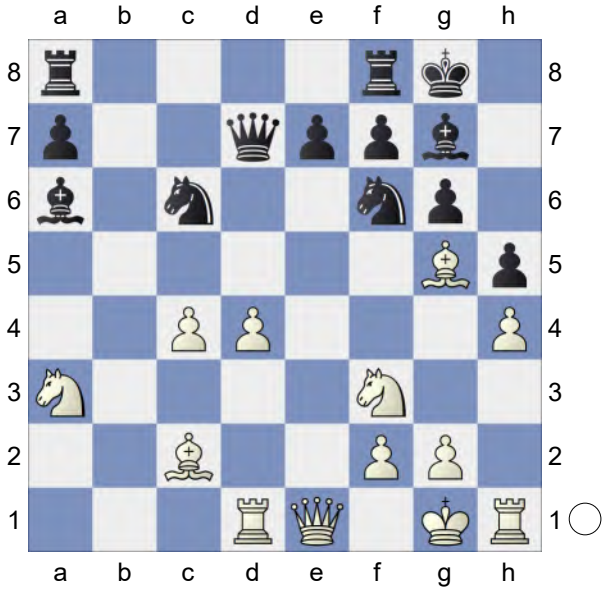
6.exd6 Qxd6 7.Nf3 c4 8.Bc2 Qe6+ 9.Kf1 g6 10.b3 Bg7



11.Na3 cxb3 12.axb3 0-0 13.d4 Nc6 14.h4 h5 15.Bg5 Qd7N
[15...Qd5]



16.Qe1 Nd5 17.Rd1 b5 0.64/19
18.c4!± bxc4 19.bxc4 Ba6 20.Kg1 Nf6

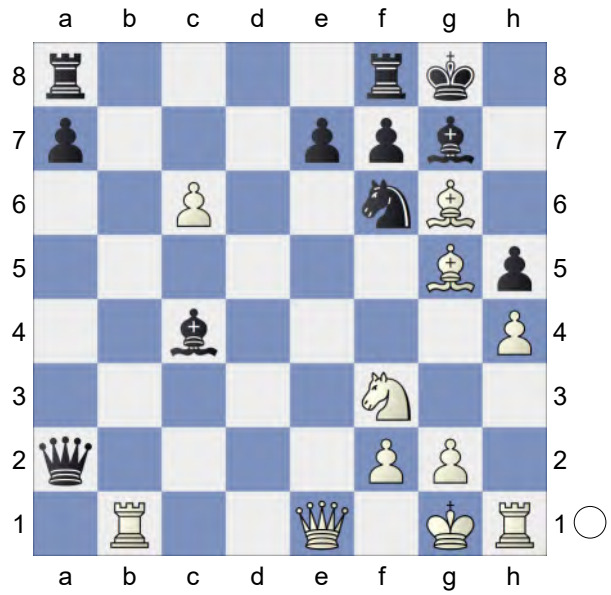


21.d5 Qd6 22.dxc6 Qxa3 23.Ra1 0.50/21 White is more active.
[23.Ne5± 1.04/17]
23...Qb2! 24.Bxg6
[24.Rxa6 Qxc2 25.Qc1 Qf5 26.Bxf6 Bxf6=]
24...Bxc4 25.Rb1 0.51/20

[25.Rc1!± 0.95/20]

25...Qa2 1.41/20

[25...Qe2± 0.51/20 26.Bxf6 Qxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Bxf6 28.Bxh5 a5]



26.Bxf6 exf6 27.Ra1

[27.Bxh5 Rfe8 28.Qc1 Bh6∓]

27...Qb2 28.Bf5

[28.Bxh5 f5 29.Rc1 Rfe8∓]

28...Rfe8 29.Qc1 0.83/20

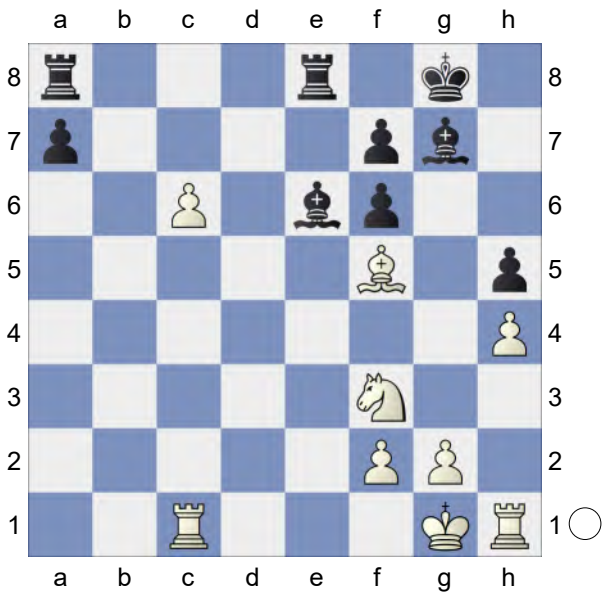
[⌓29.Qa5 1.20/21]

29...Qxc1+± 30.Rxc1

[30.Kh2 looks sharper. Qf4+ 31.Kg1 Qxf5 32.Rh3]

30...Be6

(Diagram)



31.Nd4 Bh6 32.Rc2 Bf4 1.57/22

[⌓32...Bc8 1.03/21]

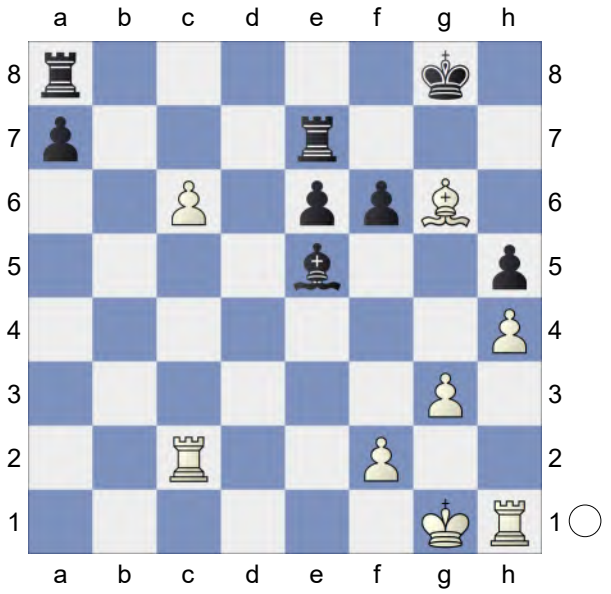
33.g3? -0.01/20

[33.Nxe6!± 1.57/22 fxe6 34.Bg6]

33...Be5 1.30/21

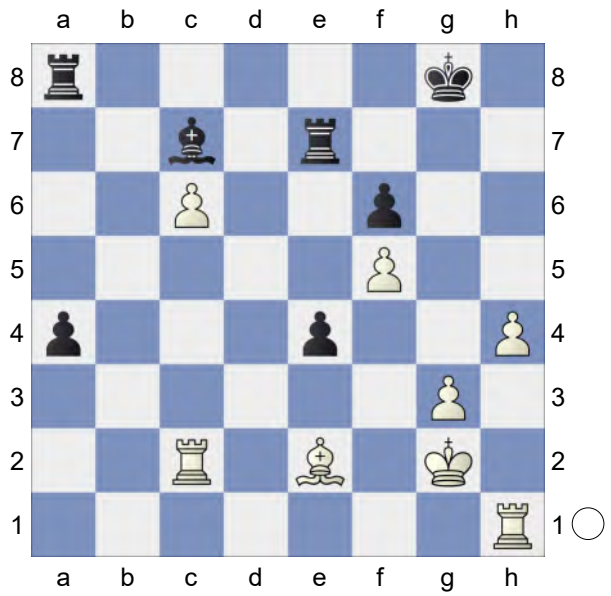
[33...Bd5!= -0.01/20 remains equal. 34.Kh2 Bxh1 35.Kxh1 Bc7]

34.Nxe6 fxe6 35.Bg6 Re7

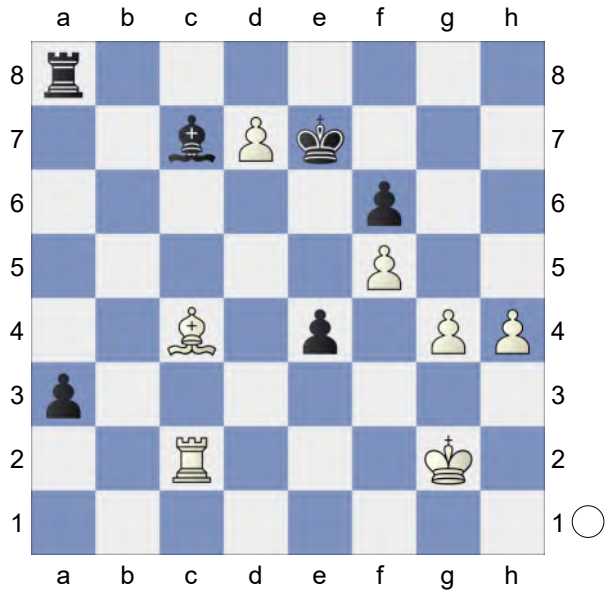


36.Kg2 a5 37.Bxh5 a4 38.f4 Bc7 39.Be2 e5 40.f5 e4

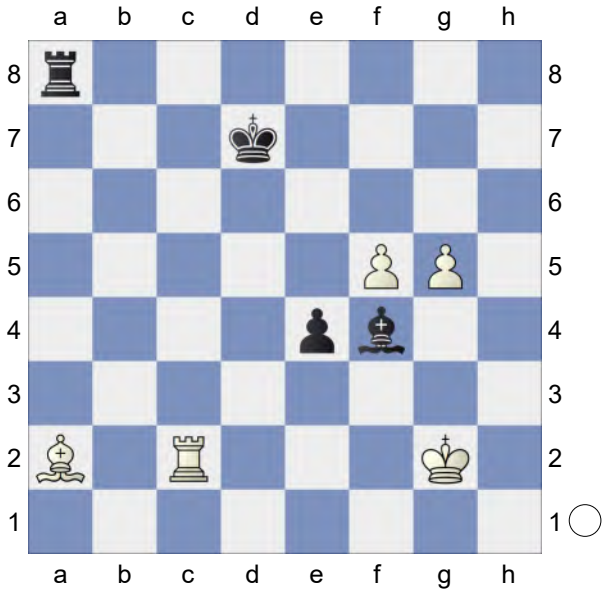
(Diagram)



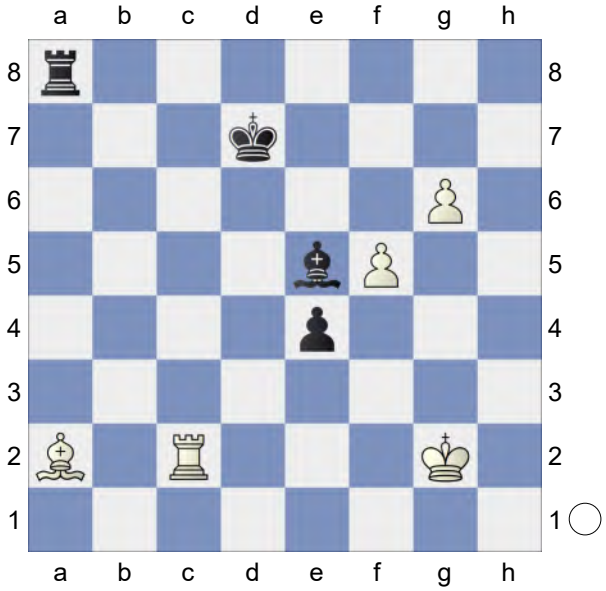
41.Bc4+ Kg7 1.79/20
[41...Kf8± 1.00/19]
42.Rd1!+- Threatens to win with Rd7.
42...Kf8 2.45/22
[42...Kh6± 1.20/21]
43.Rd7 a3 2.86/23
[⌓43...Rg7 1.76/21 44.Rxg7 Kxg7]
44.g4 Rxd7 45.cxd7 Endgame. KRB-KRB **45...Ke7** 3.16/25
[⌓45...Bd8 1.75/22 46.Be6 Ke7]



46.Be6 a2 47.Bxa2
[47.Rxc7? a1Q *(47...a1B 48.Rc8)* 48.Rb7 e3-+]
47...Kxd7 48.g5 fxg5 49.hxg5 Bf4

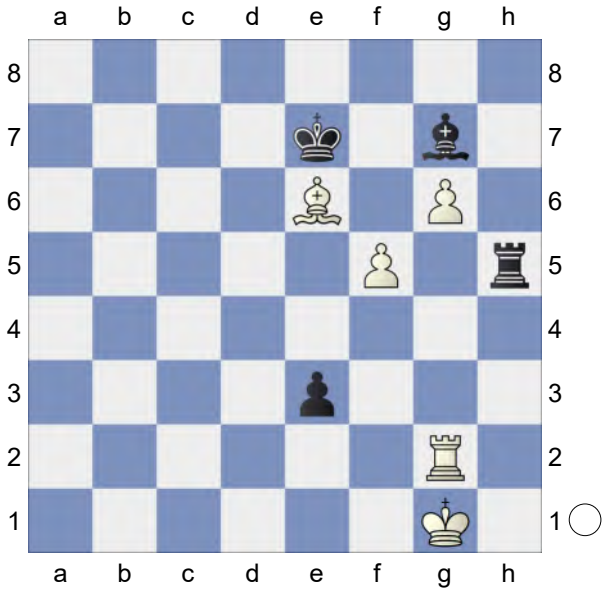


50.g6! Be5 3.03/22
[50...Ra3± 1.58/24]



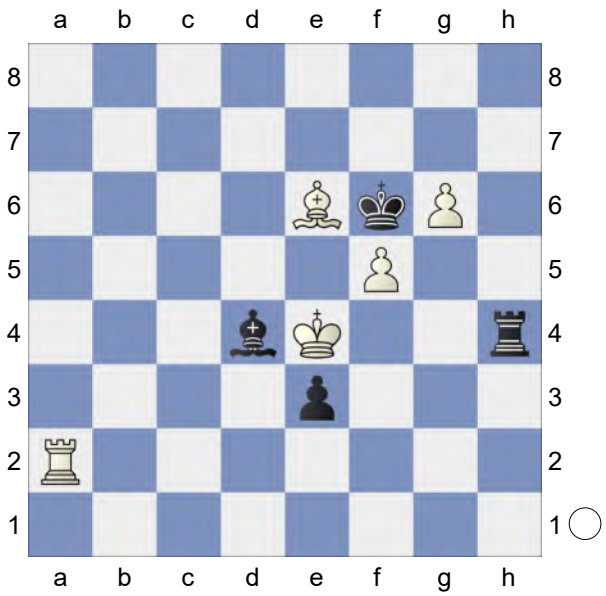
51.Bd5 Rh8 Hoping for ...Rh2+. **52.Kg1** 1.38/22
[52.Bxe4 Rh2+ 53.Kf3 Rxc2 54.Bxc2 Ke7=]
[52.Be6++- 1.86/21 Kd6 53.Rd2+ Kc6 54.Bd5+ Kc5 55.g7 *(55.Bxe4? Rh2+* Skewer *56.Kf3 Rxd2-+)* 55...Bxg7 56.Bxe4]

52...e3± 53.Re2 Rh5 1.60/24
[⌓53...Kd6 0.96/21 54.Bf3 Ke7]
54.Be6+
[And not 54.Rxe3 Bd4 *(54...Rxf5 55.Re4=)* 55.Be6+ Ke7=]
54...Ke7 55.Rg2 Inhibits Rg5. Black must now prevent g7.
[Not 55.Rxe3 Bd4 56.Kf2 Rg5= *(56...Bxe3+ 57.Kxe3 Kf6 58.Ke2=; 56...Rh2+? 57.Kg3+-)*]
55...Bg7

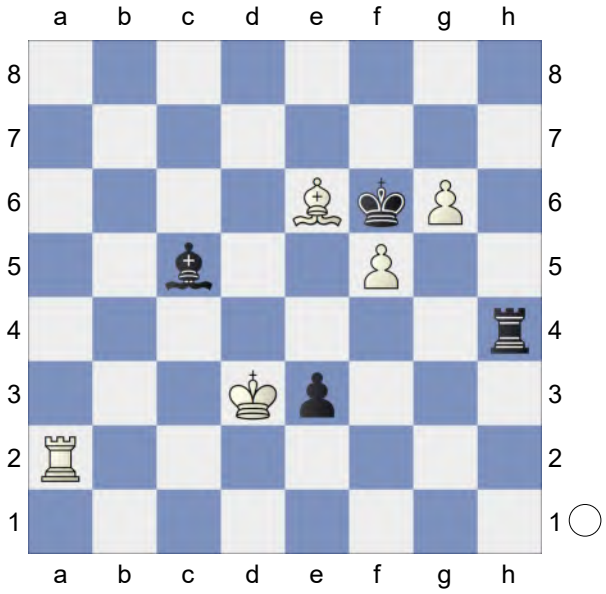


56.Ra2 0.56/22
[56.Kf1± 1.36/22]
56...Bd4 1.37/23
[56...Kf6± 0.56/22]
57.Kg2 Kf6 58.Kf3 Rh3+ 59.Ke4 Rh4+

(Diagram)

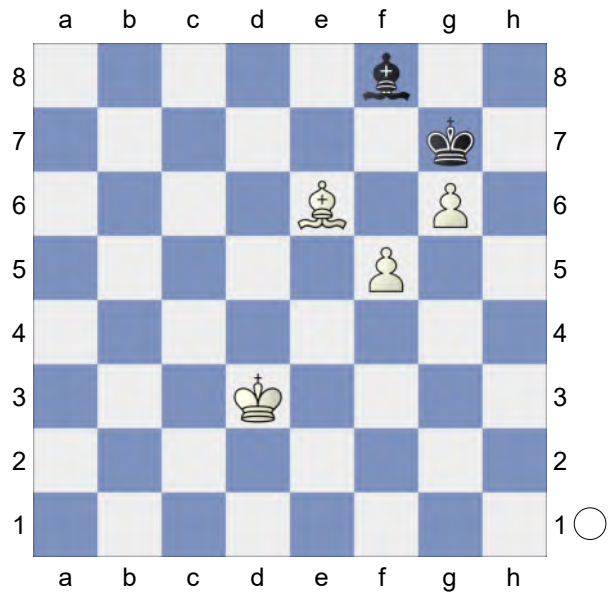


60.Kd3! Ra6 is the strong threat.
60...Bc5

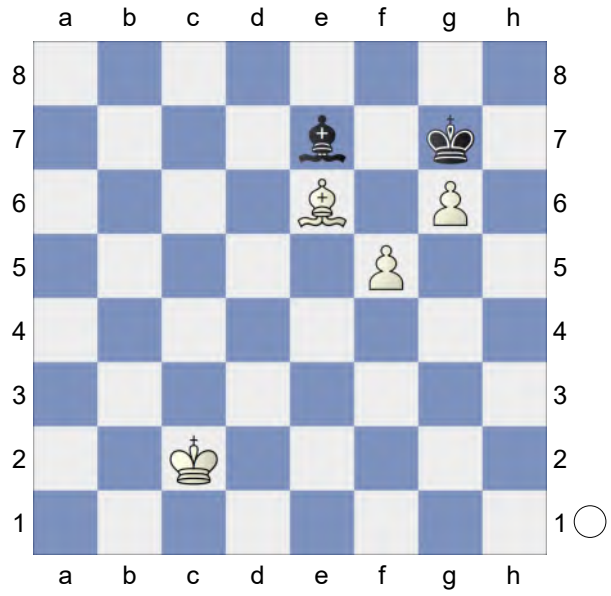


61.Rg2 Strongly threatening g7.
61...Rd4+ 62.Kc3 0.43/21
[White should try 62.Kxe3± 1.37/23 aiming for Kf3. Rg4+ 63.Kf3 Rxg2 64.Kxg2]
62...Rd2 1.36/18 **63.Rxd2 exd2 64.Kxd2** KB-KB **64...Bf8 65.Kd3 Kg7**

(Diagram)



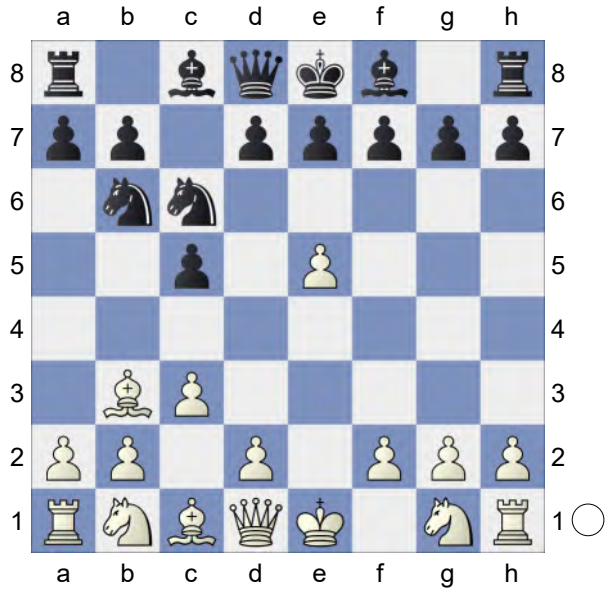
66.Kc2 Be7 67.Kd3? 0.01/33
[67.Bc8± 1.57/36]
67...Bf6 1.40/38
[67...Bf8!= 0.01/33]
68.Kc2 -0.01/37
[68.Bc8± 1.40/38]
68...Be7!= 69.Kd3? -0.01/65
[White should play 69.Bc8± 1.54/37]
69...Bf6 70.Kc2 -0.01/38
[70.Bc8± 1.48/39]
70...Be7!



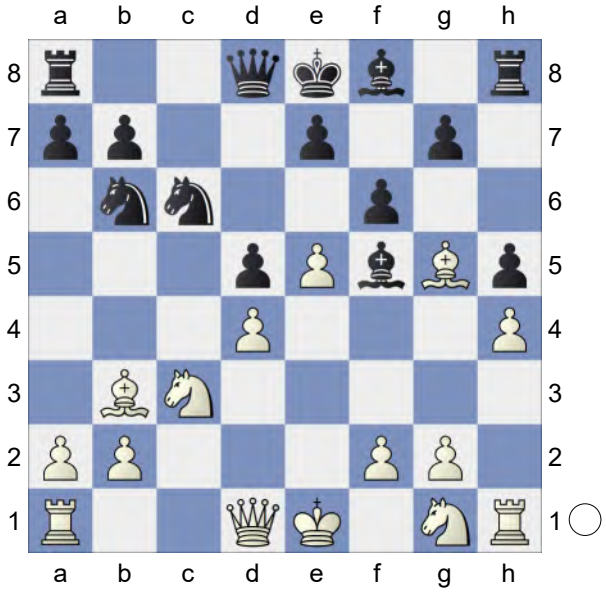
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)
½-½

84 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2770**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David** **2673**
Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid (8) 14.03.2021
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6

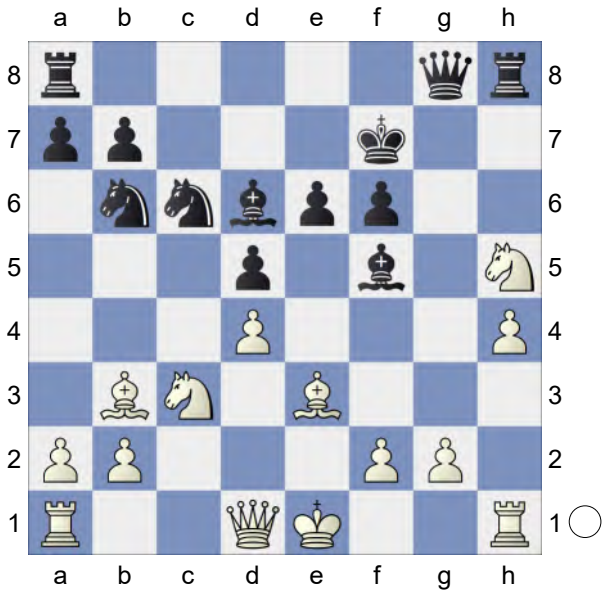


6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 d5 8.Nc3
[8.Bc2 Nb4 9.Nc3 Nxc2+ 10.Qxc2 Bd7 11.Nge2 e6 12.Qd3 Rc8 13.0-0 Qh4 14.a4 a6 15.b3 Be7 16.Ba3 Mamedyarov,S (2767)-Vitiugov,N (2726) chess.com (Int.-blitz) 151/(42) 2022]
[8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Nf3 Be6 10.0-0 Bxb3 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Be3 0-0 14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.a3 Na5 16.Qa2 Nac4 17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Ne4 Qd5 19.Qb1 Qf5 20.Nc5 Qxb1 21.Rxb1 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Bxc5 0-1 (55) Goroshkov,M (2261)-Bok,B (2618) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Late blitz 2023 (4)]
8...Bf5 9.h4N
[9.Nge2 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Be3 f6 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nf4 g5 14.Nh5 0-0 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Qh5 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxg5+ Qg7 19.Qxg7+ Kxg7 20.Rfe1 Kf6 21.f4 Rg8 22.Nb5 Rg4 23.g3 Rg7 1-0 (28) Eid,M (1942)-Ralle,P (2136) Syre Memorial op 31st 2008 (2) 24.Nd4 Bh3 25.Re5 Nc4 26.Bxc4 dxc4 27.Rae1 Rd7 28.Ne2 Rd2 1-0 Bilquez,R (2071)-Glicenstein,A (2258) Syre Memorial op 31st 2008 (1)]
9...h5 10.Bg5 f6

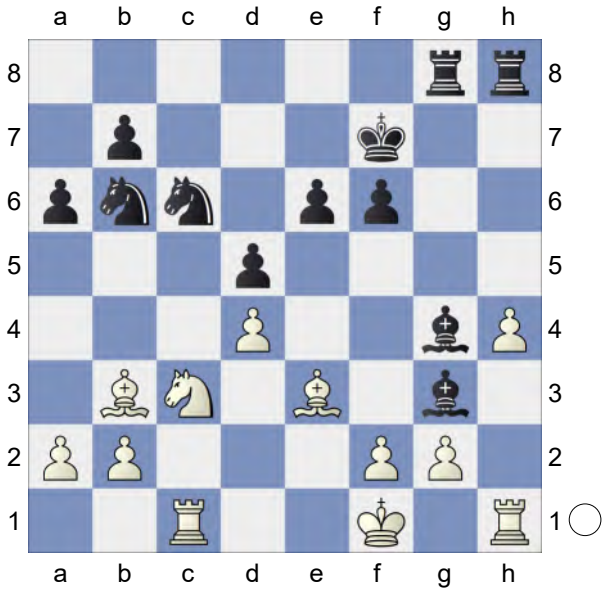


The position is equal. **11.exf6 gxf6 12.Be3 e6 13.Nge2 Bd6 14.Nf4 Kf7** 0.24/17
[⌓14...Qe7 -0.18/19]
15.Nxh5= Qg8

(Diagram)

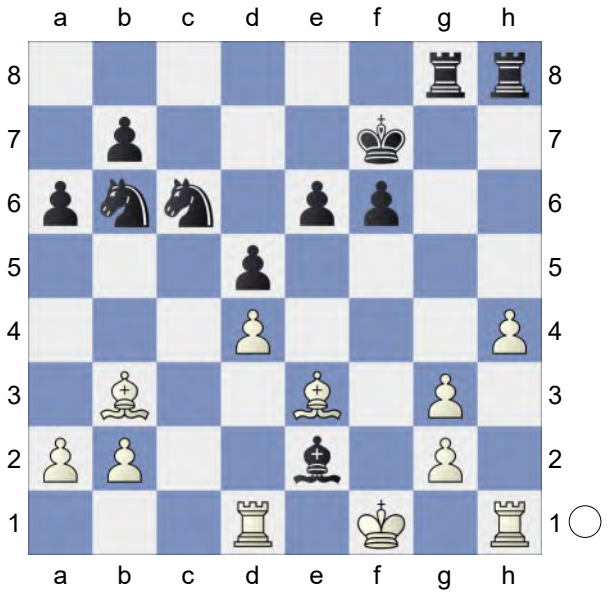


16.Qf3 Qg4 Active counter play!
17.Qxg4 -0.01/19
[17.Ng3± 0.35/20 should be considered. Bxg3 *(17...Nxd4? 18.Qxg4* Remove Defender *Bxg4 19.Bxd4+-; 17...Qxf3 18.gxf3 Bd3 19.Kd2=)* 18.Qxg3 *(18.fxg3 Rag8=)*]
17...Bxg4 18.Ng3 Rag8 19.Rc1 a6 20.Kf1 Bxg3

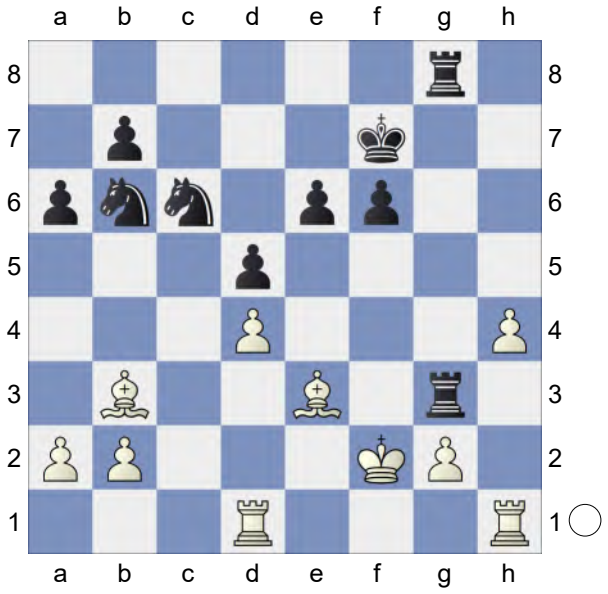


21.fxg3 Bf5
[21...Nc8!?]
22.Ne2 Bd3 23.Rd1 0.06/18
[23.Rc3± 0.43/21 Bxe2+ 24.Kxe2]

23...Bxe2+

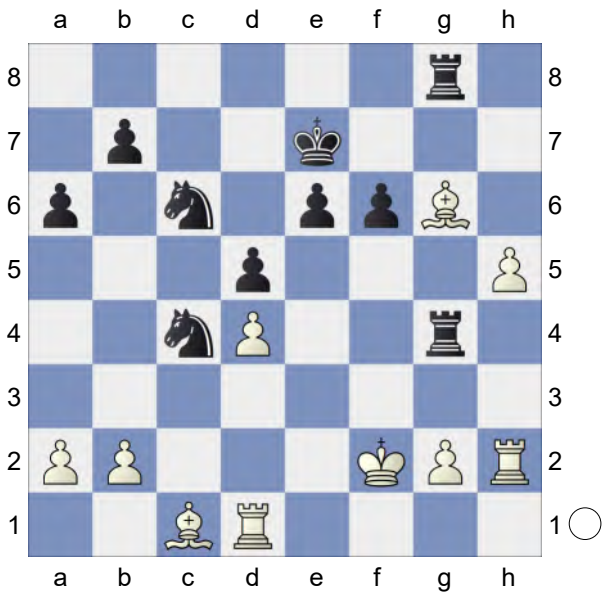


Remove Defender **24.Kxe2 Rxg3 25.Kf2 Rhg8**

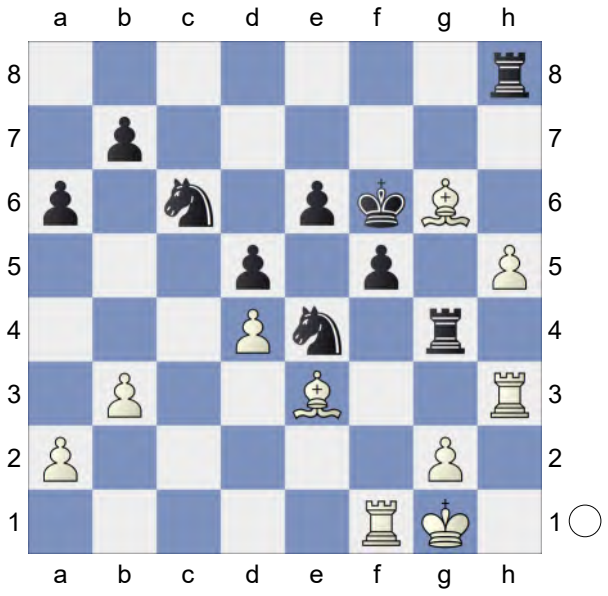


26.Rh2 R3g4 27.h5 Na5 28.Bc2 -0.26/20
[28.Rc1 0.22/20 is superior. Nbc4 29.Bxc4 Nxc4 30.b3 Nxe3 31.Rc7+ Kf8 32.Kxe3 Re4+ 33.Kf2]
28...Nbc4 29.Bg6+ A strong pair of Bishops. **29...Ke7** And now ...Nxe3! would win. **30.Bc1 Nc6!**

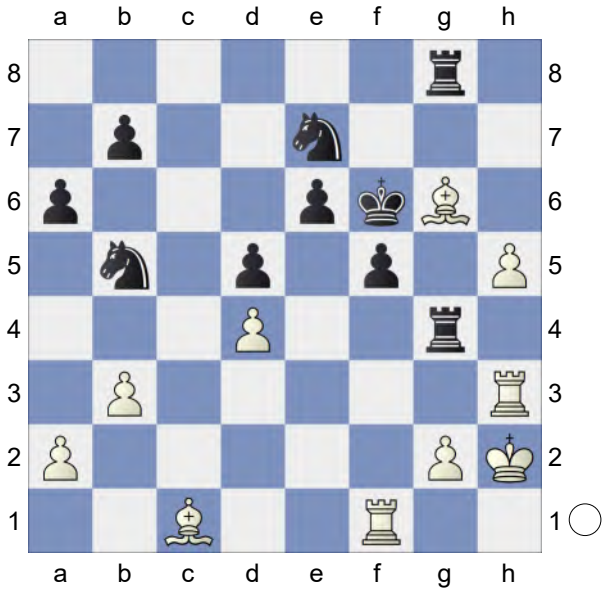
(Diagram)



31.b3 -0.38/21
[31.g3= -0.01/20]
31...Nd6∓ 32.Be3 -1.56/20
[32.Kf3∓ -0.64/20 Rxd4 33.Rxd4 Nxd4+ 34.Ke3]
32...f5∓ 33.Rh3 Ne4+ 34.Kg1 Kf6 35.Rf1 Rh8

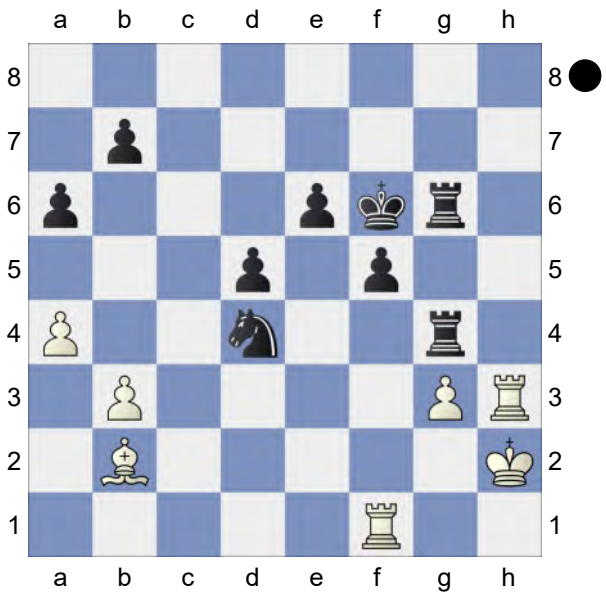


36.Kh2 Rc8 37.Rc1 Rg8 38.Rf1 -2.01/24
[⌓38.Rf3 -1.64/21]
38...Nd6 -1.10/19
[38...Ng5-+ -2.01/24 39.Bxg5+ *(39.Rg3? Rh4+ 40.Kg1 Ne4-+)* 39...Rxg5 *(39...Kxg5 40.Bf7=)*]
39.Bf4 Nb5 -0.65/22
[Black should try 39...Nc8∓ -1.28/22 40.Rg3 Rxg3 41.Bxg3 *(41.Kxg3? perishes. N8e7-+)* 41...N8e7 42.Bh4+ Kg7 43.Bxe7 Nxe7]
40.Bc1? -2.79/22 This costs White the game.
[40.Rg3∓ -0.65/22 Rxg3 41.Bxg3]
40...Ne7
[Not 40...Ncxd4 41.Bb2∓]



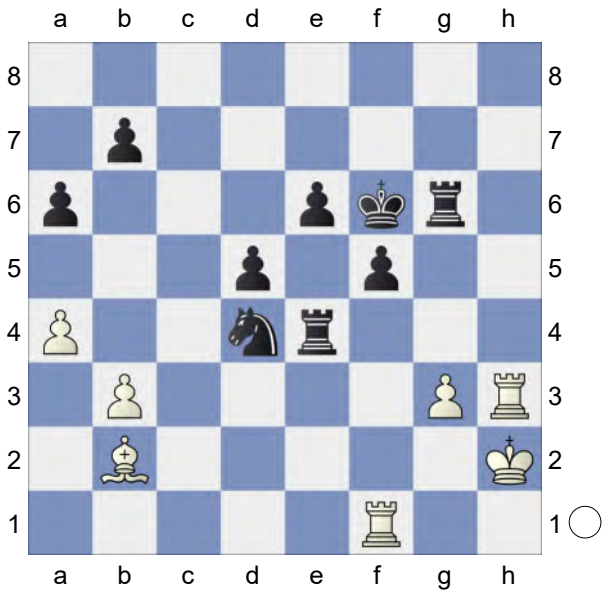
41.a4? -4.34/21
[41.Bb2 -2.48/19 was necessary.]
41...Nxd4-+ 42.Bb2 Nxg6 43.hxg6 R8xg6 44.g3

(Diagram)



Re4!

[44...e5 45.Bxd4 Rxd4 46.Rh5 Rd2+ 47.Kh1]

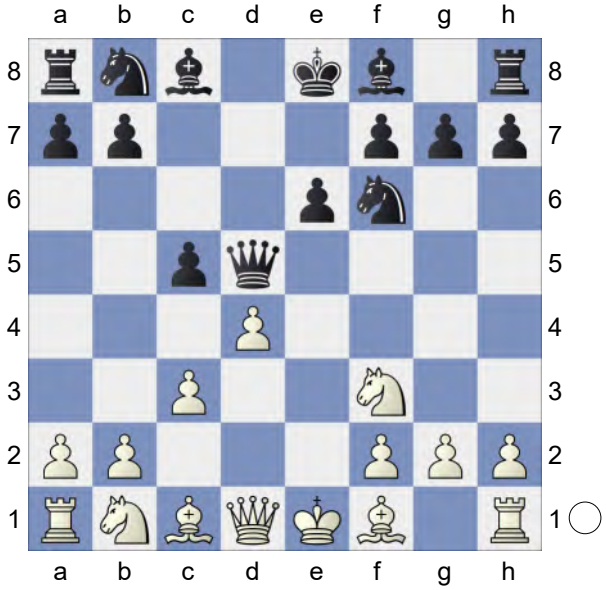


Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

0-1

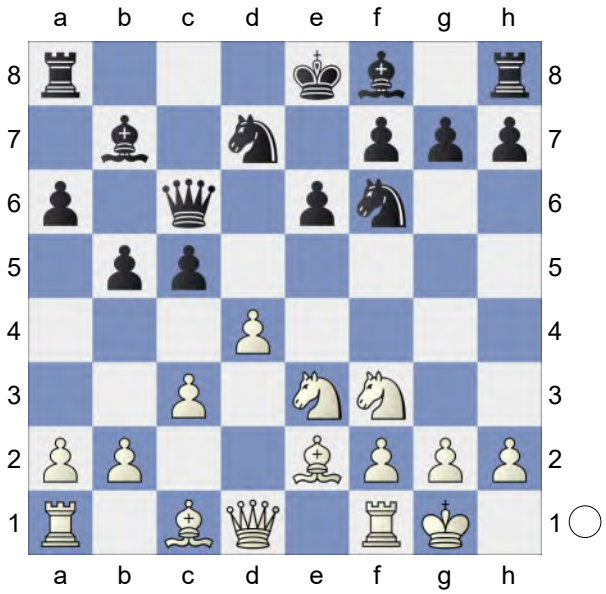
85 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2770**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2760**
FTX Crypto Cup Prelim rapid (10)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



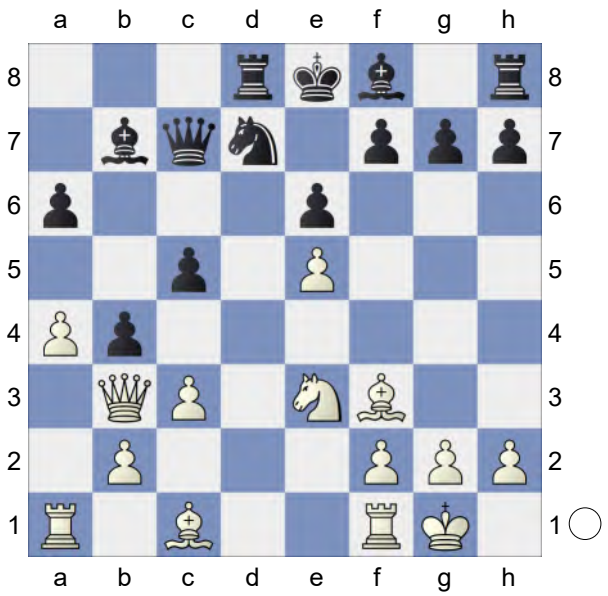
6.Na3 a6 7.Nc4 Nbd7 8.Be2 b5 9.Ne3 Qc6 10.0-0 White has an edge.
[10.a4 Bb7 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rxa8+ Bxa8 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Nd4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 0-0 16.0-0 Rb8 17.Rd1 h6 18.Qa7 Qc8 19.Nc2 Bd5 20.Nb4 Bc4 21.Bf3 Ne5 22.Bc6 Kh7 23.Qc5 Bd5 24.Bf4 Ne4 ½-½ (100) Efroimski,M (2408)-Osmak,I (2471) Olympiad Women-45 2024 (3.6)]
10...Bb7

(Diagram)

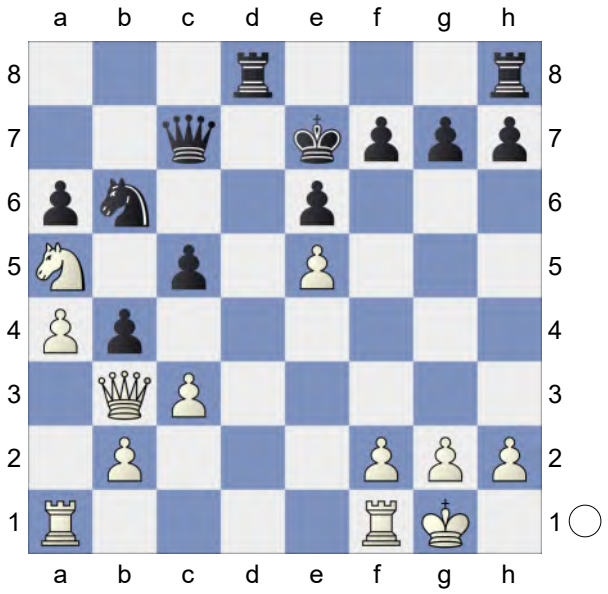


11.a4 b4N 0.63/20
[11...Be7= 0.17/21 should be considered. 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8+ Bxa8 14.dxc5 Qxc5 15.Nc2 *(15.Qd4 b4 16.Qxc5 Bxc5 17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.Bd2 Bxf3 19.Bxb4 Bxe2 20.Ra1 Nb6 21.Ra7 Nfd7 22.f4 Nc8 23.Rc7 Ne7 24.Kf2 Bb5 25.f5 h5 26.Nc2 e5 27.Na3 Bd3 28.Ke3 Nd5+* 0-1 Accattato Martin,M (1788)-Muchnik,L (2485) 86/(298) Pardubice 2002 (2) *)* 15...0-0 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Nfd4 Qb7 18.Bf3 Nd5 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Bg3 Rd8 21.Qd3 b4 22.cxb4 Bxb4 23.Nxb4 Nxb4 24.Qc3 Nc5 25.Bxa8 Rxa8 26.Bc7 Qxc7 ½-½ (51) Mapelle,S (2363)-Roscher,J (2669) USSR 46/502 1988 (5)]
12.Ne5 0.25/22
[12.Bd2± 0.63/20 is more appropriate.]
12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Rd8 14.Qb3
[14.Bf3!? Qc7 15.Qe2 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxe5 17.Qc6+ Nd7 18.Nc4± *(18.Qxa6 Be7±)*]
14...Nd7 15.Bf3 Qc7

(Diagram)

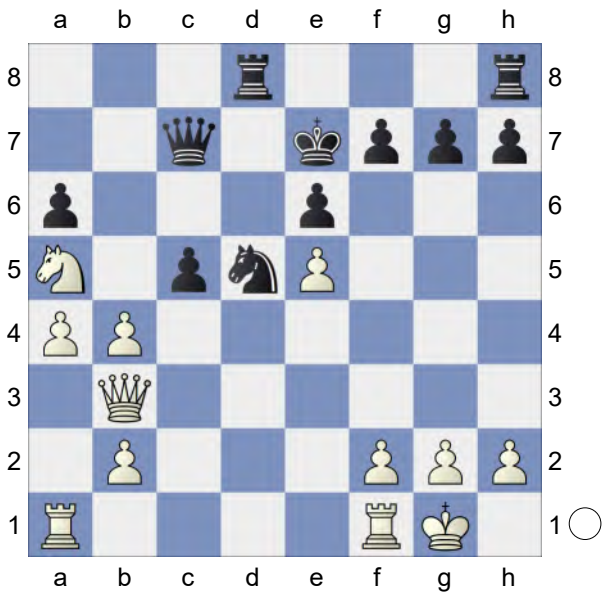


White must now prevent ...Bxf3.
16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Nc4 Nb6! 18.Bg5↑
Keeping Black busy. **18...Be7** 1.99/20
A mistake that costs the game.
[18...Rc8± 0.76/21 was called for.]
19.Bxe7+- Kxe7 20.Na5! Qc7

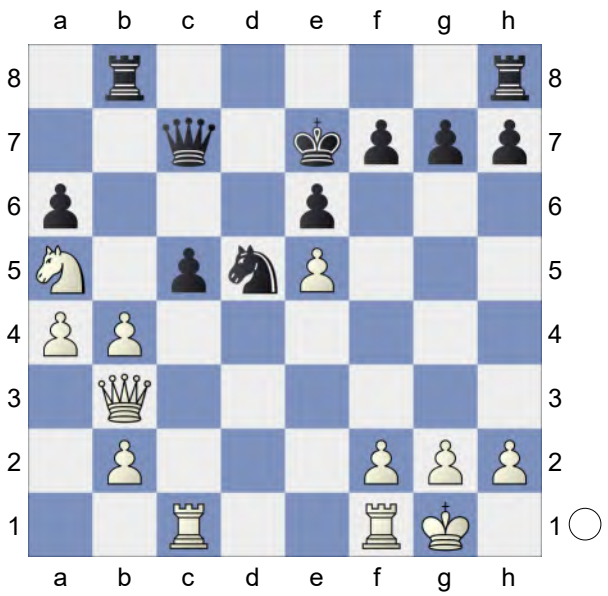


21.cxb4 Nd5

(Diagram)

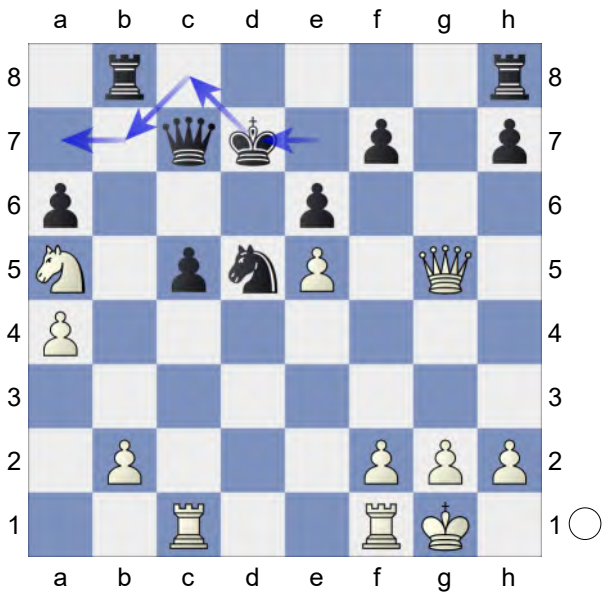


22.Rac1! Rb8
[22...Nxb4? 23.Qxb4 Rd5 24.Qh4+ Kf8 25.b4+-]

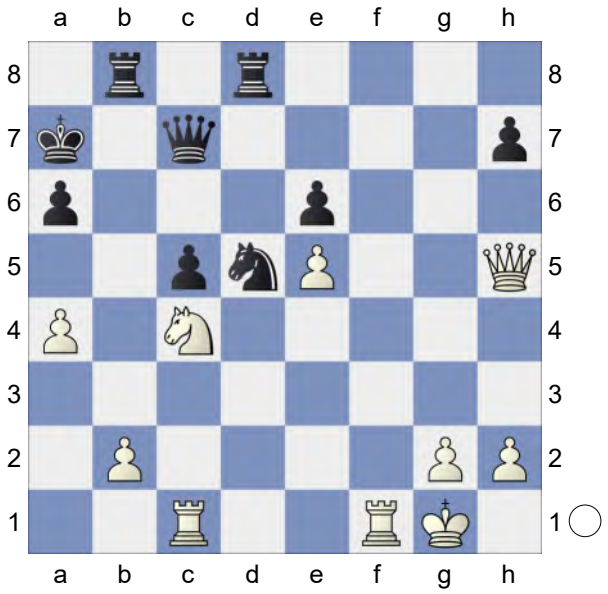


23.Qg3!
[23.Rxc5 Qxc5 24.bxc5 Rxb3 25.Nxb3 Rb8∓]
23...Rxb4 24.Qxg7 Rbb8 ...h6! is the strong threat. **25.Qg5+ Kd7**

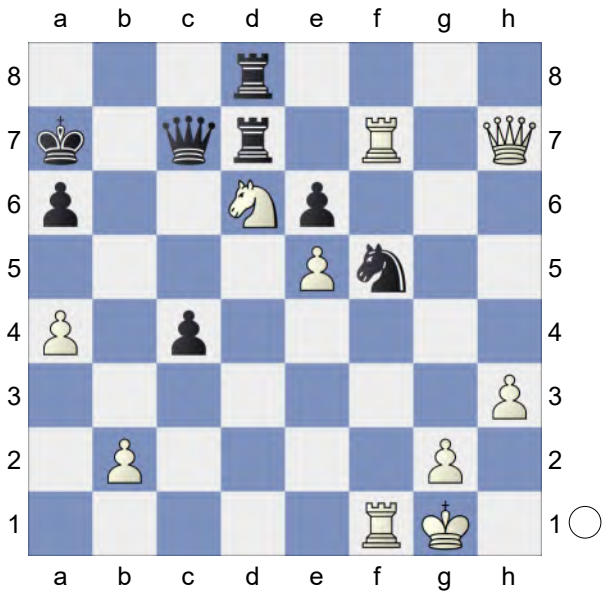
(Diagram)



26.Qh5! Kc8
[26...Ke7 27.Nc4]
27.Nc4 Hoping for Nd6+. **27...Kb7 28.f4 Ka7 29.f5** aiming for fxe6. **29...Rhd8 30.fxe6**
[30.Qxh7? is the wrong capture. Rh8-+]
30...fxe6

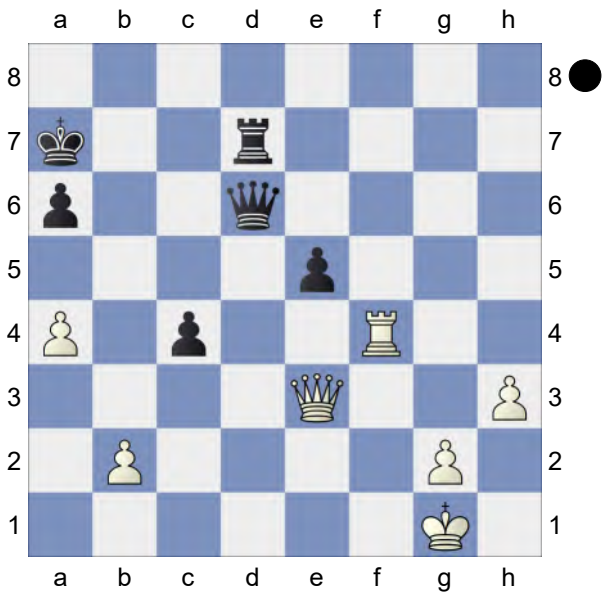


31.Rf7 Pin **31...Rd7 32.Rcf1** Threatens to win with Rxd7. **32...Rbd8 33.Qxh7 Ne7 34.Nd6** 1.75/21 Inhibits Nf5.
[⌓34.h3 3.20/21]
34...Nf5 35.h3 Strongly threatening R1xf5. **35...c4** 2.35/22
[35...Nxd6 1.65/22 might work better. 36.exd6 Qxd6]



36.Rf4
[Resist 36.Rxd7?! Rxd7 37.Qh8 Qc5+ 38.Kh2 Nxd6 39.exd6 Qxd6+ 40.Kg1 e5±]
36...Nxd6 37.exd6 Qxd6 2.51/21
[⌓37...Qb6+ 1.91/22 38.Rf2 Qxd6]
38.Qe4 Active counter play! White has a decisive advantage.
[And not 38.Rxc4 Qd1+ 39.Kh2 Qd6+ 40.Kg1 Qd1+ 41.Kh2 Qd6+ 42.Kg1=]
38...e5 39.Rxd7+ Rxd7 40.Qe3+

(Diagram)

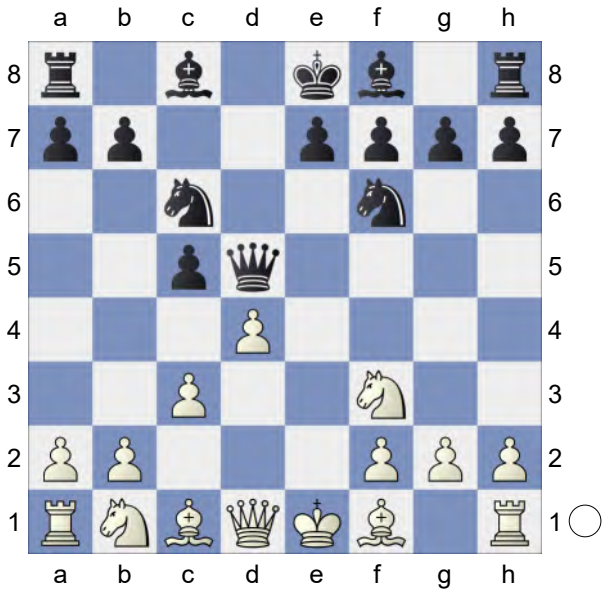


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)

1-0

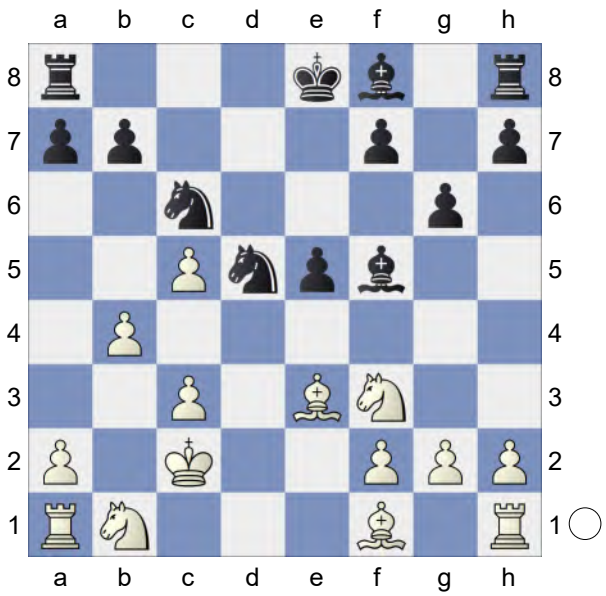
86 **B22**
□ **Topalov,Veselin** **2769**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2786**
Bucharest Kings 6th (1) 07.11.2012
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6



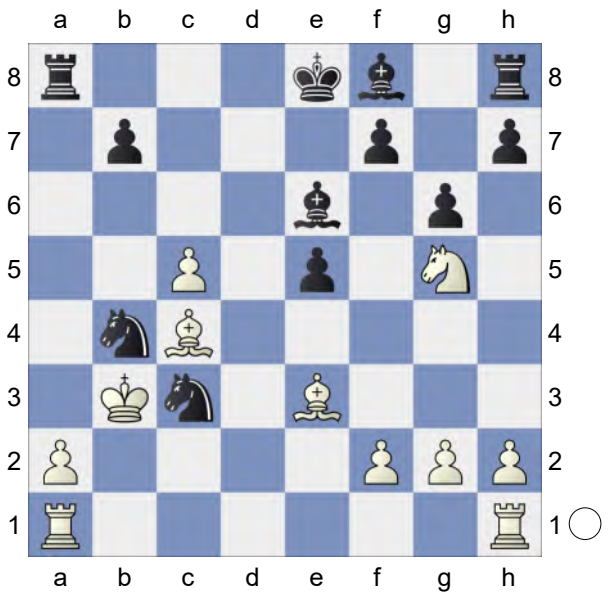
6.dxc5
[6.Be2]
[6.Be3]
6...Qxd1+
[6...Qxc5 7.Na3]
7.Kxd1 e5 8.Be3 Nd5 9.b4 g6
[9...Bf5 10.Bc4 0-0-0 11.Kc1]
[9...f6]
10.Kc2 Bf5+
[10...a5 11.b5 *(11.Bb5 axb4 12.Nxe5 Nxe3+ 13.fxe3 Bf5+ 14.Kb3 Be6+ 15.Kb2 0-0-0)* 11...e4 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Nd2 f5]
[10...Bg7 11.Nbd2 *(11.Bc4)* 11...0-0 12.Bc4]

(Diagram)



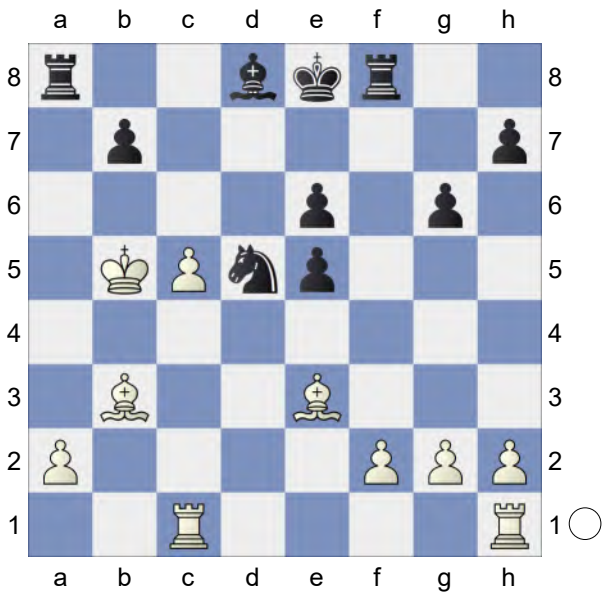
11.Kb3 This line, which has gained some popularity this year, was examined in CBM 147, annotations to Aronian - Navara. **11...a5 12.Bc4N** This move itself is quite obvious but GM Veselin Topalov's idea is very interesting.
[12.Bb5 Bg7]
[12.b5 a4+ 13.Kb2 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Na5 15.Nxe5 Bxc5]
12...Be6 13.Ng5!?
[13.b5 a4+ 14.Kb2 Na5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.Nbd2 *(16.Nxe5 Bg7)* 16...f6]
13...axb4 14.cxb4 An ambitious attempt. White holds his pawn but leaves his king in the centre.
[14.Nxe6 Na5+ 15.Kc2 Nxc4 16.Nxf8 Ndxe3+ 17.fxe3 Nxe3+ 18.Kb3 Nxg2]
14...Ncxb4 15.Nc3
[15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Re1 Or Nc6]
15...Nxc3
[15...Nxe3! 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.fxe3 Bxc5 18.Ne4 b6]

(Diagram)

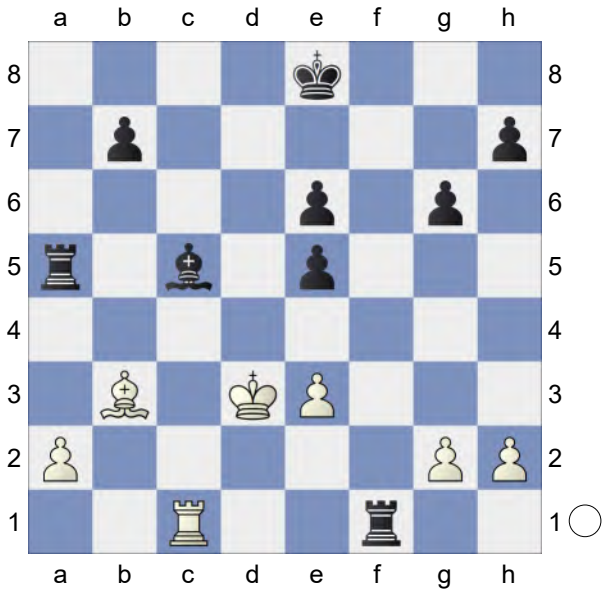


16.Nxe6
[16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Kxb4 Nd5+ 18.Kb5 Be7 19.Ne4 *(19.Nxe6 Ra6)* 19...Nxe3 20.fxe3 Ra3]
16...fxe6 17.Kxb4
[17.Kxc3 Nd5+ 18.Kd2 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Bxc5 20.Bxe6]
17...Nd5+ 18.Kb5?! Be7?
[18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 Rc8 20.Rac1 Rxc5+ 21.Kb6 A third pawn has gone but the threat of losing the rook for the c2-pawn forces a liquidation into a drawish endgame.]
19.Rac1
[19.Rhd1 Nc3+ White has won a second pawn but Black is now even more active. *(19...Nxe3 20.fxe3 Rc8 21.Rac1 Rxc5+ 22.Kb6 Kf7)* 20.Kb6 Nxd1?! 21.Rxd1]
19...Bd8 20.Bb3!
[20.Bd2 0-0 21.f3]
20...Rf8

(Diagram)

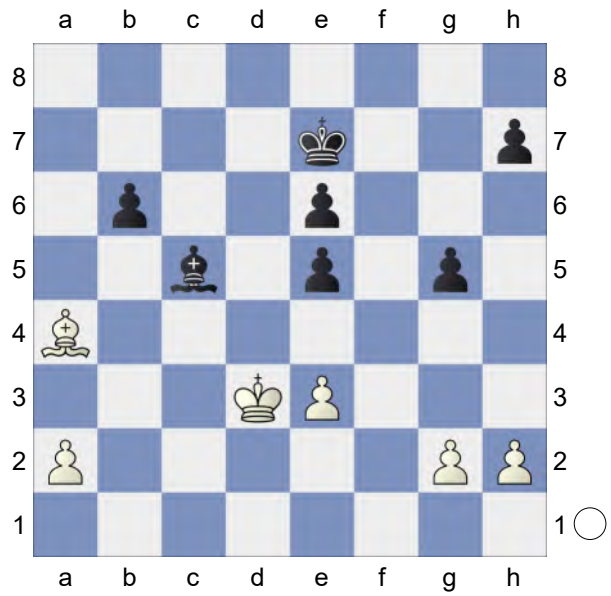


21.Rhd1 Ra5+ 22.Kc4? Both players start committing mistakes in complications. **22...Be7? 23.Kd3 Nxe3 24.fxe3 Bxc5 25.Rf1**
[25.Bxe6 Black has considerably improved the position of his pieces. Rf2 26.Rd2 e4+ 27.Kc2 Rf6]
25...Rxf1

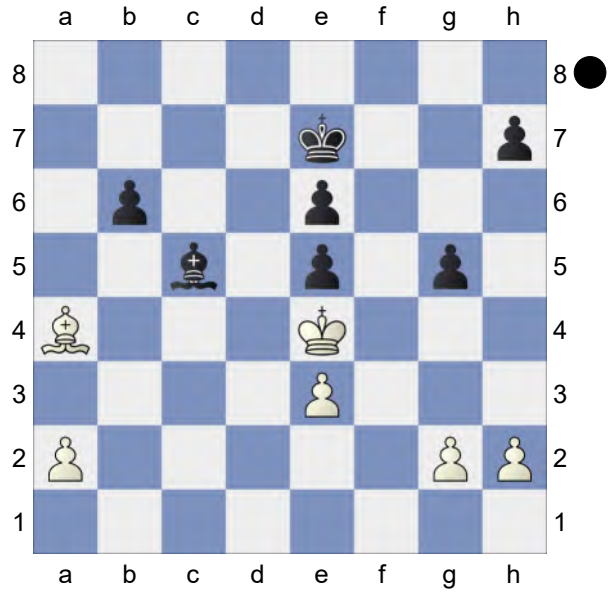


26.Rxf1! Ke7 27.Rc1 b6 28.Rc4 Ra8 29.Ra4 Rxa4
[29...Rd8+ 30.Ke2]
30.Bxa4 g5

(Diagram)



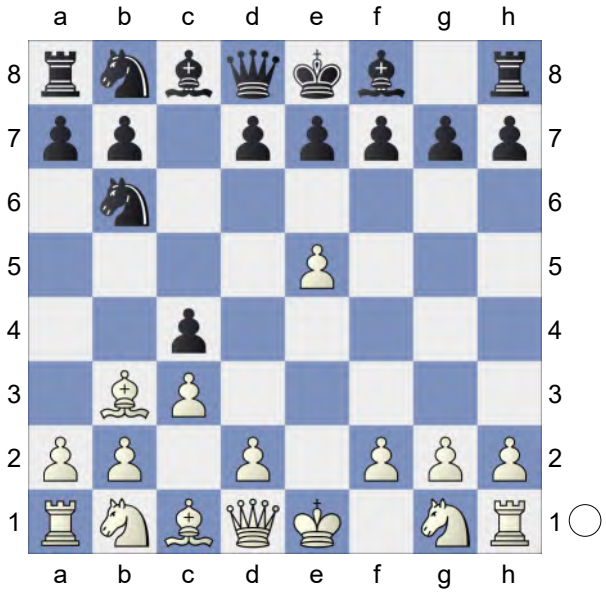
31.Ke4



½-½

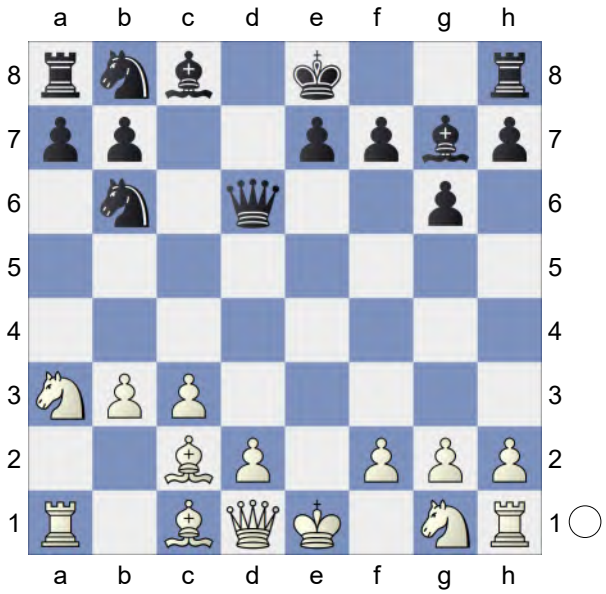
87 **B22**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Gelfand,Boris** **2676**
Legends of Chess Prelim rapid (5.1)
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4
[The position which is reached in the game more commonly arises via the move order 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 g6 10.Na3 and so on.]
4...Nb6 5.Bb3 c4



6.Bc2 d6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 g6 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Bg7

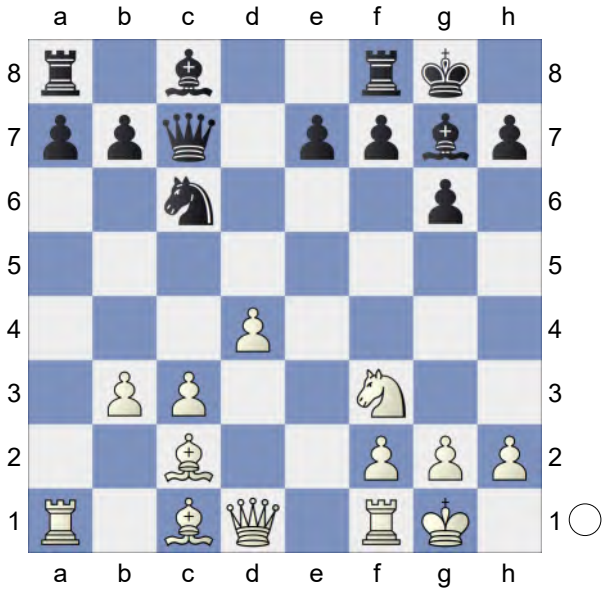
(Diagram)



11.Nf3 Nc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc4
[13.d4 Bg4 was played in J.Van Foreest - D.Dubov, Wijk aan Zee 2020 (1-0 in 47), which I discussed in the Archives.]
13...Qc7N
[13...Nxc4 14.bxc4 Be6 starts very complicated play. If the white c- and d-pawns can start rolling, he'll have a huge advantage, but Black believes he can attack, blockade and maybe capture one. 15.Qe2 Qc5 *(15...Ne5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Qxe5 Bxe5 18.Re1 Bd6 19.Be4 Bxc4 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Ba6 Bxa6 22.Rxa6 Rb7 23.Kf1* 27) 4.Nf3 Nc6 Main Line with-8. Bc2 Qxd6 9.O-O g6 #3*)* 16.Ra4 Na5 17.d4 *(17.Ba3 Qc7=* S.Vysochin - M. Brodsky, Kharkov 2009 (1/2-1/2 in 23) *)* 17...Qc7 *(17...Bxc4 18.dxc5 Bxe2 19.Rxa5* Black must now prevent Ra3! *Bxc3 20.Ra2 Bxf1 21.Kxf1* And now Be4 would win. *Rfc8±)* 18.Bd3 *(18.c5 b6 19.g3 Bd5 20.Be4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Qd7 22.Ra2 Nc4=* B.Ivanov - U.Nogga, ICCF email 2015 (1/2-1/2 in 27)*)* 18...Rac8 19.Bf4 Qxf4 20.Rxa5 Qc7 21.Rxa7

c5 is the strong threat. Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Qxc4 23.Qxe7 Qxc3 24.Rxb7 Bxd4 and a draw was soon agreed in K. Piorun - R.Wojtaszek, Warsaw 2018 (1/2-1/2 in 31). 25.Nxd4 Qxd4 26.Rd7 Qc5 27.Qxc5 Rxc5 28.Rfd1 h5 29.h4 Ra5 30.Rd8 Rxd8 31.Rxd8+ ½-½ Rasmussen,P (2633)-Pires,A (2750) 57/(88) Mangalia 1992 (1.2)]

14.Nxb6 Qxb6 White is slightly better. **15.d4 Qc7**



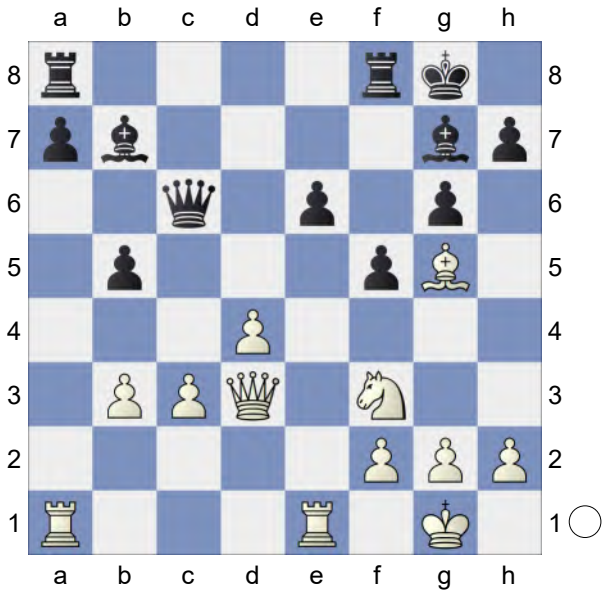
16.Re1 b5 17.Bg5 e6 18.Be4 0.20/20

[Unsurprisingly, Leela suggests 18.h4!?± , which makes a lot of sense here. Giri plays the same move a few moves later, but with a different idea.]

[18.h4± 0.58/20]

18...Bb7= 19.Qd3 f5! A very responsible decision, placing his faith in his light square control. **20.Bxc6 Qxc6**

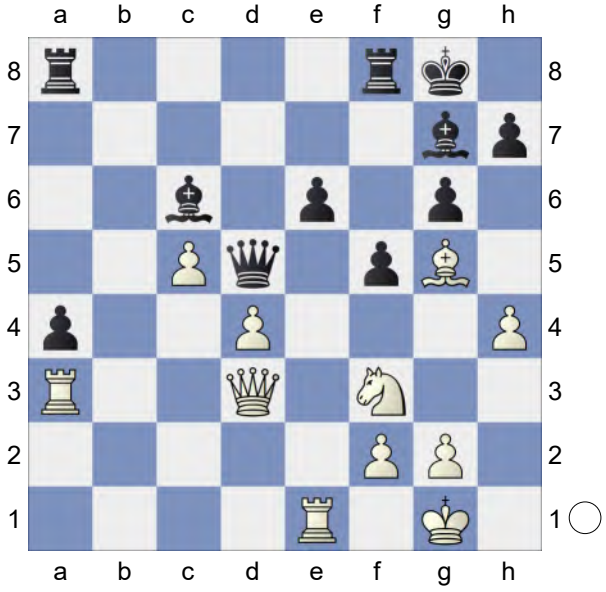
(Diagram)



Black is weak on the dark squares **21.h4** -0.26/20 This is less of an attacking gesture than important prophylaxis, since if Black could achieve ...h6 and ...g5 the g2-point would come under pressure.

[21.b4± 0.38/19]

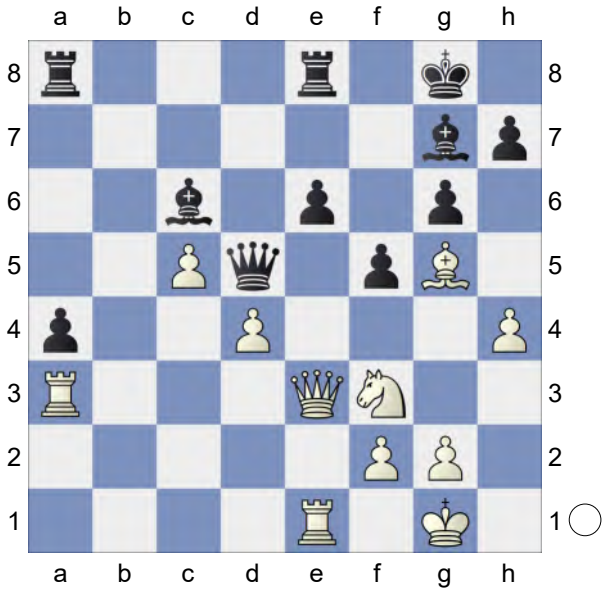
21...a5 22.c4 bxc4 23.bxc4 a4 24.c5 Qd5 25.Ra3 Prevents Qb3. **25...Bc6**



26.Qe3 Rfe8 0.54/22

[26...Rfb8! and ...Rb3 would give White some problems to solve. ...Rb3 would now be deadly. 27.Qxe6+

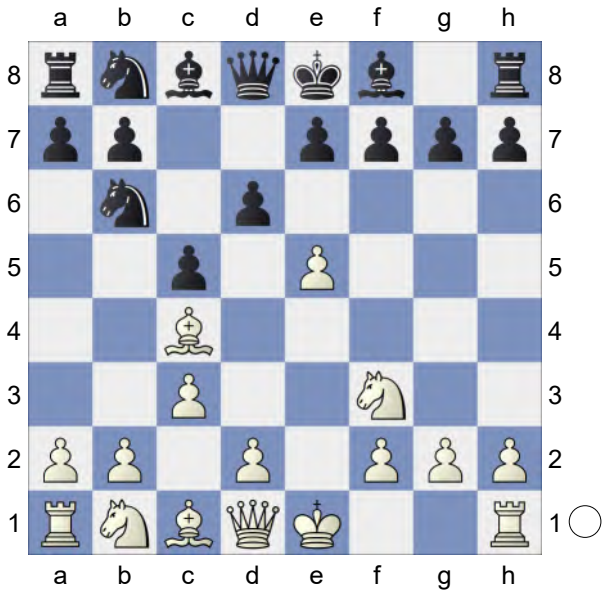
Qxe6 28.Rxe6 Bxf3 29.gxf3 Bxd4 aiming for ...Rb3! 30.Be3 and White should hold.]
[26...Rfb8!= 0.01/24]
27.Bh6± Bf6 28.Bg5 -0.01/20
[28.Bf4± 0.62/23]
28...Bg7= 29.Bh6 Bf6! 30.Bg5 -0.01/21
[Better is 30.Bf4± 0.61/24]
30...Bg7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

88 **B22**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2755**
Warsaw Superbet Rapid (8) 10.05.2024
[Kitty Kat]

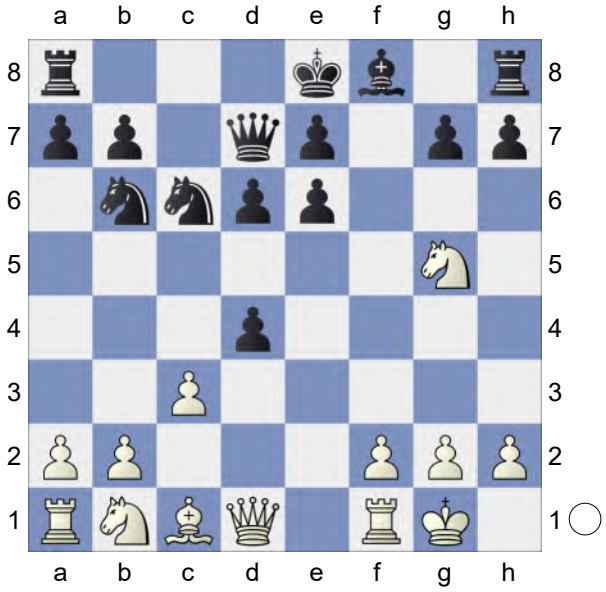
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Black uses an unusual move order to throw his opponent on his own resources. White still manages to fight for an edge, but when he overlooks a tactic the initiative passes to Black. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bc4 Nb6**



6.e6
[6.Bb3 d5 *(6...Nc6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 Qxe6 10.a4 Rd8 11.a5 Nd5 12.a6 b5 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 b4 15.Re1 Qd7 16.Nbd2 Nb6 17.Nb3 e6 18.Bg5 Be7 19.Nc5 Qd5 20.Bxe7 Kxe7 21.Rc1* 1-0 (37) Ding,Y (2422)-Lu,M (2176) CHN-chT DivA 2023 (2.2)*)* 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Bf4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 e6 11.h4 Bd7 12.h5 Rc8 13.Nd2 Bc5 14.Qd3 f5 15.Be3 0-0 16.f4 Bb5 17.Qxb5 Bxe3 18.g3 Bxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Nc4+ 20.Kc2 Rf7 0-1 (35) Howell,D (2614)-Miroshnichenko,E (2696) 37th Greek Teams 2009 (9)]

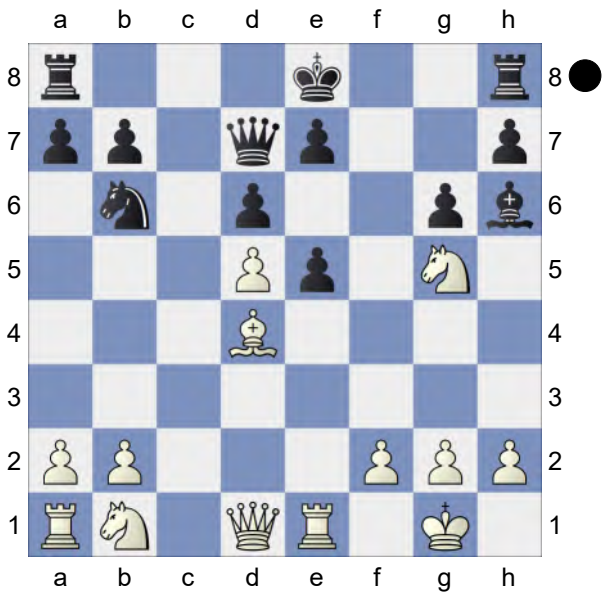
6...Bxe6N
[6...Nxc4 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.exf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxc4+ d5 10.Qf4+ Kg8 11.d4 e6 12.0-0 Bd6 13.Qe3 Qe7 14.Na3 cxd4 15.cxd4 a6 16.Re1 Bd7 17.Nc2 Rf8 18.b3 Rf5 19.a4 Qf6 20.Ba3 Bb8 21.Rad1 0-1 (33) Grandelius,N (2647)-Antipov,M (2588) 135/48 Stockholm 2018 h5 22.Nb4 Rh6 23.Nxc6 Bxc6 24.Rd3 Rg6 25.Qe2 Rf4 26.Re3 Re4 27.Bb2 Bf4 28.Rxe4 dxe4 29.Ne5 Qh4 30.g3 Bxe5 31.dxe5 e3 32.Bc1 Rxg3+ 33.fxg3 Qe4 Chapter B00-Games Chapter B00 Game 14]

7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.d4 White is slightly better. **8...cxd4 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Ng5 Qd7**

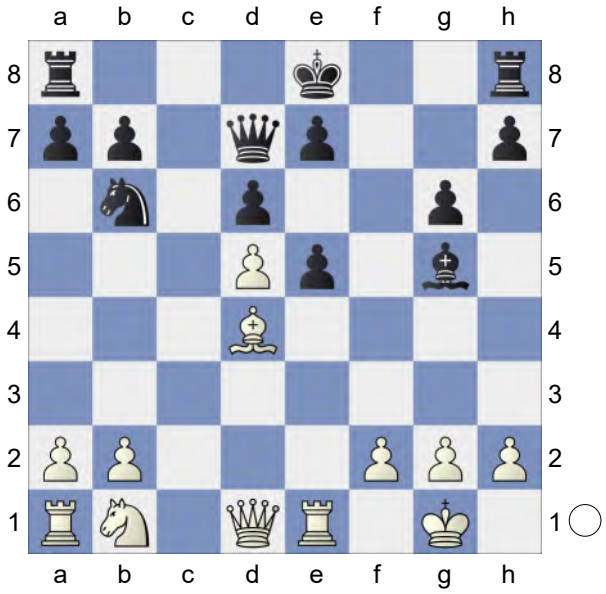


11.cxd4 g6 12.Re1 e5 13.d5 Nd4 14.Be3 Bh6 15.Bxd4

(Diagram)

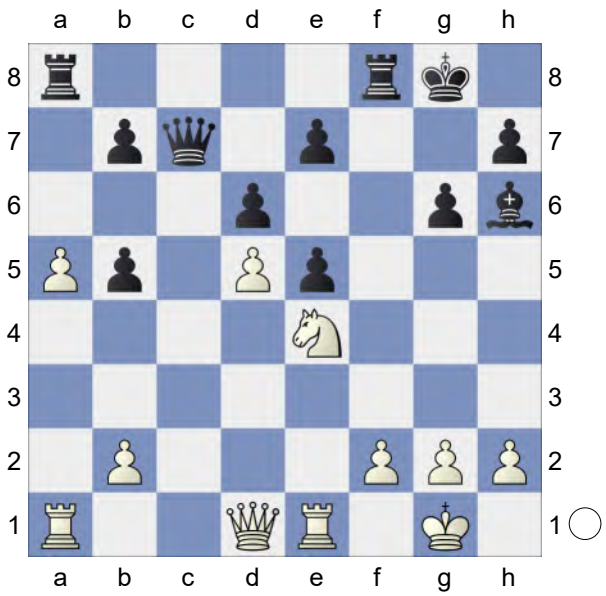


aiming for Be3. **15...Bxg5**

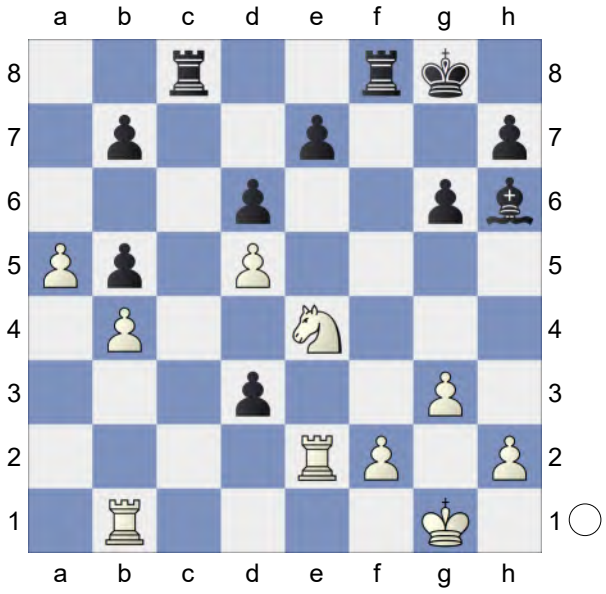


16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Nc3 Prevents Ra4 **17...0-0 18.Ne4 Bh6 19.a4** -0.91/21
[19.Nc3= -0.26/17 keeps the balance.]
19...b5∓ 20.a5 Qc7

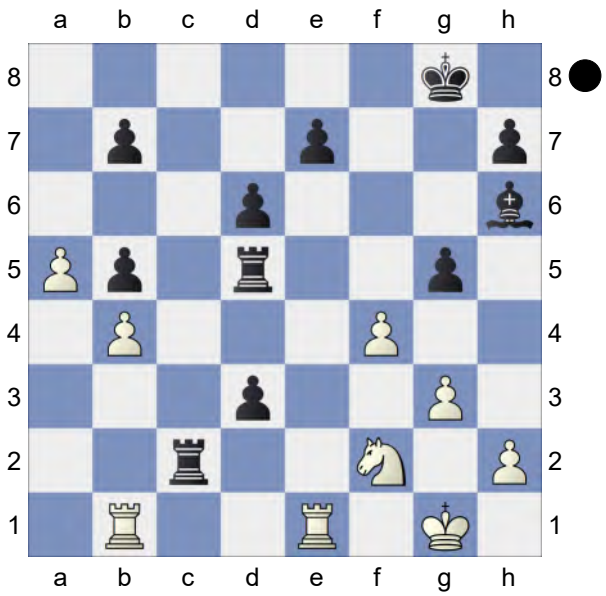
(Diagram)



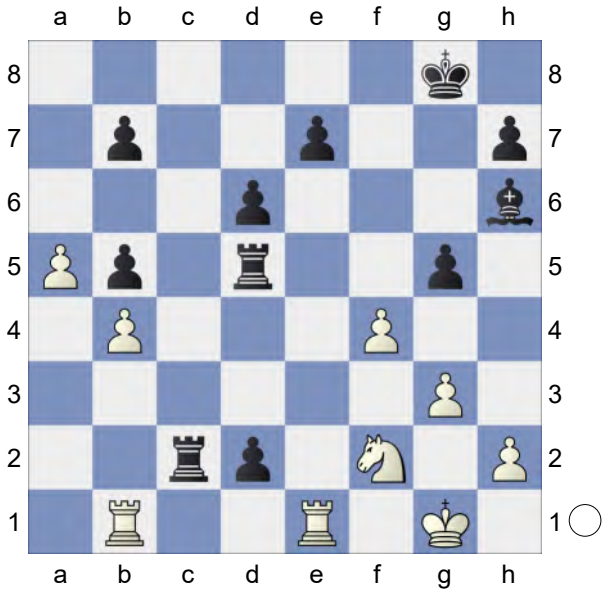
21.b4 Qc4 22.Rb1 -1.26/21
[⌓22.g3 -0.79/19]
22...Rac8 Black is more active. **23.Re2** -1.93/22
[23.Qg4∓ -0.98/20]
23...Qd4-+ 24.Qxd4 exd4 25.g3 -3.15/22
[25.Rd1 -2.05/21 keeps fighting.]
25...d3



26.Ree1 Rf5 27.f4 Rxd5 28.Rec1 Rc2 29.Nf2 g5 30.Re1? -7.15/23
[30.Rd1 -3.59/21]



30...d2

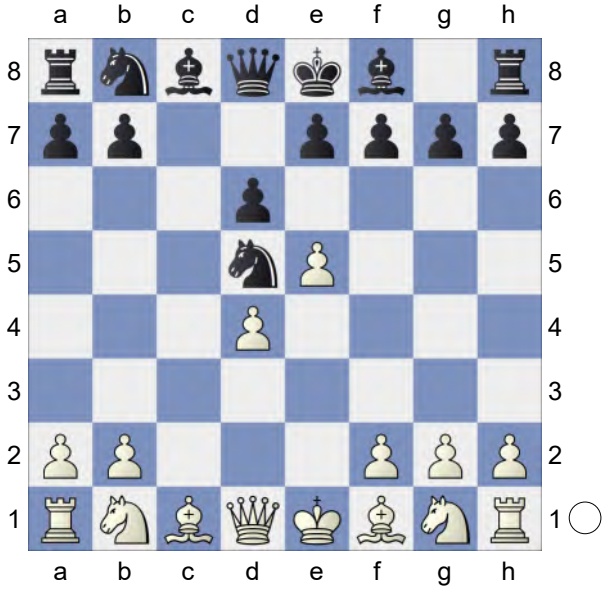


Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.05 (flawless)

0-1

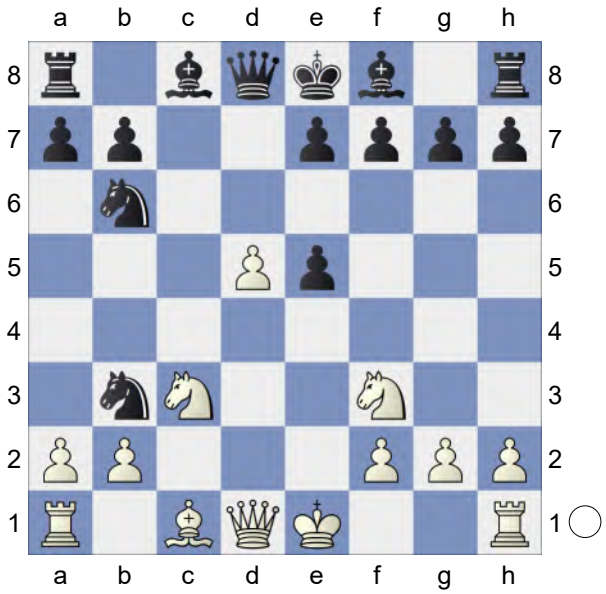
89 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2764**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2763**
Online Olym Div Top-B rapid (1.1)
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3!? One of my old favourites, which I advocated in a white repertoire book ages ago. **8...dxe5 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 Nxb3**

(Diagram)



11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nxe5 exd5 13.Be3 Bxb6 is the strong threat. **13...Bd6 14.Qb5+ Kf8 15.f4** The position is equal.

[Dave Smerdon discussed this line in the Archives, including the main move 15.Nf3 - see Z.Tomazini - G. Adrelean, EICC 2013 (0-1 in 63). I'd never seen Mamedyarov's move before, but it makes some sense, supporting the strong knight on e5. Black hardly wants to capture on e5, giving up the bishop pair and creating a half-open f-file towards his king. It's also Leela's top choice, so I expect that Giri wasn't surprised.]

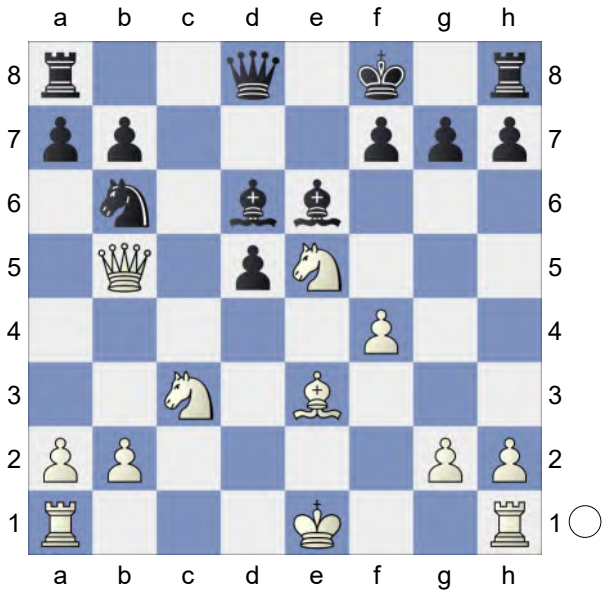
15...Be6

[15...f6 0.38/20 15...Be6 -0.12 16.0-0! Be6 17.Rad1 *(17.a4!?)* 17...Kg8? 0.61/19 M.Tassopoulos - G. Grigorov, Kavala 2005 (1/2-1/2 in 25) *(17...Qe8! 18.Qe2∞;* Black should try *17...Qe8=* -0.01/18 *)* 18.f5!± Bxe5 19.fxe6 Bxc3 1.42/23 *(19...Qd6±* 0.69/20 *)* 20.bxc3± Qe8 21.Qxe8+ Rxe8 22.Bxb6 axb6 23.Rxd5± with a better rook endgame.]

[15...Bxe5 16.fxe5 Be6 17.Rd1

gives Black an extra option: *(17.0-0* is likely to transpose to lines covered later *)* 17...Qh4+ 18.Bf2 Qc4" L.Snyder - E.Sandberg, San Francisco 2009 (1-0 in 49).]

[15...Qe8 0.61/19 15...h5 -0.06 16.0-0! Qxb5 1.11/21 *(16...Bf5±* 0.45/19 *)* 17.Nxb5± Be7 1.17/23 P.Royset - D.Yevseev, Norway 1997 (1/2-1/2 in 23) *(⌓17...Bxe5* 0.73/21 *18.fxe5 Bg4)* 18.Nc7± Rb8 19.a4!± with a very unpleasant initiative in the endgame.]



Developing and protecting d5. f5 is impossible since the e5-knight would hang. **16.0-0 Kg8**

[16...Bxe5 17.fxe5 is likely to transpose to lines covered later Kg8 18.Rad1 h5⩱ Z.Tomazini - E.Vorobiov, Trieste 2018 (1/2-1/2 in 42) is similar to the game, but Giri's play is more ambitious by retaining his dark-squared bishop. *(18...h6* (I.Khamrakulov - P. Blehm, Calicut 1998 (1/2-1/2 in 43)) *19.b3⩱* intending Bd4 and a4 *)*]

17.Rad1 -0.40/18

[17.Bd4= 0.01/18 is superior.]

17...h5!?∓ A novelty, and a very logical one. Black aims to push the h-pawn as far as it can go, while gaining space for his rook to develop in front of the kingside pawns.

[17...h6 18.Bd4!? *(18.a4 Bxe5 19.fxe5 Qc7* Prevents b3 *20.Bd4⩱* with reasonable compensation in H. Jonkman - E.Van den Doel, Leeuwarden 1997 (0-1 in 55).*)* 18...Bxe5 19.Bxe5 looks good since White can try to attack g7 and f4-f5-f6 is a threat. Qd7 is probably a sensible decision, when 20.Qxd7 *(20.Bd4!?⩱)* 20...Bxd7 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Rxd5 Bc6 soon led to a draw in R. Skytte - N.De Firmian, Lisbon 2000 (1/2-1/2 in 28).]

[Weakening the dark squares with 17...g6?! 0.58/18 17...Bxe5 0.08 (L. Farkas - J.Jordan, LSS email 2009 (1/2-1/2 in 46)) gives White promising compensation after 18.Bd4 *(18.a4!?)*]

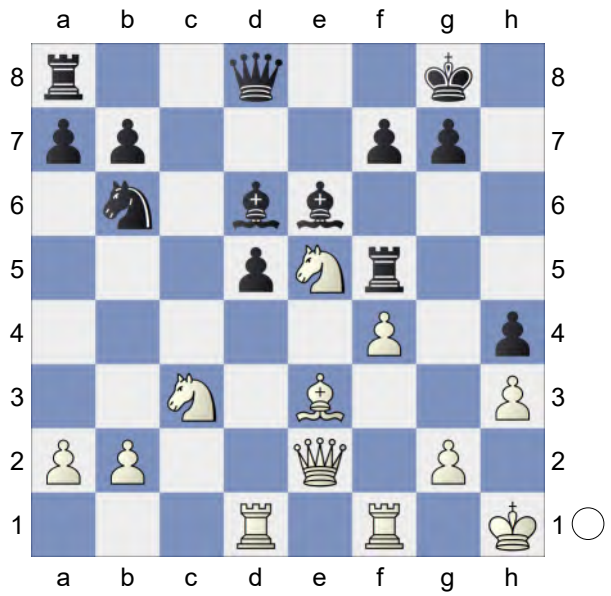
[17...Rc8 0.33/19 17...Qc7 -0.28 was agreed drawn in R.Blittowsky - E. Iordanyan, email 2012.]

18.Kh1 -0.35/19

[18.Bd4= 0.03/19 feels stronger.]

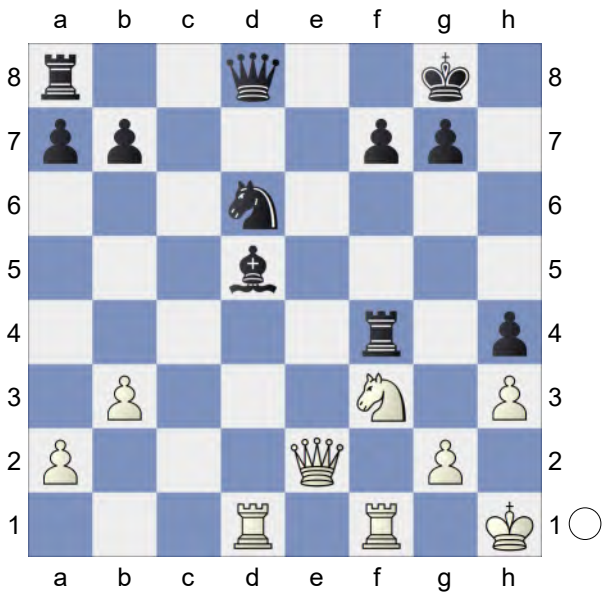
18...h4 19.h3 Rh5 This is modern chess! Show this game to a top player in the 40's and he would think it was played by two beginners, instead of two top players who have absorbed the lessons and suggestions of the best neural nets. **20.Qe2 Rf5**

(Diagram)



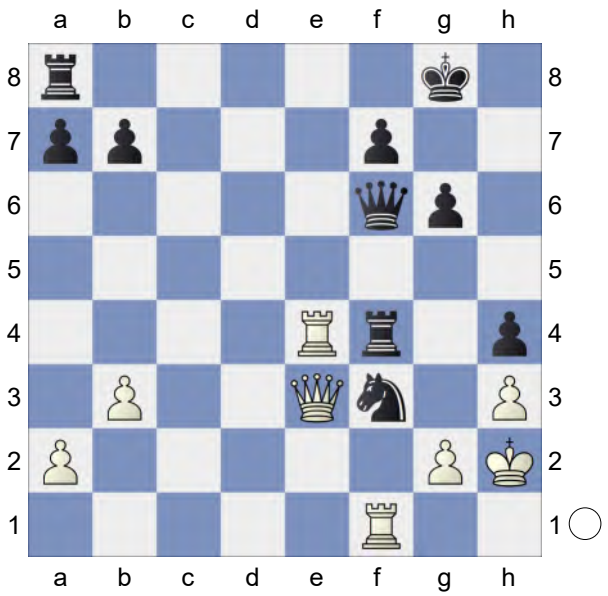
21.Nf3 Excellent horsemanship.
21...Nc4! White should prevent ...Nxe3!
[21...Bxf4 22.Nd4 Bxe3 23.Nxf5±]
22.Bc1 -0.65/20 The first real mistake of the game.
[22.Bf2 keeps full compensation for the pawn, leading to a draw after perfect play: Bxf4 Black wants to play ...Bg3. 23.b3 Nd6 Hoping for ...Bg3. 24.Bxh4 Qa5 *(24...Qc8!? 25.Qe1 Rh5=)* 25.Nd4 Bg5! 26.Nxf5 Nxf5 27.Rxf5 Bxf5 28.Rxd5 Qxc3 29.Bxg5=]
[22.Bf2!= -0.01/22]
22...Bxf4 23.b3N Nd6 24.Bxf4 Rxf4 25.Nxd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)

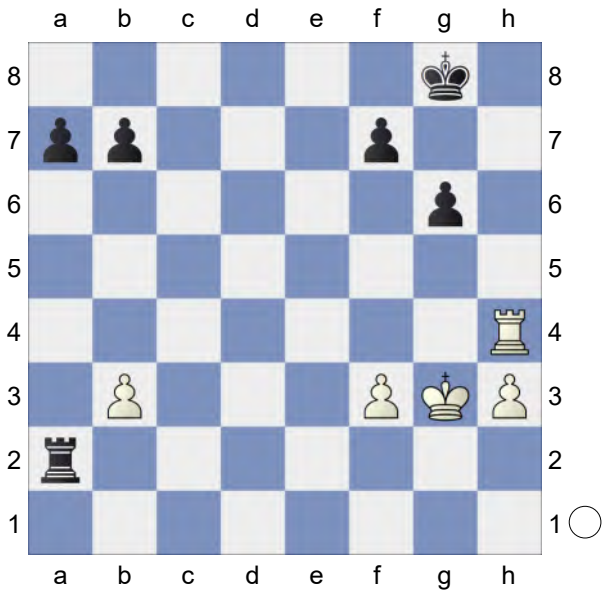


26.Rxd5 Qf6! Giri is playing impeccably, and White doesn't have full compensation for his pawn deficit.
27.Re5 -2.13/22 Against Ne4
[27.Qd3∓]
[27.Kg1∓ -0.82/21]
27...Nf5!-+ 28.Kh2 Nd4!
[But not 28...Ng3 29.Re8+ Rxe8 30.Qxe8+ Kh7 31.Rd1∓]
29.Qe3 g6? Finally Giri shows his humanity!
[29...Nxf3+ 30.Rxf3 Rxf3 31.gxf3 *(31.Qxf3?* -25.05/23 31.gxf3 -2.24 *Qxe5+* is the difference*)* 31...g6-+ is much better. White's only hope of salvation is a rook endgame. In a pure queen endgame, he'll drop more pawns. In a queen and rook endgame, he'll get mated.]
30.Re4! Nxf3+

(Diagram)



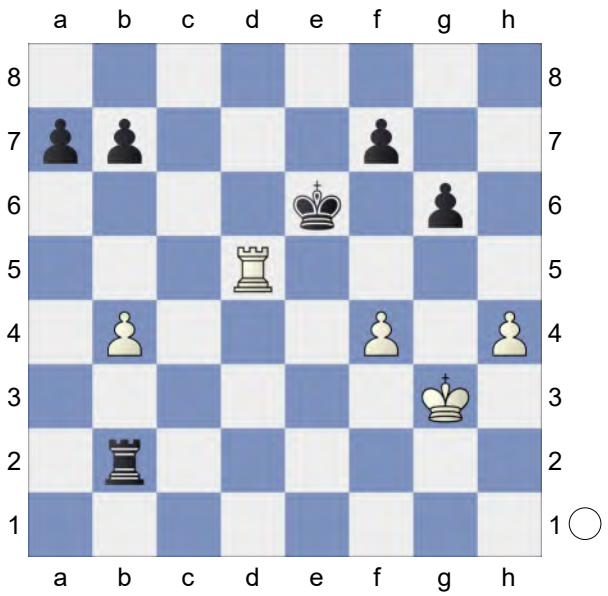
31.Rxf3 Rxf3 32.Qxf3 Well judged, for the reasons given at move 29. **32...Qxf3 33.gxf3∓** Endgame. KR-KR **33...Rd8 34.Rxh4 Rd2+ 35.Kg3 Rxa2**



This seems to be on a razor edge between a draw and a win with perfect play. We're done with the opening so I'll only give minimal comments. Black is more active. **36.Rd4 Rb2 37.b4 Kg7 38.h4 Kf6 39.f4** -2.15/24

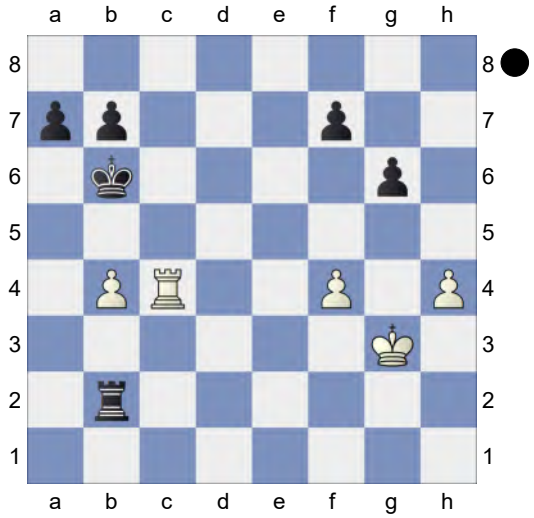
[39.Rf4+∓ -1.19/22 Kg7 40.Rg4]

39...Kf5 White must now prevent ... Rb3+. **40.Rd5+ Ke6!**



41.Re5+ Kd6! 42.b5? -3.76/25 Losing a second pawn. White can regain one pawn, but only at the cost of putting his rook horribly out of position.

[42.Rb5! Kc6 -0.01/22 *(42...Rb3+∓* -0.92/21 *43.Kg2 b6)* 43.Rc5+= Kb6 44.Rc4

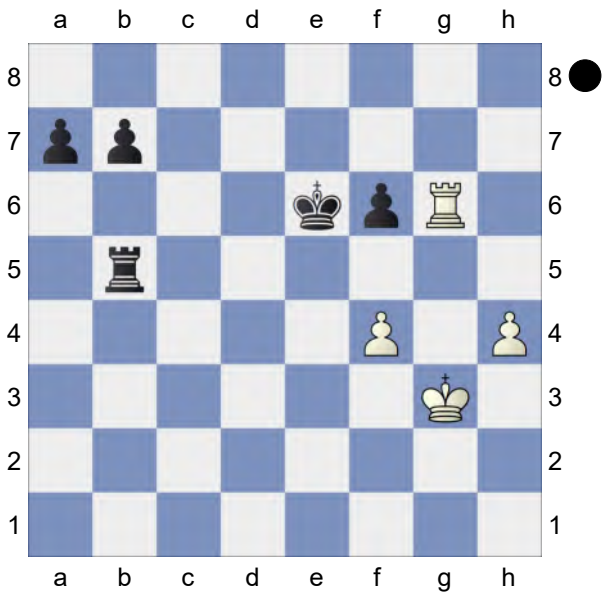


f5!-+ and Black probably wins.]

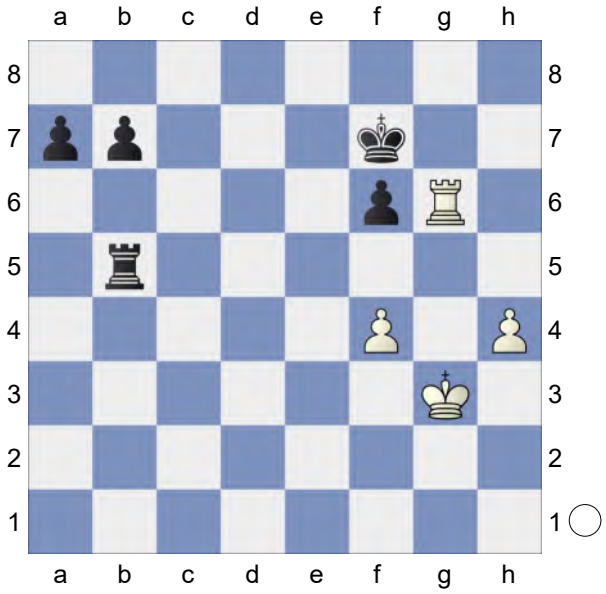
[42.Rb5∓ -1.49/24]

42...f6-+ 43.Re8 Rxb5 44.Rg8 Ke6 45.Rxg6

(Diagram)

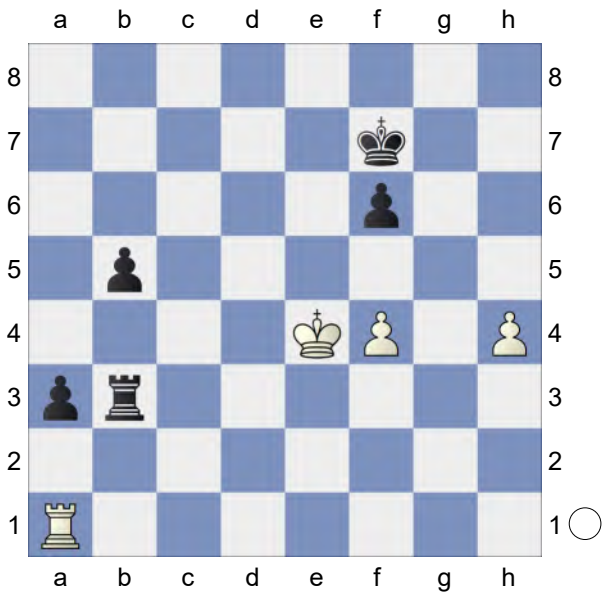


Kf7



Against Rg7+ **46.Rg4** Black is clearly winning. **46...a5 47.Kf3 a4 48.Rg1 a3 49.Ra1 Rb3+ 50.Ke4 b5**

(Diagram)



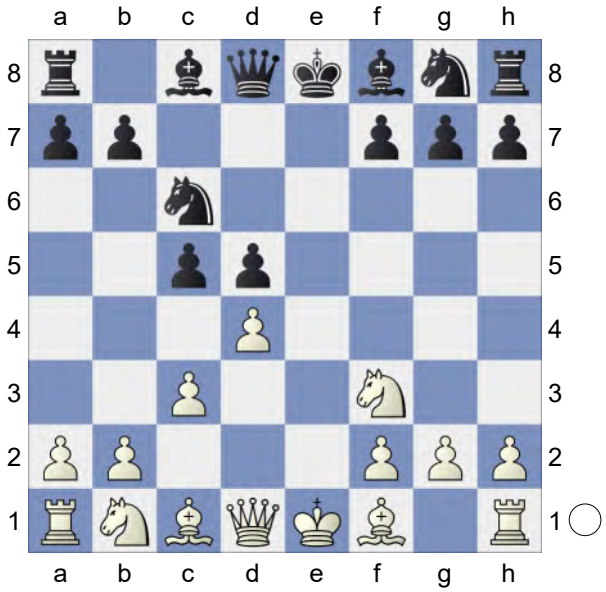
Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

0-1

90 **C09**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2764**
■ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2678**
Online Olym Div Top-B rapid (4.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C09: French Tarrasch: 3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 Nc6

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6

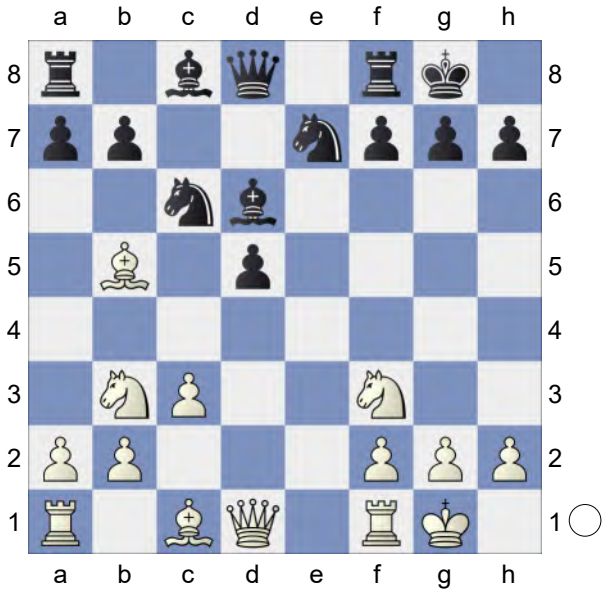


6.Bb5 Bd6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 0-0N

[9...a6 10.Bd3 Ba7 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Be3 Bb8 14.Nbd4 0-0 15.Be2 Re8 16.Qa4 Bh5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.g3 Ba7 19.Kg2 Bg6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Bxa7 Rxa7 22.Bd3 Rb8 23.Bxg6 Nxg6 24.Re2 ½-½ (43) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Berkes,F (2596) 4NCL 2005-6 Birmingham ENG (1)]

[9...Bg4 10.Nb3 Bd6 11.Be2 0-0 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Re8 14.Nfd4 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Qb6 16.Bxe7 Rxe7 17.Ned4 Rd8 18.Nf5 Re6 19.Qc2 Be5 20.Rad1 a5 21.g3 Bf6 22.Rfe1 a4 23.Nbd4 Nxd4 24.Nxd4 0-1 (65) 9.0-0 ♗d7 10. ♗b3_67473 (2385)-Hantel,T (2490) 116/173 Gibraltar 2013 (5)]

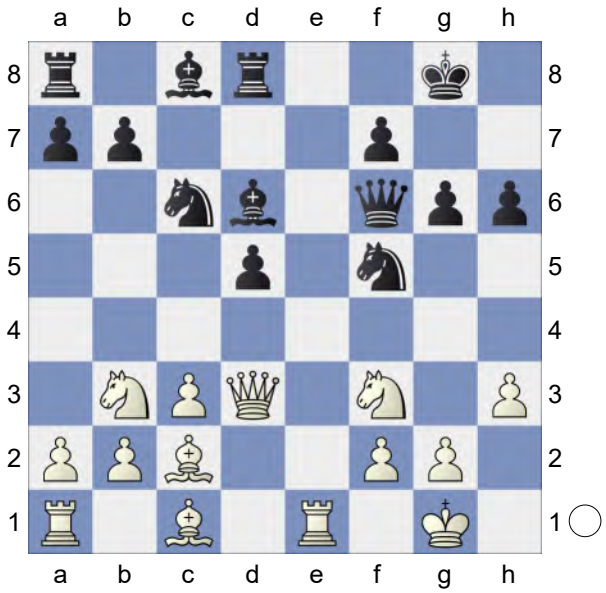
10.Nb3 Bd6



11.Bd3 h6 12.h3 Nf5 13.Re1 Qf6 14.Bc2 Rd8 15.Qd3

[15.Qxd5? Bh2+ 16.Nxh2 Rxd5-+]

15...g6



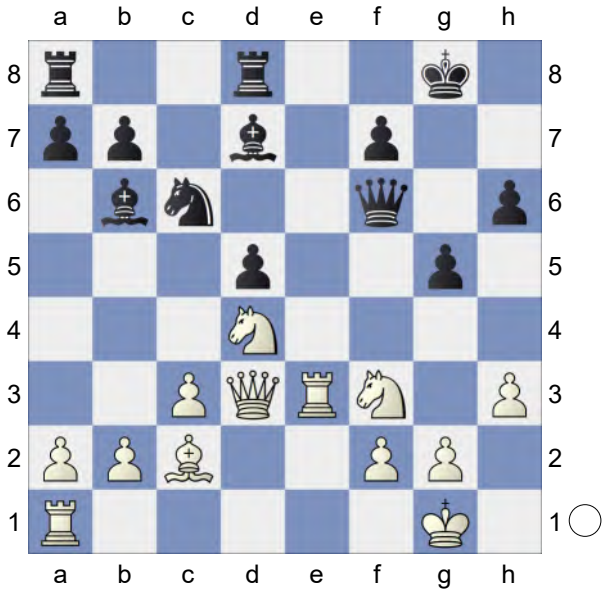
16.Qd2

[16.Qxd5? Bh2+ 17.Nxh2 Rxd5-+]

16...g5 17.Qd3 White is slightly better.

[17.Qxd5? too greedy. Bh2+ 18.Nxh2 Rxd5-+]

17...Bc7 18.Be3 Nxe3 19.Rxe3 Bb6 20.Nbd4 Bd7

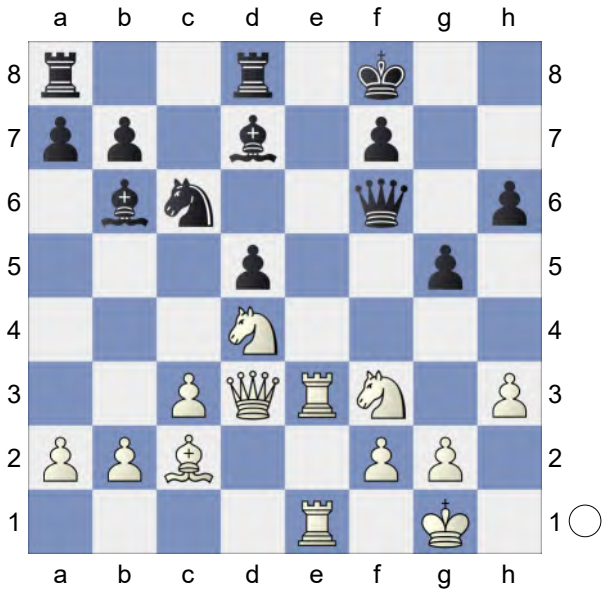


21.Rae1!

[Much worse is 21.Qh7+ Kf8∓]

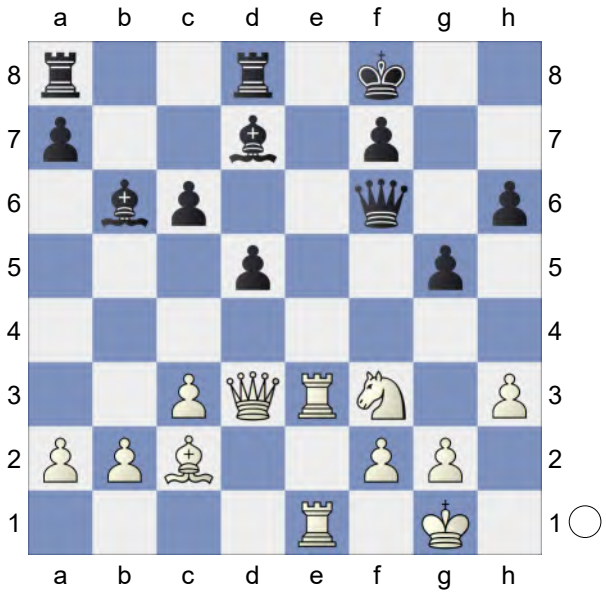
21...Kf8 1.10/19

[⌓21...a5 0.72/19]

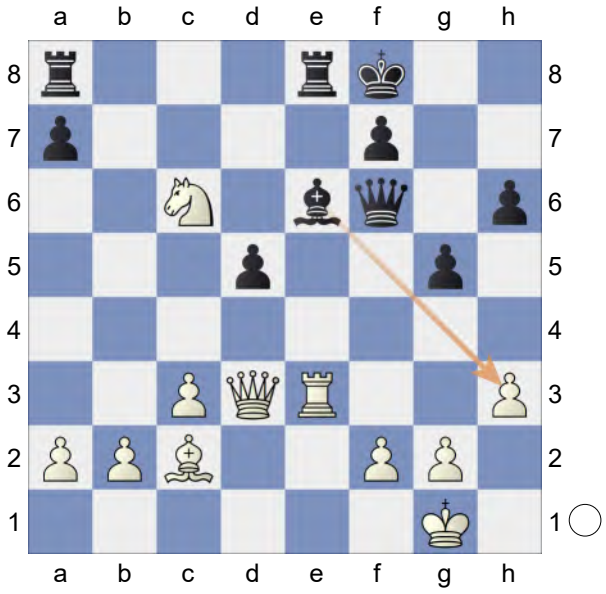


22.Nxc6 0.39/20 **bxc6±**

(Diagram)



23.Ne5! Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Qd4 would now be deadly. **24...Be6 25.Nxc6** Threatens to win with Rf3! **25...Re8**



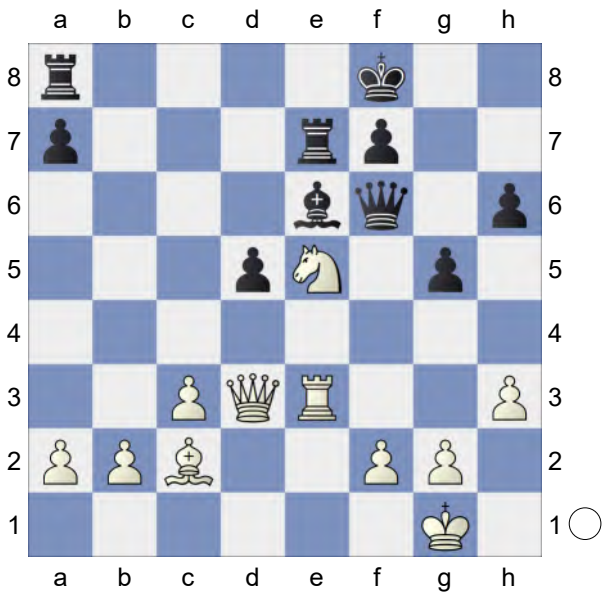
26.Ne5 0.62/20 White has more active pieces.

[26.Rf3!± 0.99/21 Qg7 27.Re3]

26...Re7 1.71/22

[26...Rac8± 0.62/20]

(Diagram)



27.Qd4!+- **Qg7?** 3.57/25 This costs Black the game.

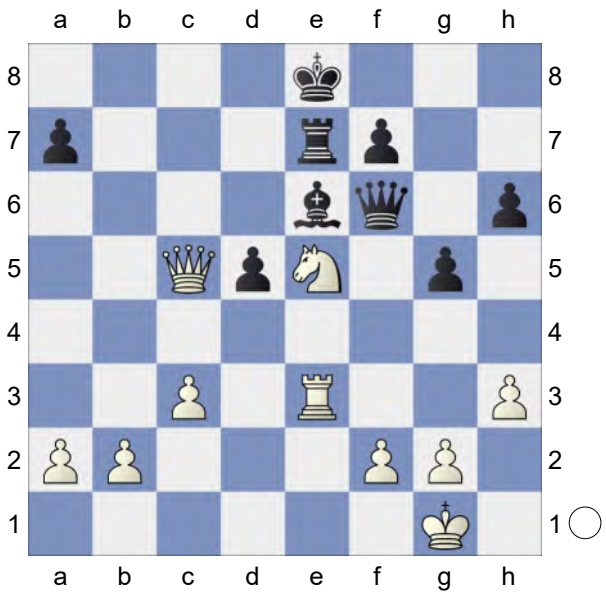
[27...Kg8± 1.55/22]

28.Qc5 **Rae8** **29.Ba4** **Qf6?** 10.71/22

[29...Kg8 3.24/21 30.Bxe8 Rxe8 31.Qxa7 Qf8]

30.Bxe8 White is clearly winning.

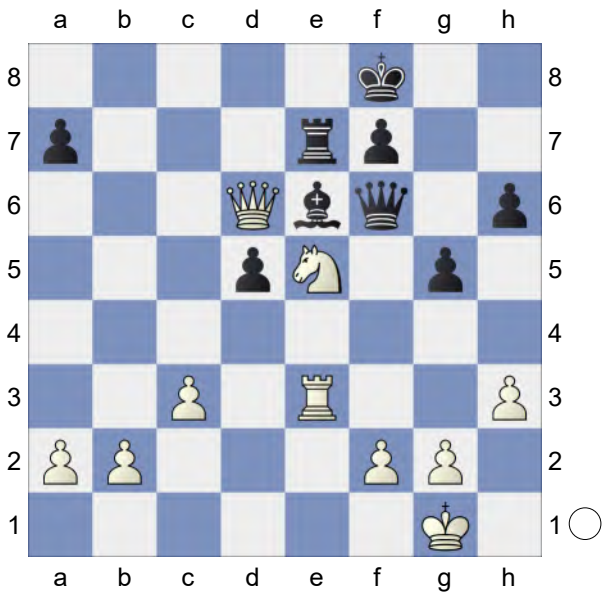
30...Kxe8



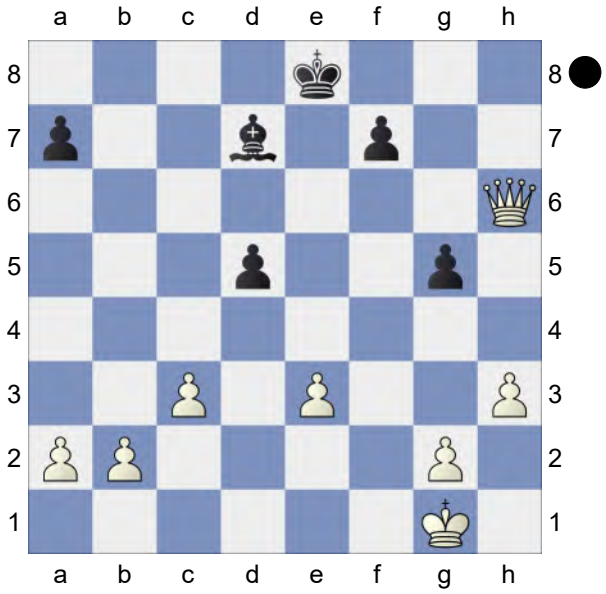
31.Qd6 Threatening mate with Qb8+.

31...Kf8

(Diagram)



32.Nd7+! **Bxd7** **33.Qxf6** **Rxe3** **34.Qxh6+** **Ke8** **35.fxe3**

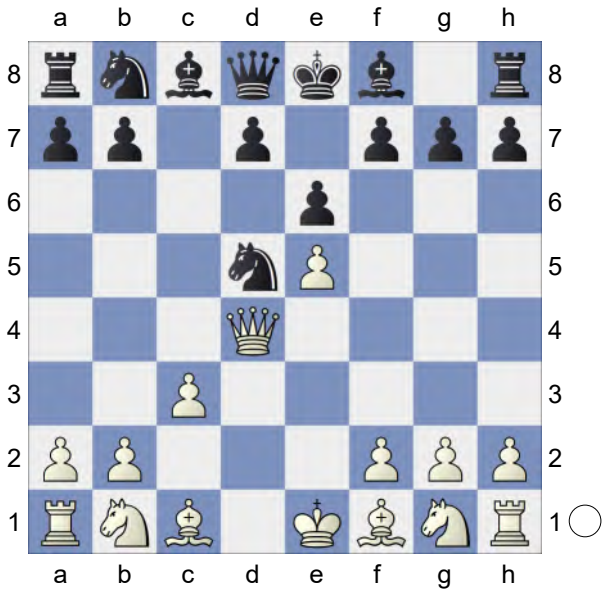


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.37

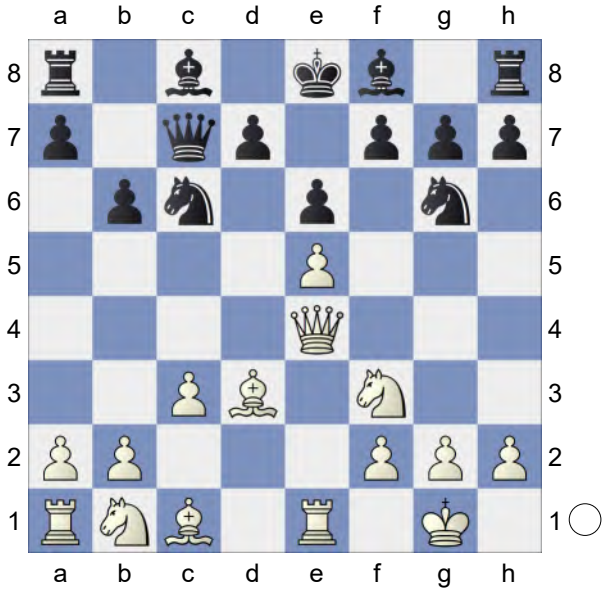
1-0

91 **B22**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2739**
■ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2751**
Morelia/Linares 25th (11) 03.03.2008
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 e6

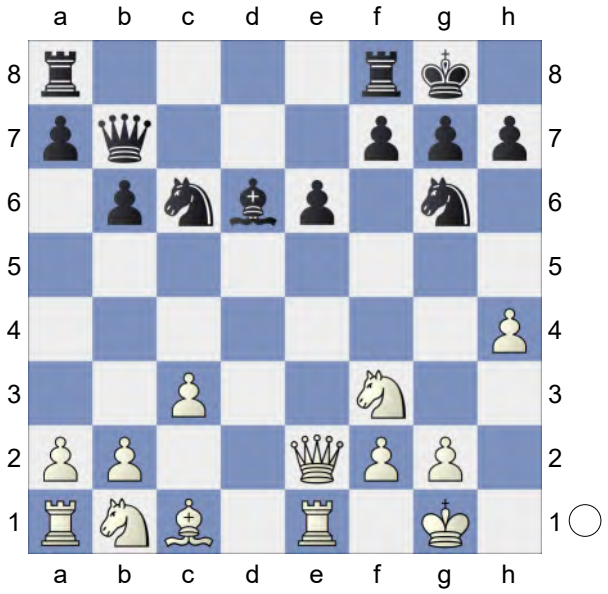


6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 Qc7
[7...d6 8.Nbd2 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nf6 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Bb5 Rc8 13.Ne4 Be7∓ 0-1 Li Shilong-Negi,P/Wijk aan Zee 2008/CBM 122 (48) 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bf4 a6 16.Be2 Ne5 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.0-0-0+ Ke7 19.Rhe1]
[7...f5 8.Qe2 *(8.exf6 Nxf6 9.Qh4 d5 10.Bd3 Bd6 11.Bg6+ Ke7 12.Bc2 h6 13.Bg6 Bd7 14.Bf4 e5 15.Bg3 Be8 16.Bxe8 Rxe8 17.Qa4 Kf7 18.0-0 e4 19.Nd4 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Qb6)* 8...Qc7 9.g3 d6 *(9...Nde7 10.Na3 Ng6 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Bf4 a6 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 b5 15.Bg2 Bb7 16.0-0 Be7 17.Rfd1 0-0 18.Rd3)* 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bg2 0-0 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bd7]
[7...Nde7 8.Na3 d5 9.exd6 Nf5 10.Bf4 Bxd6 11.0-0-0]
8.Bd3!?N Another unbelievable novelty at such an early stage of the game. It looks quite harmless; however, it brings some fresh air to the position.
[8.Nbd2 Nde7 9.Nc4 Ng6 10.Bf4 f6 11.0-0-0 b5= 0-1 Vallejo Pons,F-Topalov,V/Linares 2005/CBM 106/[Postny] (38) 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.exd6 Qa5 14.a3 0-0]
[8.g3 Nde7 9.Na3 Ng6 10.Nb5 Qb8 11.Bf4 a6= 0-1 Bacrot,E-Kortschnoj,V/Albert 1997/CBM 061/[Kortschnoj] (54) ⌓12.Nbd4! ⌓Nxd4! ⌓13.Qxd4! b6 14.Bg2 Bc5]
8...Nde7!?
[8...f5! 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qe2 *(10.Qh4 Ne5)* 10...d5N 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bg5]
9.0-0 Ng6!? Black wants to develop his pieces and not to keep his extra pawn by In fact, he sacrifices a pawn himself!
10.Re1 b6!?
[10...d6?!]

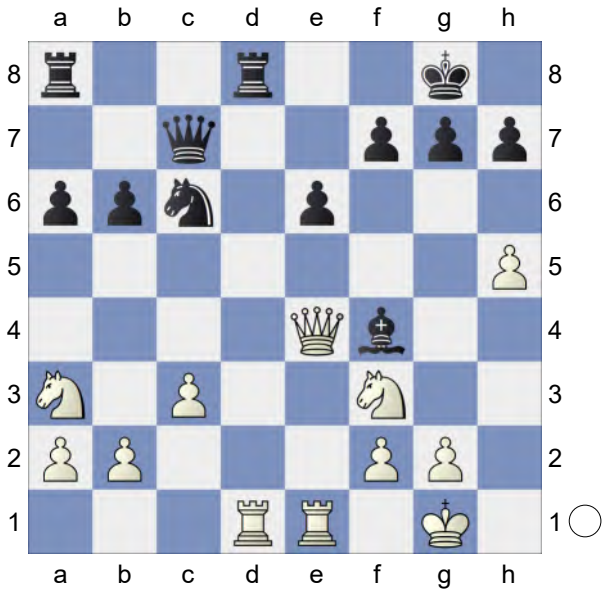


11.h4 Bb7 12.Qe2 d6 13.exd6 Development is a problem for White so

he decides to take some material.
13...Bxd6 14.Ba6 0-0 15.Bxb7 Qxb7

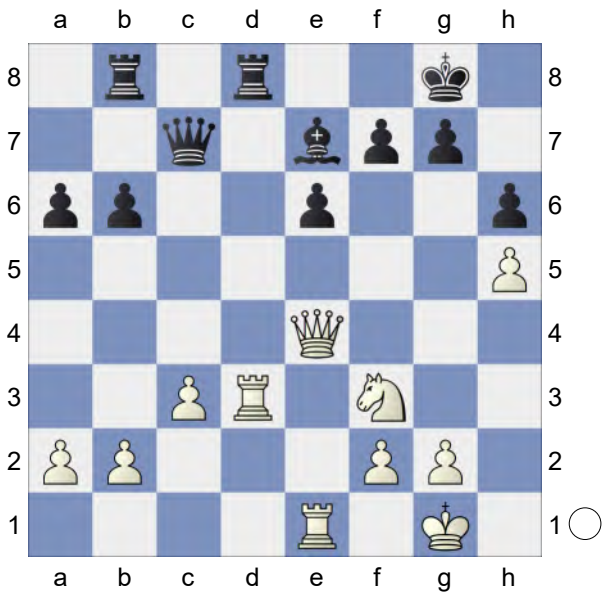


16.h5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 White has given the pawn back but his rook is now active.
17...Bxf4! 18.Qe4?! Qc7?! Missing
19.Na3 a6 20.Rad1 Rfd8

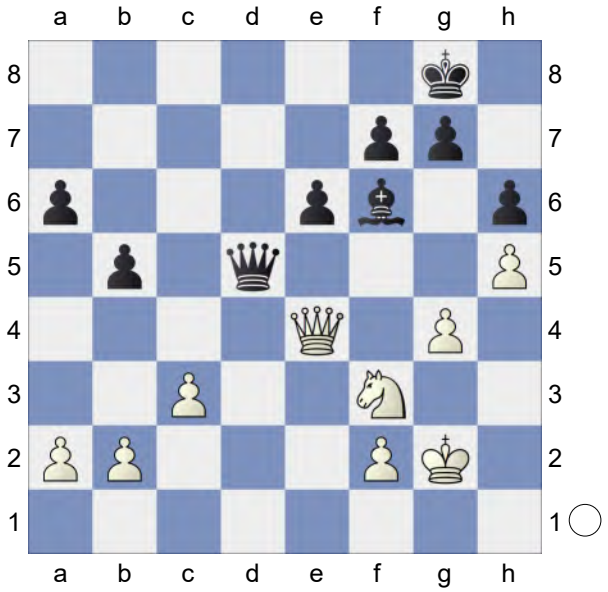


21.Nc2 h6 22.Nb4
[22.Ncd4 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rac8 24.Rd3=]
22...Nxb4! 23.Qxb4 Bd6 and Black seizes the initiative. **24.Qe4 Rab8 25.Rd3 Be7↑**

(Diagram)

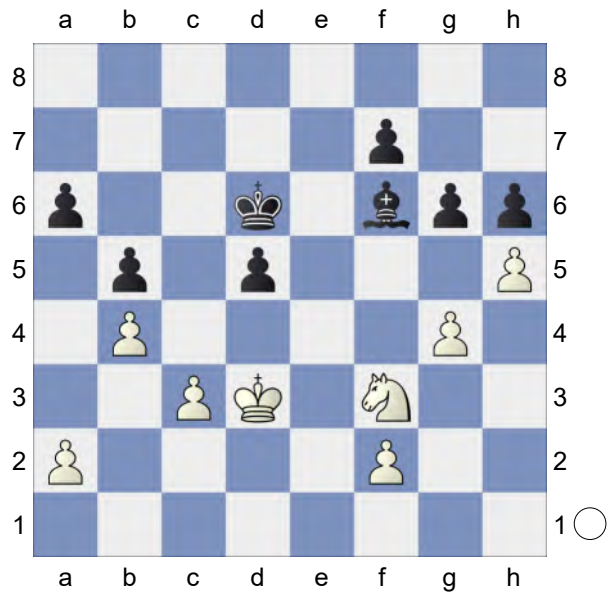


26.Red1!? Bf6 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8 29.g4 b5G 30.Kg2= ≤Qd5

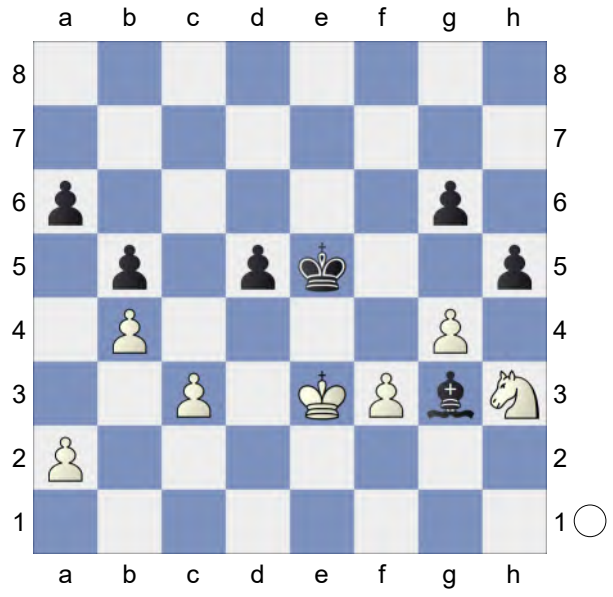


31.Qxd5 exd5 32.Kf1 Kf8!? needs testing although such a move requires nerves of steel! **33.Ke2 Ke7 34.Kd3 Kd6** etc. **35.b4**
[35.Ke3]
35...g6

(Diagram)

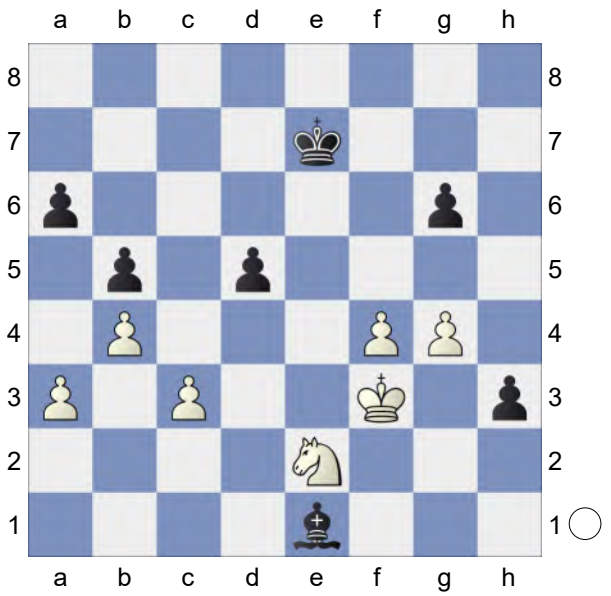


36.hxg6
[36.Nd4]
36...fxg6 37.Ng1 h5 38.f3 Bh4 39.Nh3 Ke5 40.Ke3∓ 0-1 Bradbury,N-Wells,P/London 1985/MCL/[Tsesarsky] (39) **40...Bg3**
[40...Be1]

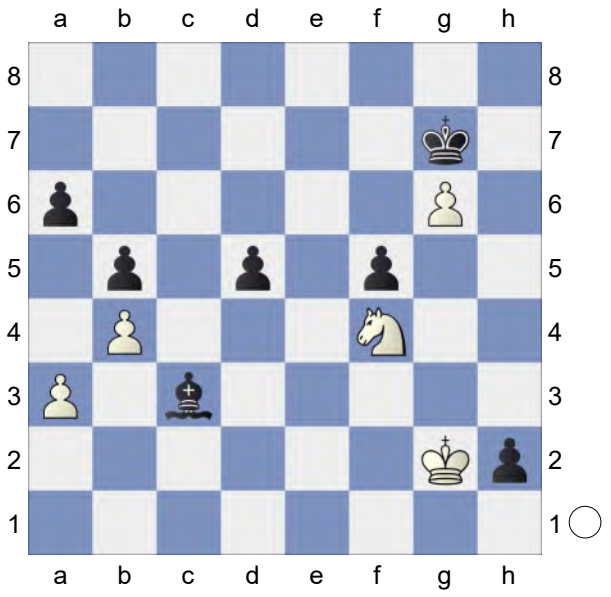


41.Ng1 Be1 42.Ne2 h4 43.f4+ Kf6 44.Kf3 h3 45.a3?! Ke7

(Diagram)

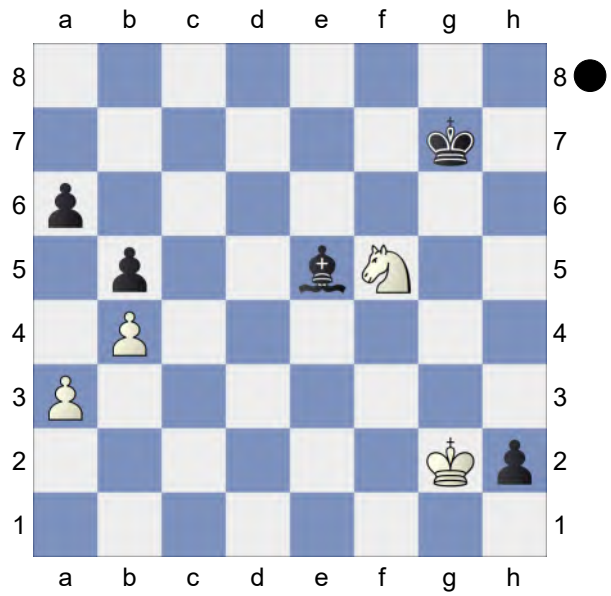


46.g5 Kf7 47.f5 gxf5?! 48.Nf4!? h2 49.g6+ Kg7± 1-0 Najer,E-Kruppa,Y/Elista 2000/CBM 079/[Tsesarsky] (53)
50.Kg2!?= Bxc3



51.Nxd5 Be5! 52.Ne7 Kf6 53.g7 Kxg7 54.Nxf5+

(Diagram)

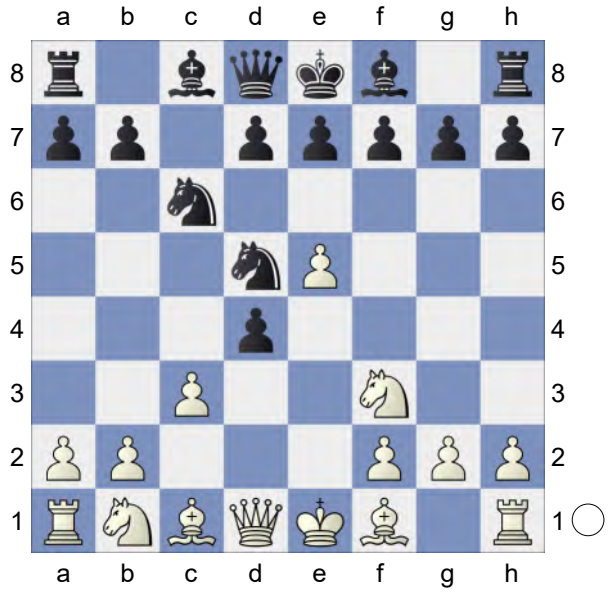


½-½

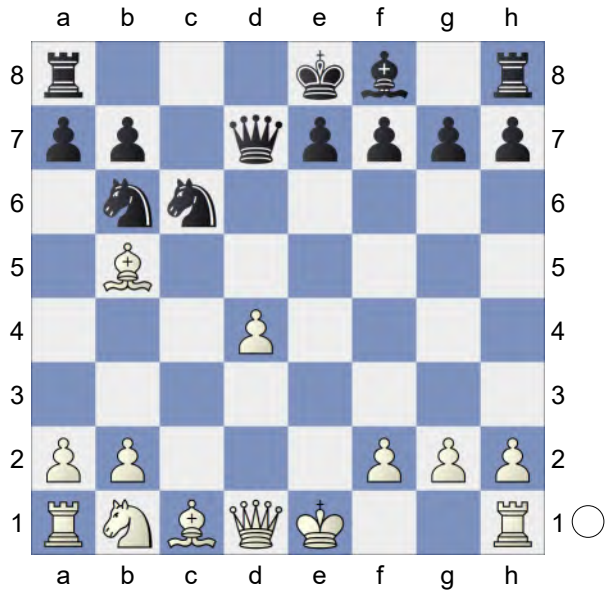
92 **B22**
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2736**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2791**
Nations Cup Online Prelim rapid (5.1)
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Qg4 0-0

14.Bh6N -0.76/23 A new move for us. I played 14.Rd1 in my game with Camacho Collados, which I analysed in the Archives. Dave Smerdon covered 14. Bxc6 in his notes to D. Howell - S.Ansell, King's Place Rapid 2015 (1-0 in 27), which has the benefit of eliminating Ding's response.

[14.Bxc6= 0.26/20 bxc6 *(14...Qxc6 15.Bh6±)* 15.Bh6 Bf6 16.Rfd1 Kh8 17.Ne4 Qd8 *(17...Qe7 18.Bf4 Rfd8 19.Nxf6 Qxf6 20.Be5 Qg6 21.Qe2 Nd7 22.Bg3 Qf5 23.Rac1 Rdc8 24.Rc3 a5 25.Rf3 Qh5 26.Be5 f6 27.Bg3 Qd5 28.b3 a4 29.b4 a3 30.Re3 Re8 31.Qc2 Rec8 32.Rc3* 0-1 (97) Tiviakov,S (2668)-Nijboer,F (2598) Dieren op 2006 (6)*)* 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 h6 20.Nf3 Nd7 21.Rd2 Qa5 22.Qf4 Qd5 23.a3 Rab8 24.h3 Rb7 25.Rc1 Kg8 26.Ne5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Qa2 28.Rxc6 Rxb2 29.Rd7 Re2 30.Rc8 ½-½ (76) LINE 7 4.Nf3 g6 (2432)-Morales Cruz,E (2569) 29/449 Skara 1980 (7)]

14...Qxd4∓

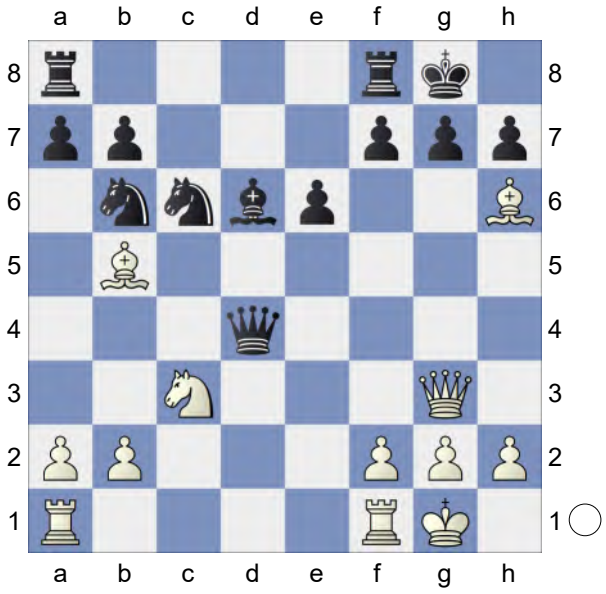
[After 14...Bf6 0.33/19 14...Qxd4 -0.83 I strongly suspect White's best option is to take on c6 (bringing either rook to d1 leaves Black comfortable after 15...Rac8), which suggests that there isn't much upside to this move order compared to 14. Bxc6 bxc6 15.Bh6.]

15.Qg3 The most popular move, and the best attempt at demonstrating compensation for the pawn. **15...Bd6**

[15...Bf6 16.Be3 Qb4 17.Rab1 Rac8∓ and White had insufficient compensation in A.Karpov (a different one!) - R.Kezin, Novosibirsk 2012 (0-1 in 32).]

[15...Qf6 16.Be3 Rac8 *(16...Nd5* T.Rahulan - M.Sedykh, Hull 2018 (0-1 in 28) *17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Rad1∓* and the compensation still appears insufficient.*)* 17.Rfd1 Rfd8∓ Y.Xu - Y.Xue, Hangzhou 2019 (1/2-1/2 in 33).]

[15...Bf6 is interesting. 16.Rfd1 Qb4 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Rab1 Rfd8]



16.Bxg7 Be5+ would kill now. Double Attack. Black is better. **16...Bxg3** Pin

[Much weaker is 16...Qxg7?! 17.Qxd6 Nd4 18.Qf4=]

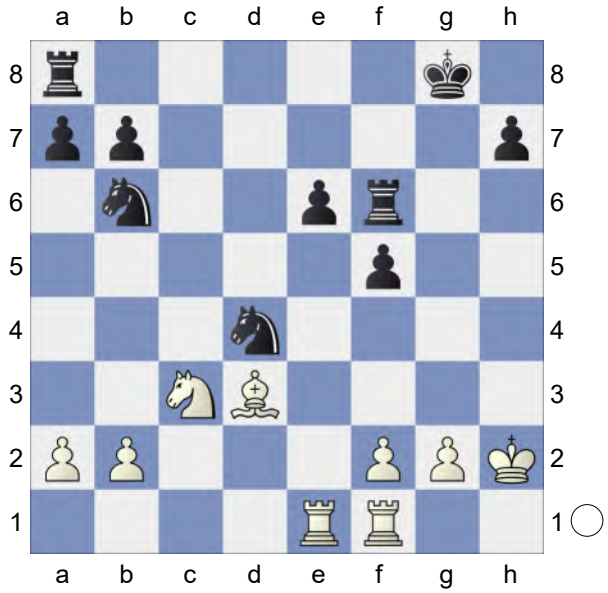
17.Bxd4 Black must now prevent Bxc6. This pair of bishops is nice. **17...Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Nxd4 19.Bd3∓** White is struggling to make a draw in this endgame. **19...f5**

[19...Rfd8 20.Rad1 f5∓ is similar: D. Gershkowich - A. Nesterovsky, Israel 2009 (0-1 in 50). Prevents Be4]

20.Rae1

[20.a4 a5 21.Nb5 Rad8 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Bb5 Kf7 24.Rac1 Nd5∓ Black somehow went on to lose in V. Meijers - V.Saravanan, Groningen 2009 (1-0 in 41), but at the moment he's a healthy pawn up. Repels Rc7+]

20...Rf6



21.Re3 Rh6+ 22.Kg1 Kf7 23.Ne2 -0.93/21

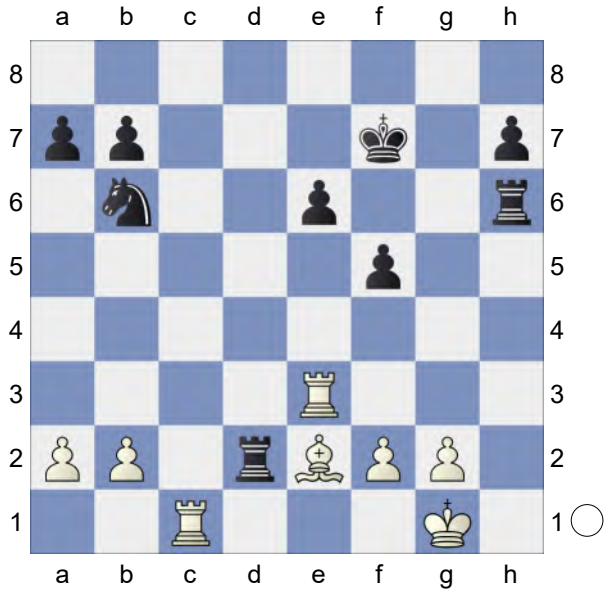
[23.Rd1!∓ -0.35/20]

23...Rd8 24.Rc1 Nxe2+? -0.59/21

[Keeping the tension with 24...Rh4∓ would leave White on the back foot.]

[Black should try 24...Rh4∓ -0.95/22 25.Nxd4 Rdxd4 *(25...Rhxd4? 26.Be2-+)*]

25.Bxe2 Rd2



26.Bf3 Getting the bishop to f3 is a huge improvement of White's position.

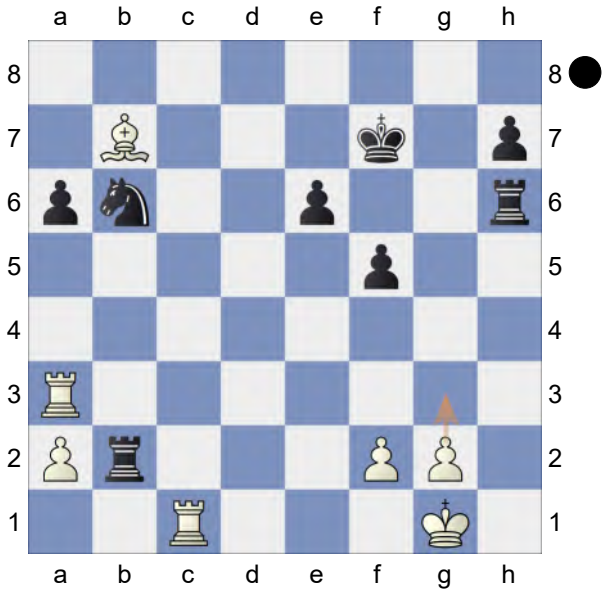
26...Rxb2

[After 26...Nd5 -0.09/19 26...Rxb2 -0.46 the rook and pawn endgames look drawish, for example 27.Ra3 -0.49/21 *(27.Bxd5= -0.09/19 feels stronger. Rxd5 28.g3)* 27...Rxb2∓ 28.Rxa7 Kf6 29.Bxd5 exd5 30.Ra5∓ and White should hold this pretty comfortably.]

27.Ra3 a6

[27...Nc8 holds everything for a moment, but after 28.g3 Nd6 29.Rxa7⩲ a draw is very likely.]

28.Bxb7

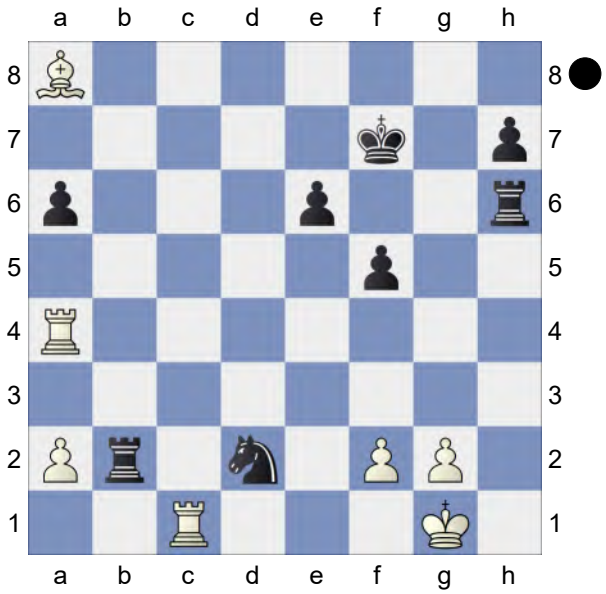


Nc4! Discovered Attack **29.Ra4 Nd2** 0.01/22

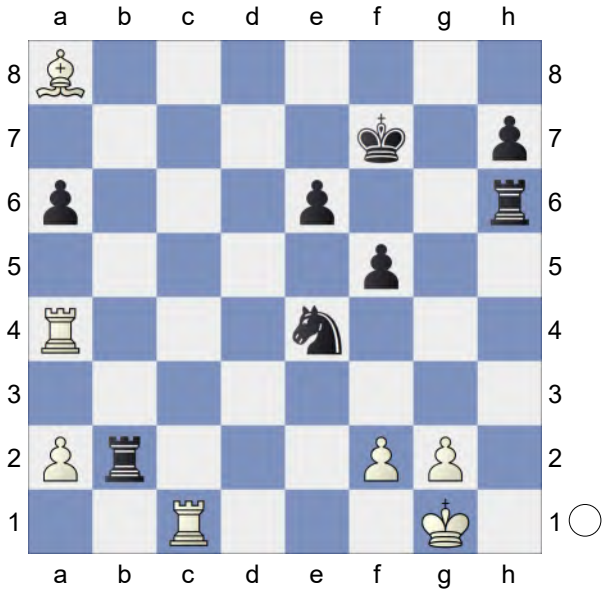
[29...Ne5∓ -0.54/21 30.Bc8 Nd3]

30.Ba8!

(Diagram)



A good square, not blocking the rooks. The position is equal. **30...Ne4!**

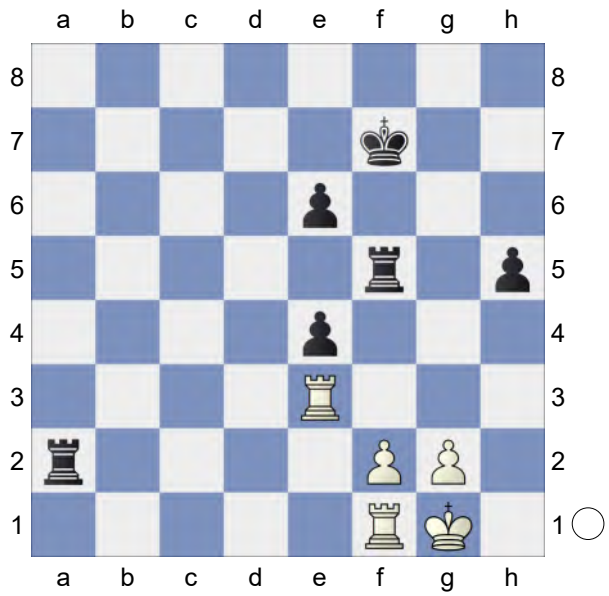


31.Bxe4

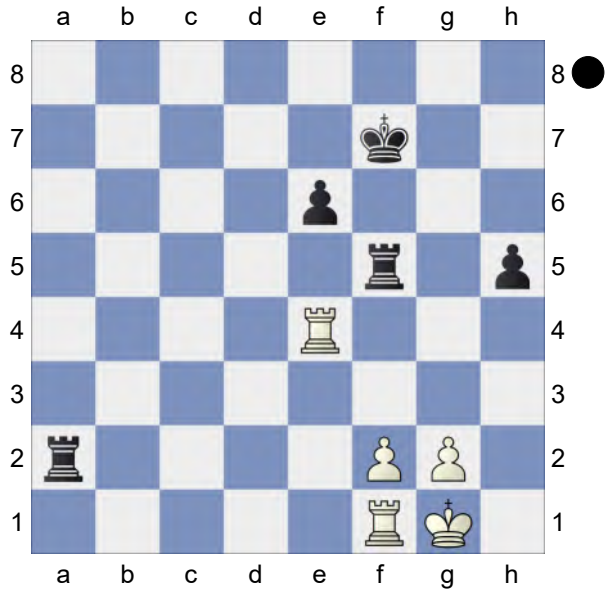
[31.Rxa6? loses. Nxf2 32.g3 Nh3+ 33.Kf1 Ng5 34.Rc7+ Kf6-+]

31...fxe4 32.Rxa6 Rf6 33.Rf1 h5 34.Ra3 Rf5 35.Re3 Rxa2

(Diagram)



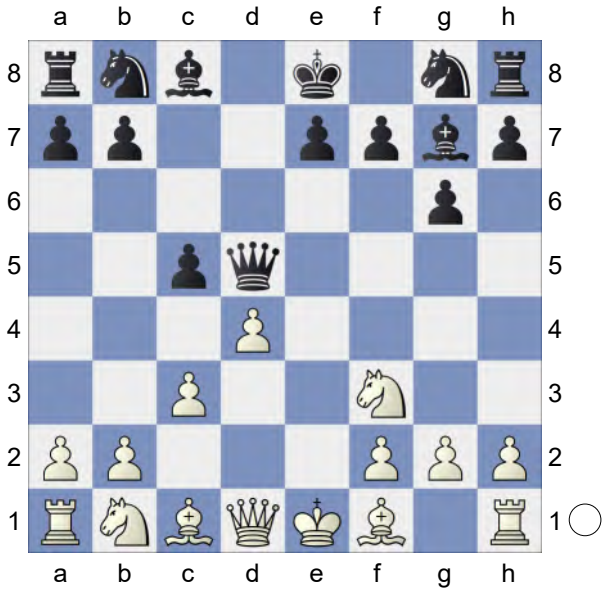
36.Rxe4



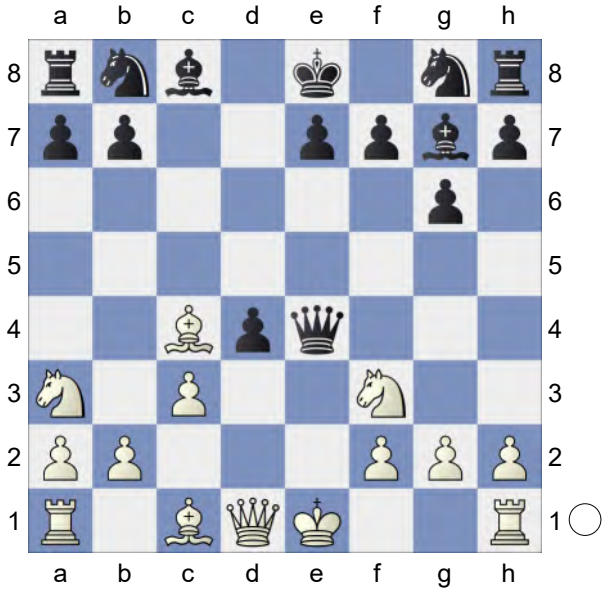
Nakamura survived a slight scare. I like Ding's response to this dubious line, resulting in a prospectless endgame for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

93 **B06**
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2729**
■ **Dinu,Dumitru Daniel** **2190**
Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

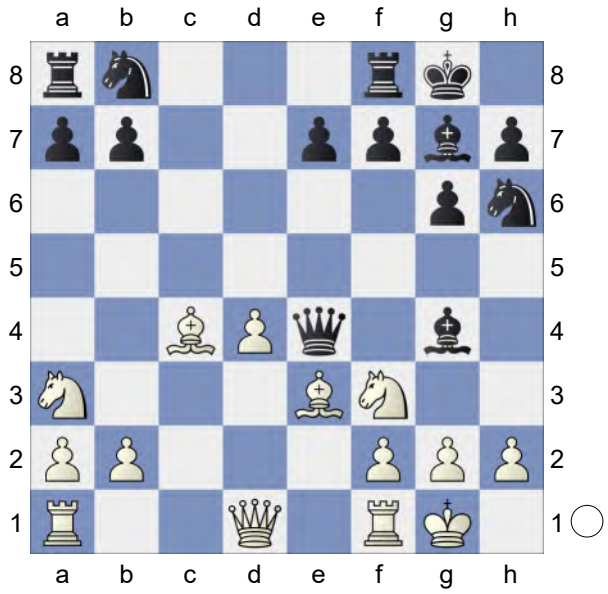
B06: Modern Defence
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7



6.Na3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+



8.Be3! Black should prevent Bxf7+!
8...Nh6
[8...dxe3? too greedy. 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 *(9...Kf8? 10.Qd8+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+ Kf6 12.Nxe4++-)* 10.Ng5+ Ke8 11.Nxe4+-]
9.cxd4 The position is equal. **9...0-0!**
10.0-0 Bg4



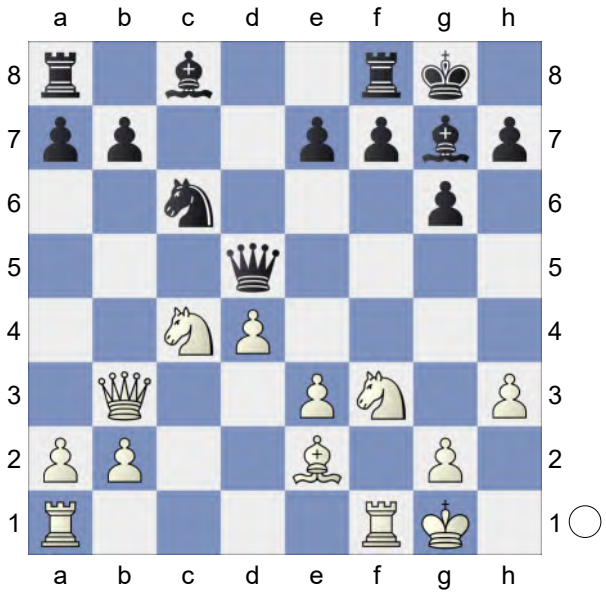
11.Be2N
[11.Bxh6 Bxh6 12.Re1 Qf5 *(12...Bxf3 13.Rxe4 Bxd1 14.Rxd1 Bg5 15.Re5 Bf6 16.Rb5 Nc6 17.d5 a6 18.Rxb7 Na5 19.Rb6 Rfb8 20.Rxb8+ Rxb8 21.b3 Bb2 22.Nc2 Nxc4 23.bxc4 Be5 24.Ne1 Bd6 25.Nd3 Ba3 26.Kf1 f6 27.Rd2* 1-0 (30) Sveshnikov,E (2575)-Najer,E (2535) RUS-ch51 St Petersburg 1998 (10)*; 12...Qf4 13.Rxe7 Nc6 14.Rxb7 Rab8 15.Rxb8 Rxb8 16.b3 Rd8 17.Nc2 Bg7 18.Qc1 Qxc1+ 19.Rxc1 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4* Meeting Alapin 2019*)* 13.Rxe7 Nc6 14.Rxb7 Rad8 15.Be2 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nxd4 17.Bg4 Qe4 18.Rxa7 Bg7 19.Rb1 Nb5 20.Qa4 Bd4 21.Bf3 Bxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Rd2+ 23.Kg3 Qe5+ 24.Kh3 Nxa7 25.Qxa7 Rfd8 0-1 (41) Speyer (2285)-12.0-0 b6 13. ♖ad1 ♗b7 107 (2544) Las Vegas

1997 (4.2) 26.Rf1 Qf5+ 27.Kg3 Qg5+ 28.Kh3 Qf5+ 29.Kg3 Qg5+ 30.Kh3 R8d4 31.Qb8+ Kg7 32.g3 h5 33.Re1 Qf5+ 34.g4 Qxf3+ 35.Qg3 Qxg3+ 36.Kxg3 Rxg4+ 37.Kf3 Rd3+ 38.Ke2 Re4+ 39.Kf1 Rf3+ 40.Kg2 Rxe1 0-1 Meyer (228 (2285)-12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 (2544) Las Vegas 1997 (4.2)]

11...Nf5 12.Nc4 -0.58/20

[12.Qb3= -0.07/18]

12...Nc6∓ 13.h3 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Bc8 15.Qb3 Qd5



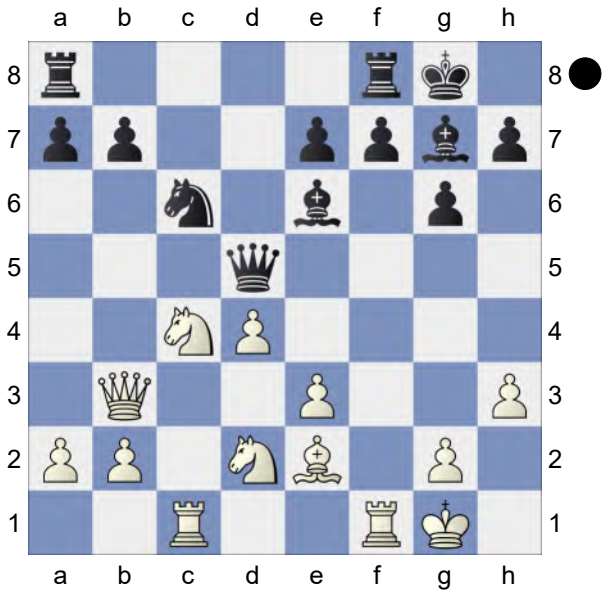
16.Rac1 -0.47/18

[16.Nb6= -0.07/17 Qxb3 17.axb3]

16...Be6 17.Nfd2? -2.13/20

[17.Ncd2∓ -0.50/16]

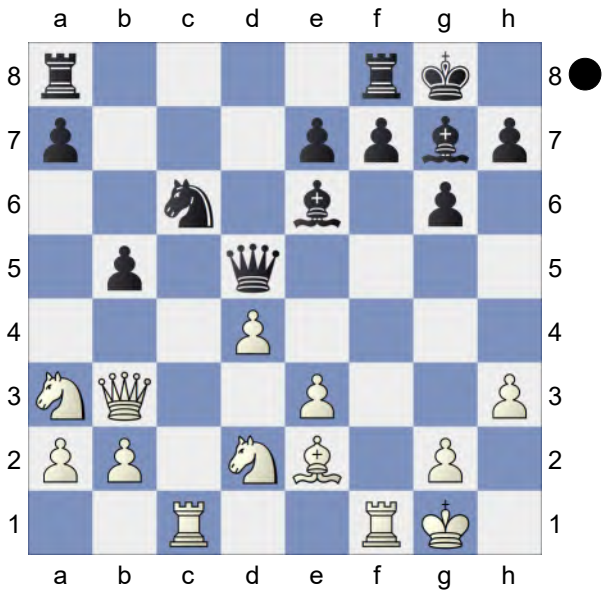
(Diagram)



White does not recover from this.

17...b5!-+ 18.Na3? -5.12/21

[18.Kh1 -2.01/20 is tougher.]



18...Nxd4! Double Attack. Black is clearly winning. **19.Qxd5**

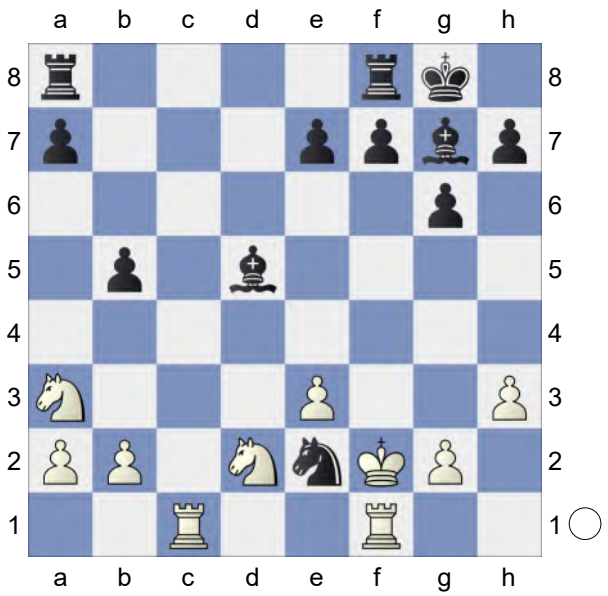
[19.Qd1 Nxe2+]

19...Nxe2+ Discovered Attack

[Less strong is 19...Bxd5 20.exd4 Bxd4+ 21.Kh2=]

20.Kf2 Bxd5

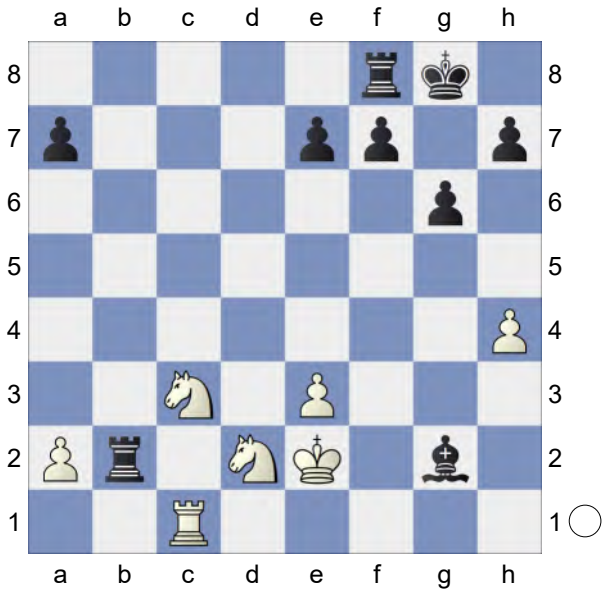
(Diagram)



21.Kxe2 Bxb2 This pair of bishops is nice. **22.Nxb5 Bxc1**

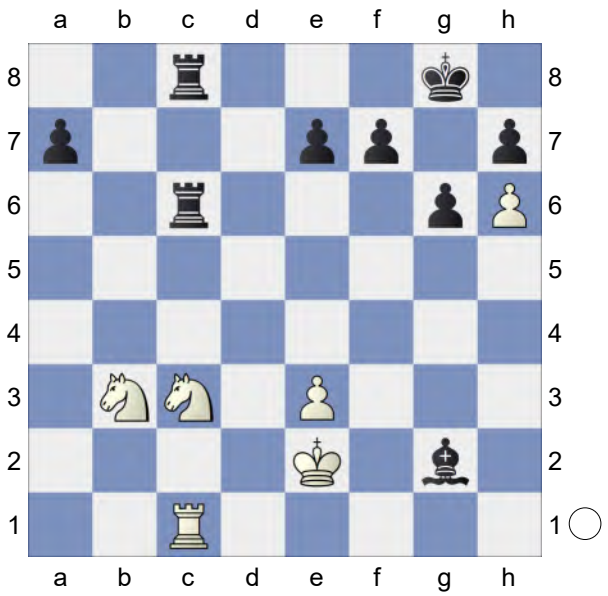
[22...Bxa2? 23.Rc2 a6 24.Rxb2 axb5 25.Rxb5∓]

23.Rxc1 Rab8 24.Nc3 Bxg2 25.h4 Rb2

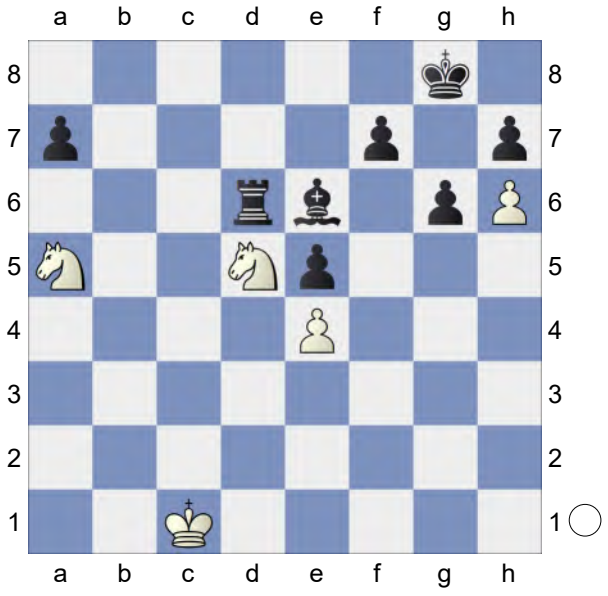


Threatens to win with ...Rd8. **26.Na4 Rxa2 27.Nc3 Ra6 28.h5 Rd8 29.h6 Rc6 30.Nb3 Rdc8**

(Diagram)

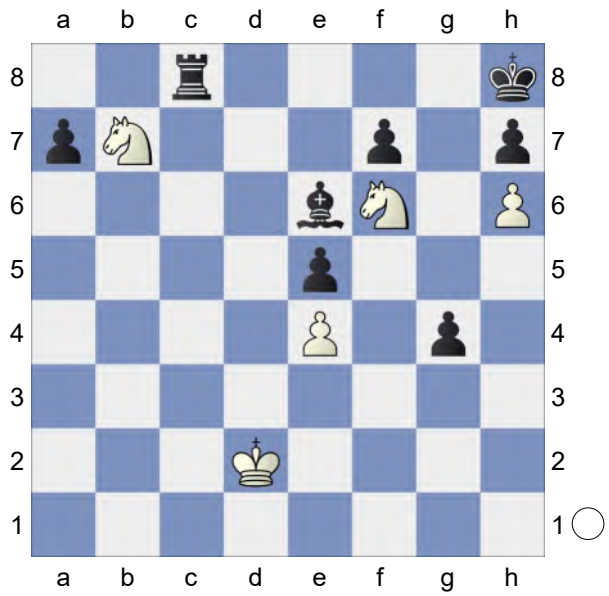


31.Kd2 e5 32.e4 Bh3 33.Na5 Rd6+ 34.Nd5 Rxc1 35.Kxc1 Endgame. KRB-KNN **35...Be6**

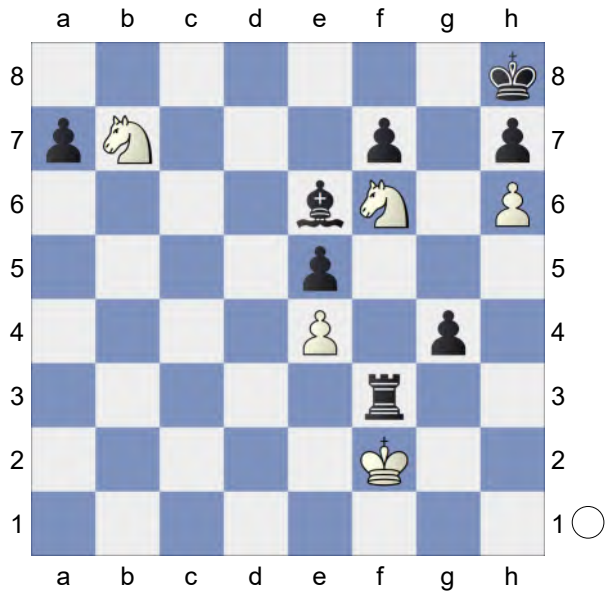


36.Nf6+ Kh8 37.Ne8 Rd8 38.Nf6 Rc8+ 39.Kd2 g5 40.Nb7 g4

(Diagram)



Hoping for ...g3. **41.Ke3 Rc3+ 42.Kf2 Rf3+**

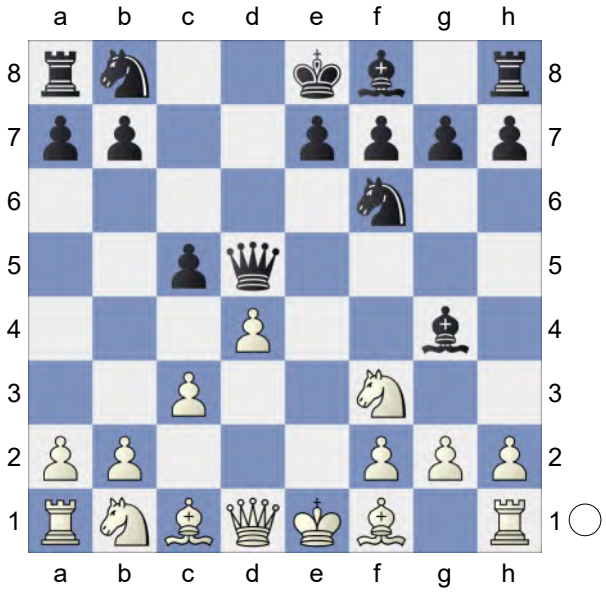


Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

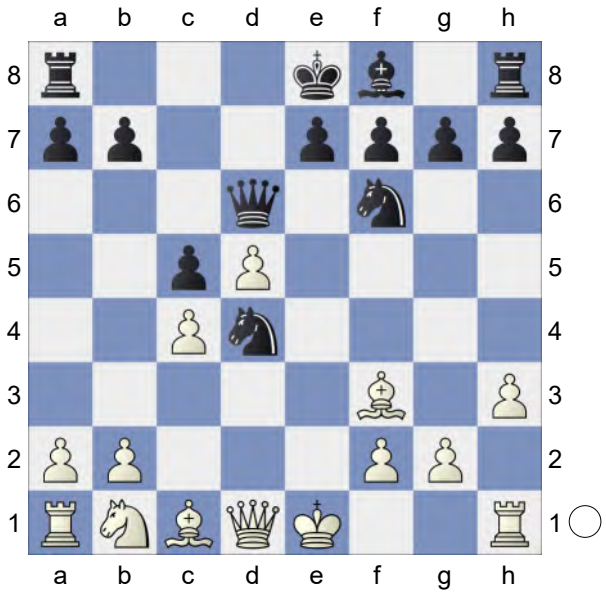
0-1

94 **B22**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2727**
■ **Eggleston,David** **2376**
GBR-ch 103rd (8) 02.08.2016
[Kitty Kat]

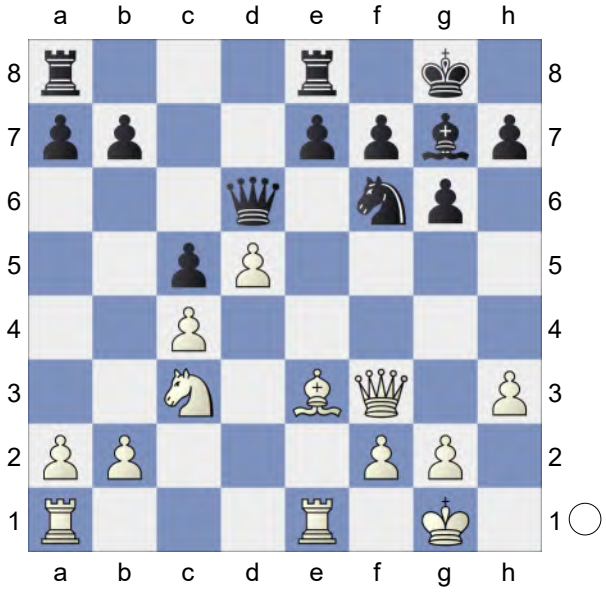
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4



6.Be2 Nc6 7.h3 Bh5 8.c4 Qd6 9.d5 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nd4

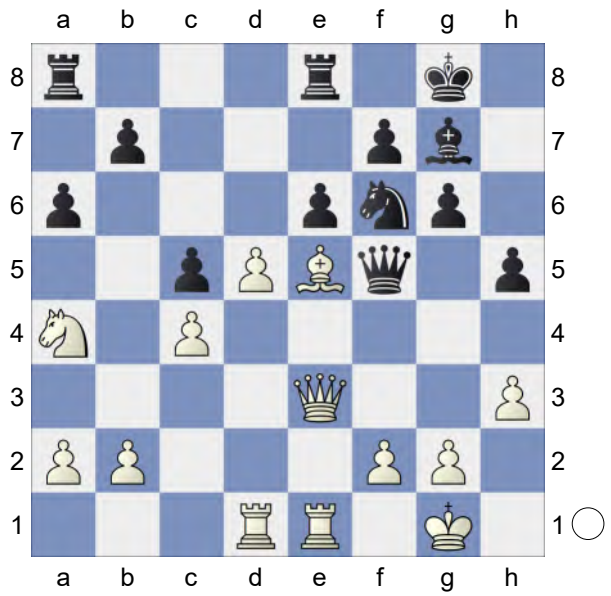


11.Nc3 0.37/18
[11.0-0!± 0.77/18]
11...g6 0.74/18
[11...e5± 0.37/18 should be considered.]
12.Be3± Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3
[13.gxf3?! Bg7=]
13...Bg7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Rfe1 Rfe8N

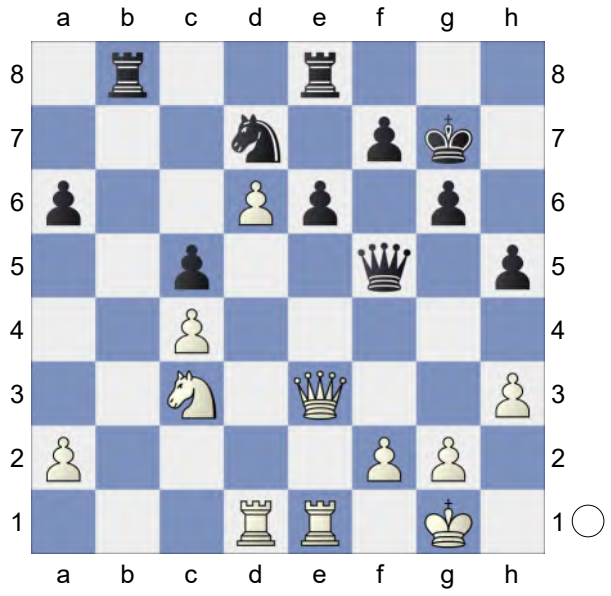


16.Rad1 a6 17.Bf4 Qd7 18.Be5
White is much more active. **18...Qf5**
19.Qe3 h5 20.Na4
[20.Qxc5? too greedy. Nd7 21.Qe3 *(21.g4? hxg4 22.Qd4 Nxe5-+)* 21...Qxe5-+ *(21...Nxe5? 22.b3-+)*]
20...e6

(Diagram)

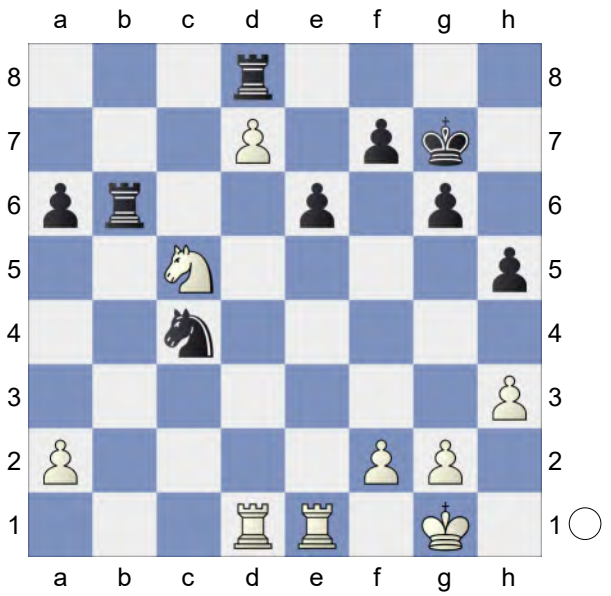


21.d6 And now d7! would win.
[21.Qxc5? loses. Nd7 22.Qb4 Nxe5-+ *(22...Bxe5? 23.dxe6 Rxe6 24.Rxd7-+)*]
21...Nd7 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Nc3 b5 24.b3 bxc4 25.bxc4 Rab8

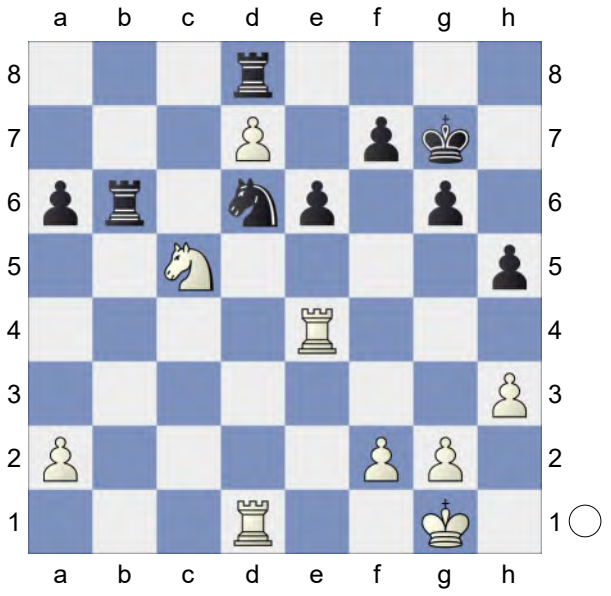


26.Ne4 Rb6 27.Qc3+ Qe5 28.Qxe5+ Nxe5 29.Nxc5 0.66/20
[29.d7= 0.30/21 was preferrable. Rd8 30.Nxc5 Nxc4 31.h4]
29...Nxc4± 30.d7 Rd8

(Diagram)

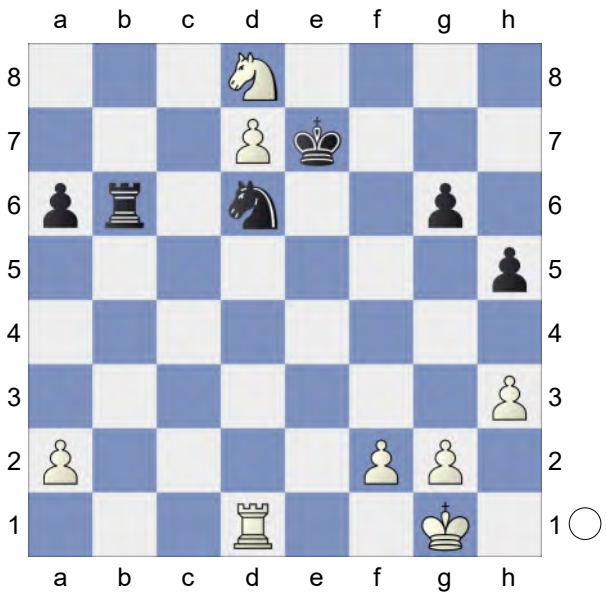


31.Re4 0.28/22
[31.Rd4!± 0.72/20 Na5 32.Ne4]
31...Nd6 2.36/23
[31...Na5!= 0.28/22 and Black stays safe.]

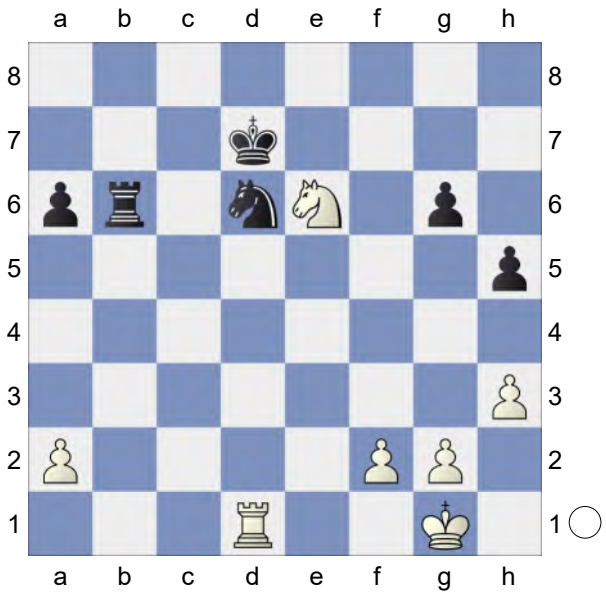


This costs Black the game. **32.Rxe6!+- fxe6 33.Nxe6+ Kf7 34.Nxd8+** Endgame. KRN-KRN **34...Ke7**

(Diagram)

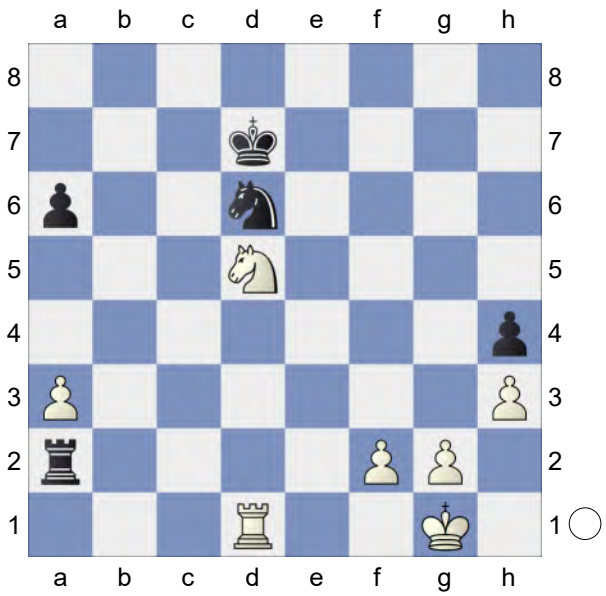


35.Ne6 Deflection, Clearance, Promotion
35...Kxd7

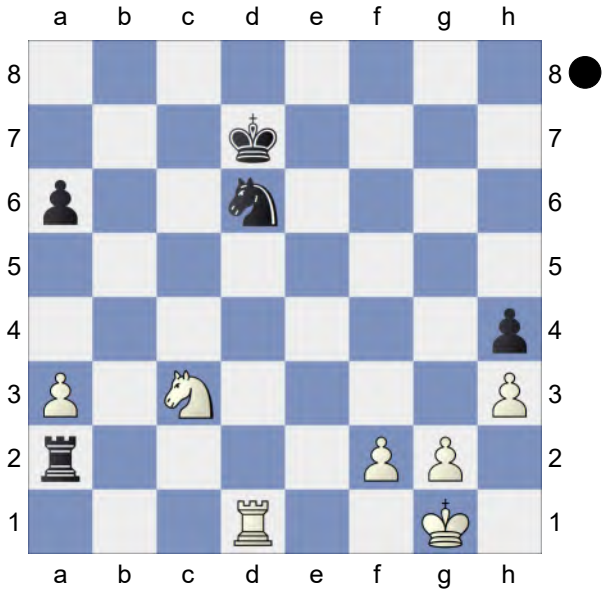


36.Nf8+ Kc7 37.Nxg6 Rb2 38.a3 Ra2 39.Nf4 h4? 5.96/21
[39...a5 2.49/21 40.Nxh5 Ne4]
40.Nd5+ Kd7

(Diagram)



41.Nc3

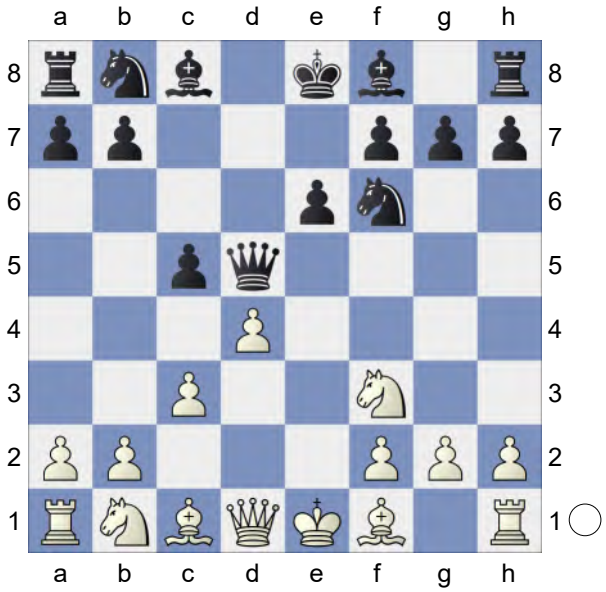


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

95 **B22**
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2727**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2812**
Wenzhou m (4) 18.07.2019
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



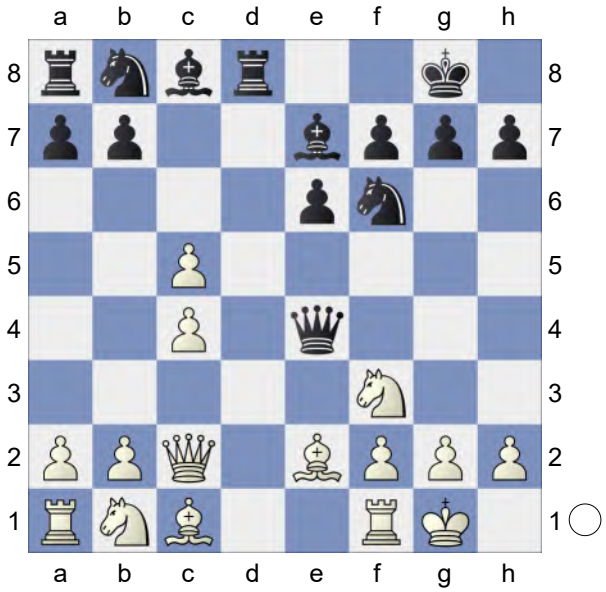
6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 Qc6

[8...Qd7 9.Nc3 Rd8 10.dxc5 Qxd1 11.Bxd1 Bxc5 12.a3 b6 13.b4 Be7 14.Be3 Bb7 15.Nd2 Nbd7 16.Be2 Ne5 17.h3 Nd3 18.Rfd1 Rd7 19.Nb3 Rad8 20.Nb5 Ne4 21.Nxa7 Nc3 22.Rd2 Bf6 23.Bxd3 1-0 (78) Posizione (2583)-Maximov,A (2407) 4: Chinese Championship, Xinghua 2013 (4)]

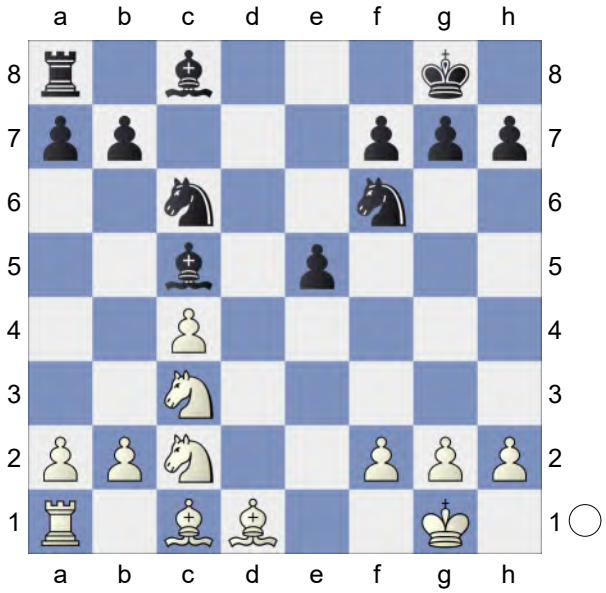
9.dxc5N

[9.Qc2 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qe8 11.Nb5 Na6 12.Bf4 Bd7 13.Nd6 Qb8 14.Rd1 Bc6 15.Bg3 Rd8 16.Nxf7 Rxd1+ 17.Qxd1 Qf8 18.Ng5 Nc5 19.Nc3 h6 20.Nf3 Nce4 21.Qc2 Rd8 22.Rd1 Nxg3 23.hxg3 Bc5 ½-½ (48) Feuerstack,A (2404)-Panarin,M (2533) 113/(35) Moscow 2011 24.a3 Ng4 25.Rf1 Qf7 26.b4 Qh5 27.Nh4 Bd4 28.Nd1 g5 29.Bxg4 Qxg4 30.Qg6+ Bg7 31.Ne3 Qe4 32.Qxe4 Bxe4 33.Nf3 Rd3 34.a4 a6 35.g4 Kf8 36.Rd1 Rxd1+ 37.Nxd1 Bc2 38.Ne3 Bxa4 0-1 (48) Feuerstack,A (1814)-Kirchhoff,H (1828) Schleswig Holstein-ch cand-B 56th 2001 (9)]

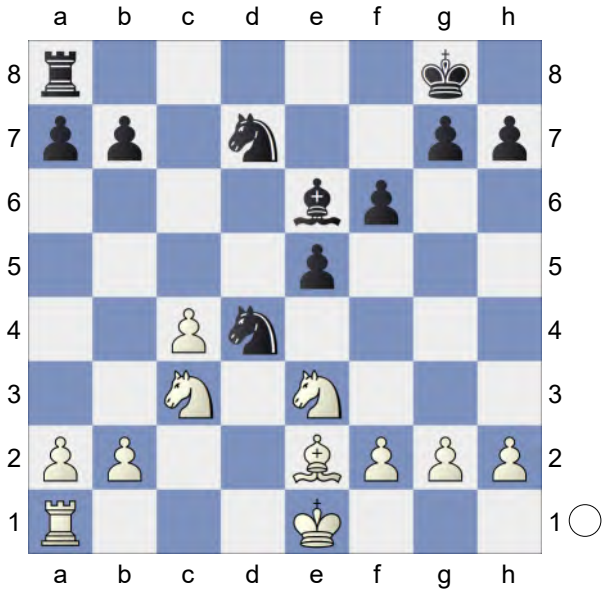
9...Rd8 10.Qc2 Qe4



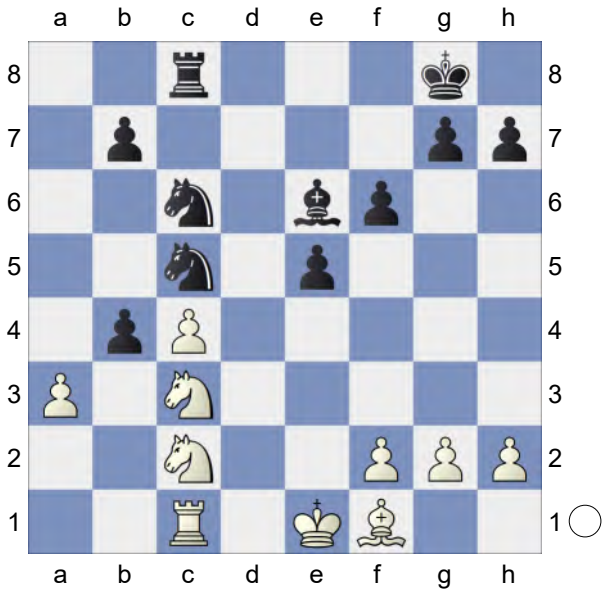
11.Ne1 Nc6 12.Nc3 Qxc2 13.Nxc2 Bxc5 14.Rd1 Rxd1+ 15.Bxd1 e5



16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Nd4 18.Kf1 Be6 19.Ke1 Nd7 20.Be2 f6

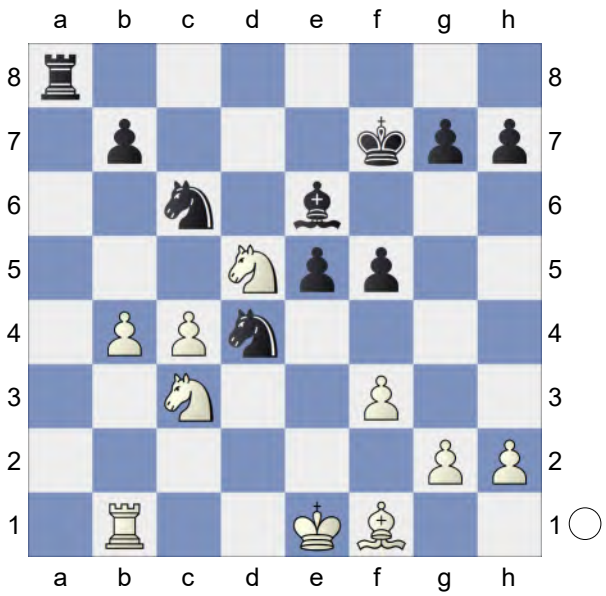


21.Rc1 Rc8 22.Bf1 a5 23.Nc2 Nc6
[23...Bxc4 24.Nxd4 exd4 25.Ne4]
24.a3 Nc5 25.b4 axb4

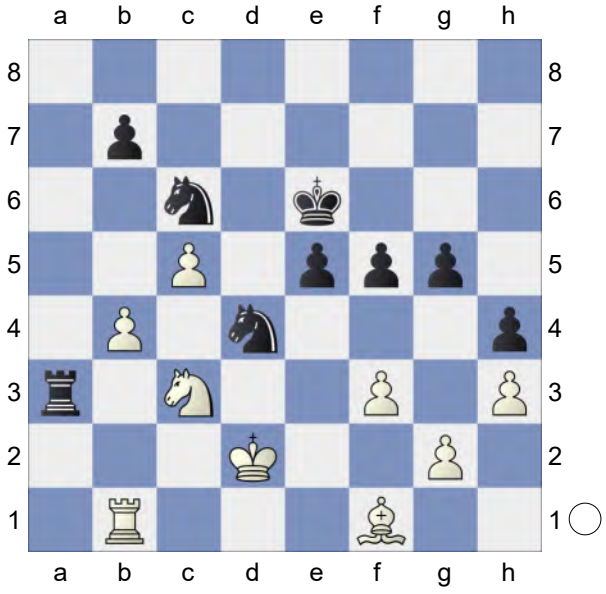


26.axb4 Nb3 27.Rb1 Nbd4 28.Ne3 f5 29.Ned5 Kf7 30.f3 Ra8

(Diagram)

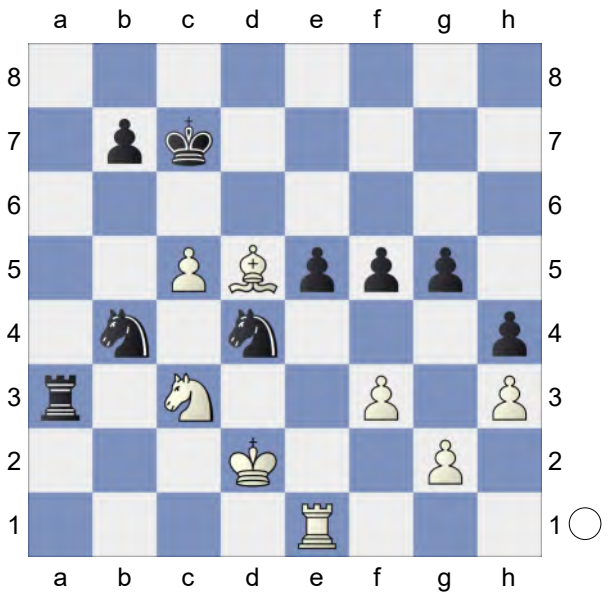


31.Kd2 Ra3 32.c5 g5 33.Nc7 h5
[33...Nb3+ 34.Ke1 Nbd4 *(34...Nxb4?* perishes. *35.Nxe6* Remove Defender *Kxe6 36.Bc4+ Kf6 37.Bxb3+-)* 35.N7b5∓]
34.h3 h4 35.Nxe6 Kxe6

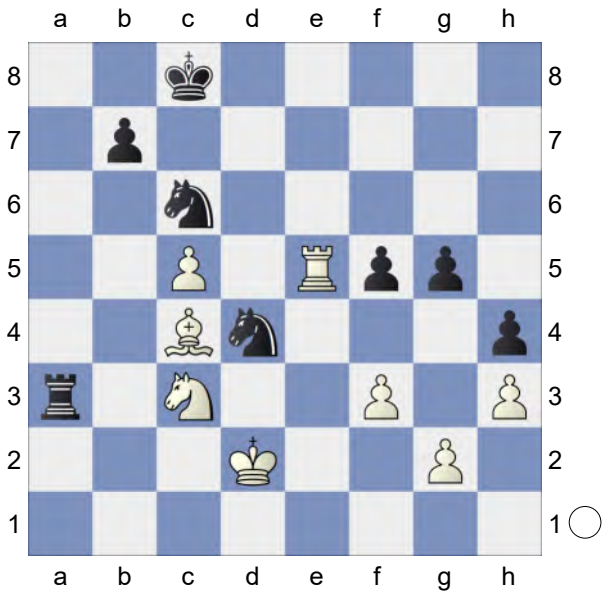


36.Bc4+ Kd7 37.Bd5 Kc7 38.Re1 Nxb4

(Diagram)



Hoping for ...Ra5. **39.Rxe5 Kc8 40.Bc4 Nbc6**



Excellent horsemanship. **41.Re8+ Kd7 42.Rg8 Na5** 0.48/22

[42...Ra5= -0.01/20]

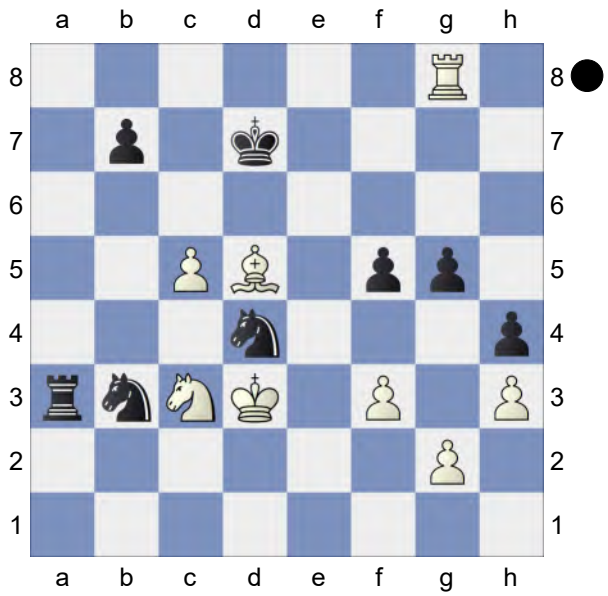
43.Bd5 0.01/24

[43.Kd3± 0.48/22]

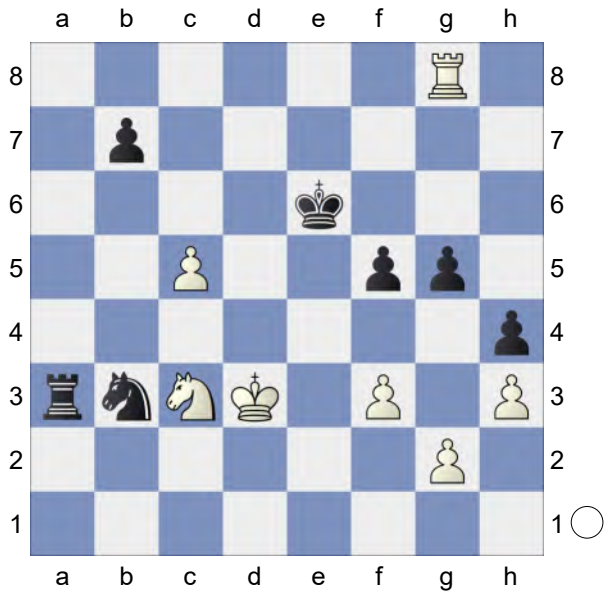
43...Nab3+= The position is equal.

44.Kd3

(Diagram)



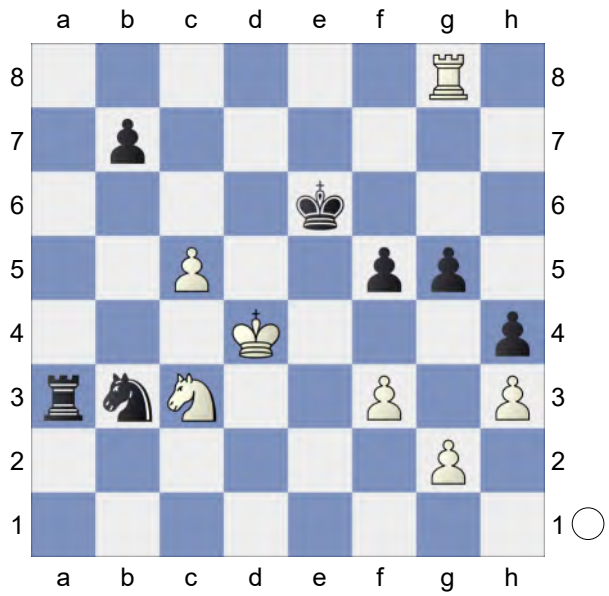
Black must now prevent Rb8. **44...Ne6 45.Bxe6+ Kxe6**



46.Kc4 Strongly threatening Kb4!

46...Nd2+ 47.Kd4 Black should prevent Rg6+. **47...Nb3+ 48.Kc4** Threatens to win with Kb4! **48...Nd2+ 49.Kd4 Nb3+**

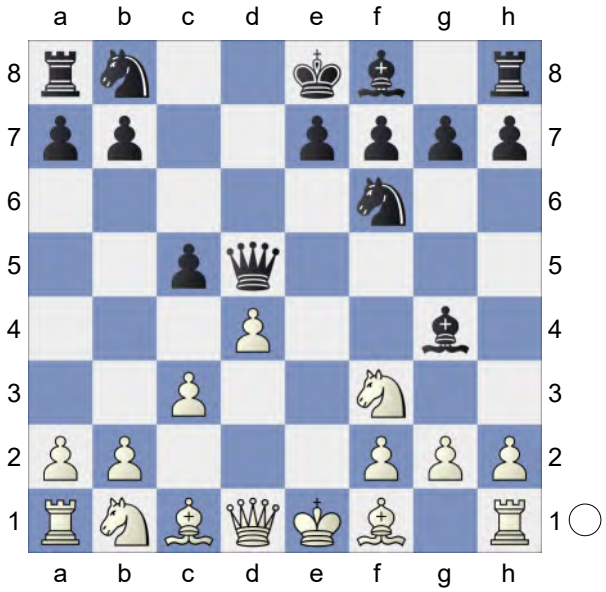
(Diagram)



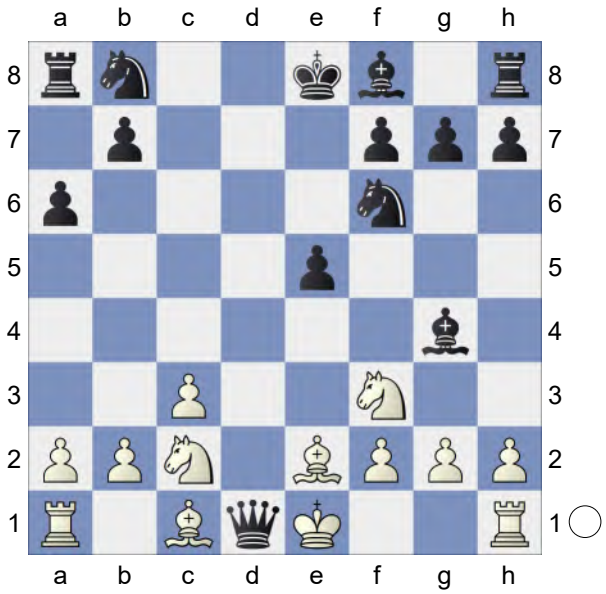
Not much happened in this game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

96 **B22**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2726**
■ **Van Wely,Loek** **2681**
102/181 Wijk aan Zee 2008
[Kitty Kat]

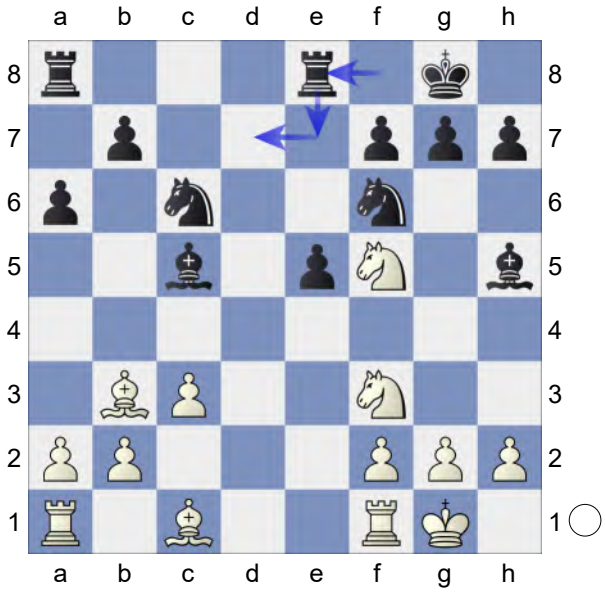
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4



6.Be2 e6 7.Na3 a6
[7...Nc6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Be3 cxd4 10.Nb5 Qd7 11.Nbxd4 Bd6 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.Qxd7+ Nxd7 14.0-0-0 Ke7 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nfd4 Rc8 10. f4 ♗e4 (2550)-9. ♕d2 ♖c8 10. ♗b3 (2530) 118/65 Belgrad 2012]
8.Nc2 cxd4 9.Ncxd4N
[9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Ncxd4 Nbd7 11.Bf4 Bc5 12.0-0 0-0 13.h3 Bh5 14.Rfe1 Rac8 15.Bd3 Rfd8 16.Bg5 Bd6 17.Rad1 Nb6 18.Rd2 Bg6 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Nb3 Nc4 21.Rde2 b5 22.Rc2 Rd7 23.Nbd2 Nb6 ½-½ (45) Zubieta Villegas,M (2121)-Hodl,I (2118) American Continental, Cochabamba 2013]
9...e5 10.Nc2 Qxd1+

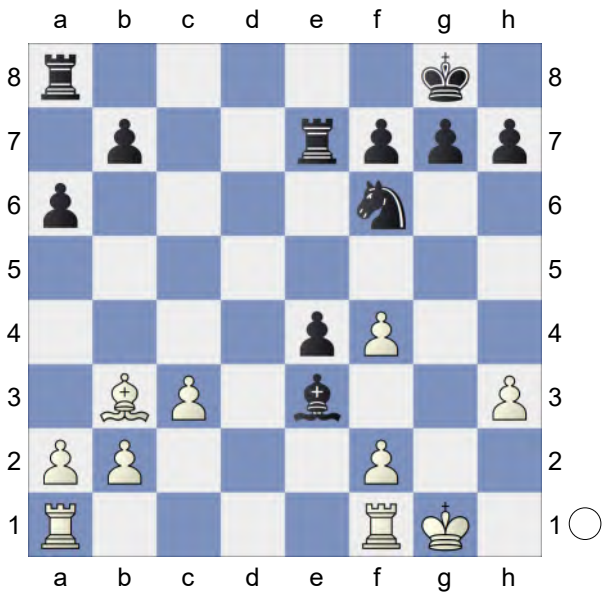


The position is equal. **11.Bxd1 Nc6 12.Ne3 Bh5 13.Bb3 Bc5 14.Nf5 0-0 15.0-0 Rfe8**

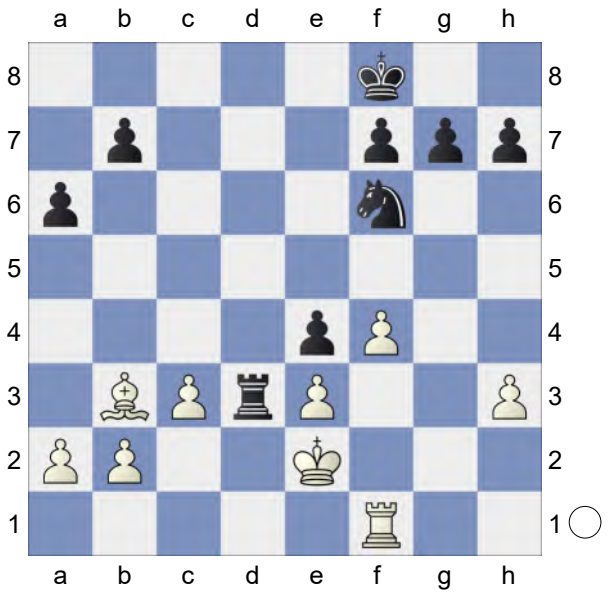


16.h3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 e4 18.f4 Ne7 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7 20.Be3 Bxe3

(Diagram)



21.fxe3 Rd8 22.Rad1 Rd3 23.Kf2 Red7 24.Ke2 Inhibits Rd2+. **24...Kf8 25.Rxd3 Rxd3**



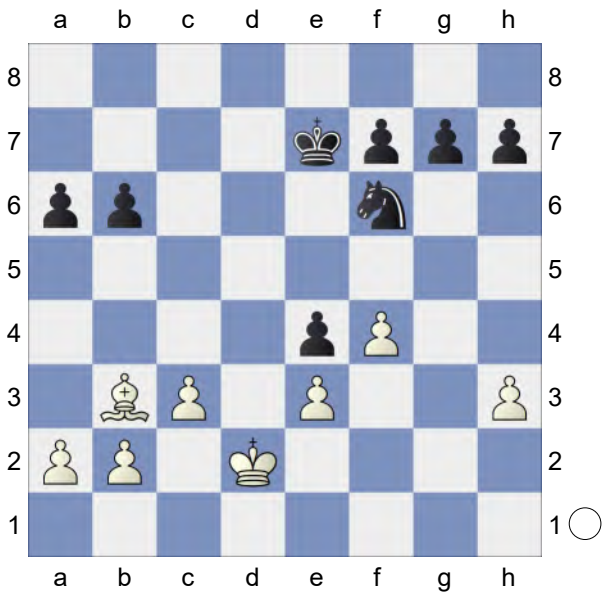
26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Kxd1± Endgame. KB-KN **27...b6 28.Kd2** 0.47/23

[28.Bc2!± 0.87/24]

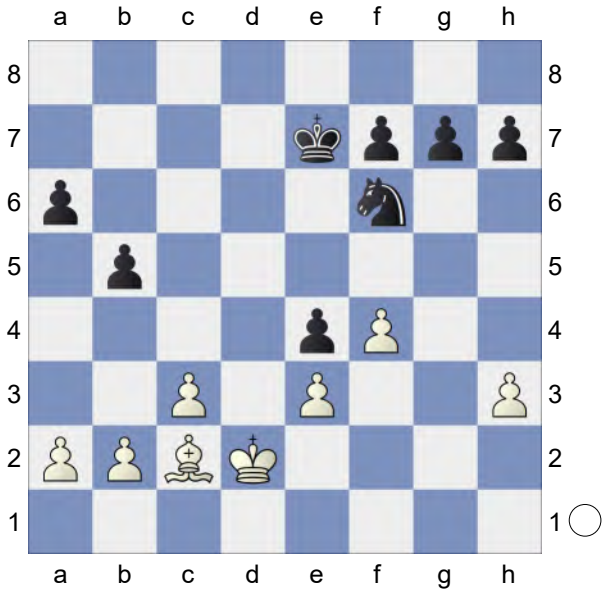
28...Ke7 1.23/23

[Black should play 28...Nh5± 0.47/23]

(Diagram)

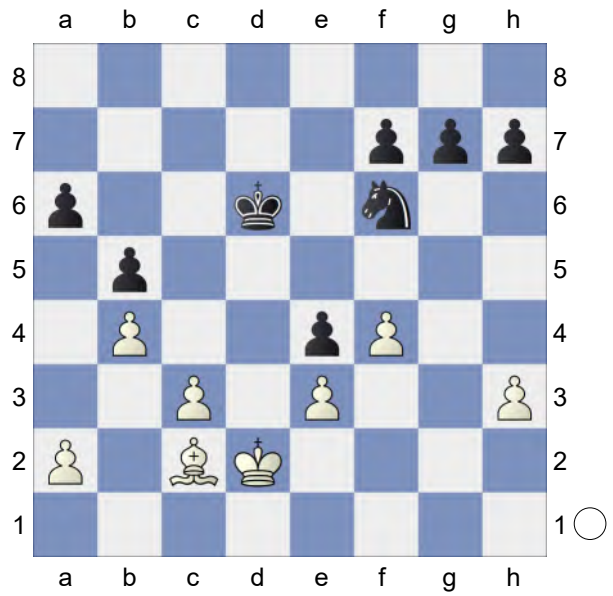


Black is now going downhill. **29.Bc2!± b5**

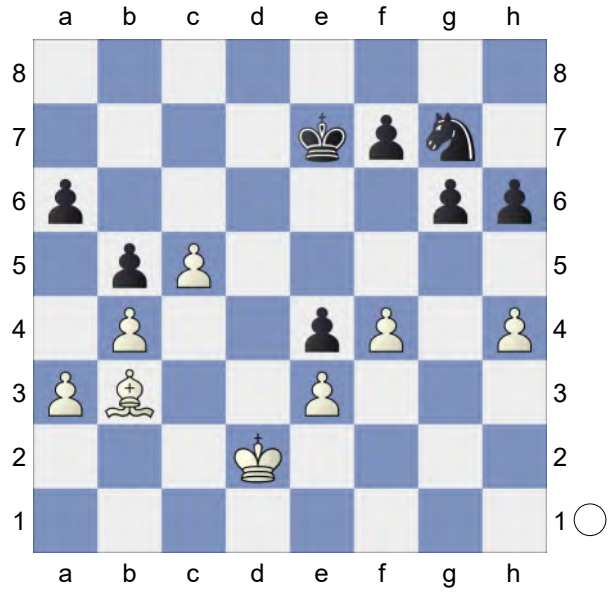


30.b4! Kd6

(Diagram)

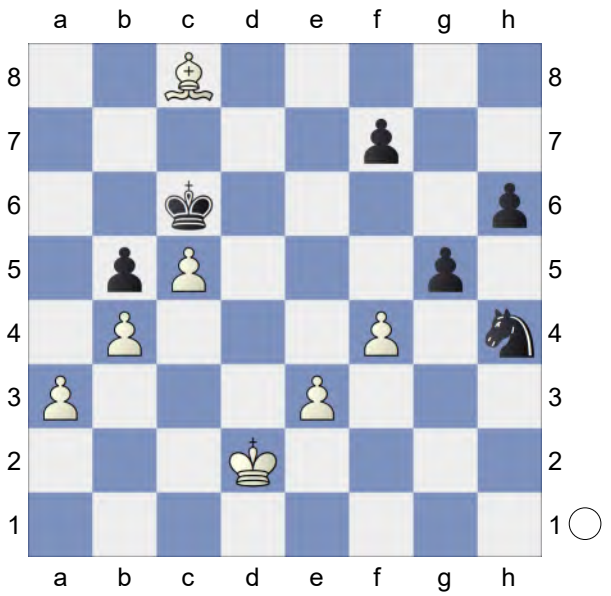


31.a3 h6 32.h4 Ke7 1.80/25
[32...Kc6± 1.16/22 33.Bb1 g6]
33.Bb3 1.40/22
[33.c4+- 1.80/25]
33...Ne8 2.17/25
[33...Nd7± 1.40/22]
34.c4+- g6 3.06/26
[⌓34...Nd6 1.99/23]
35.c5 Ng7

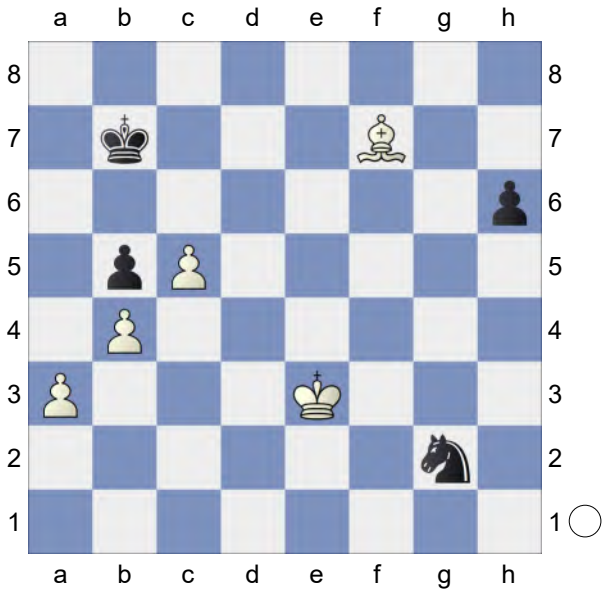


36.Bd5 Nf5 37.Bxe4 Nxh4 38.Bb7 Kd7 39.Bxa6 Kc6 40.Bc8 g5

(Diagram)



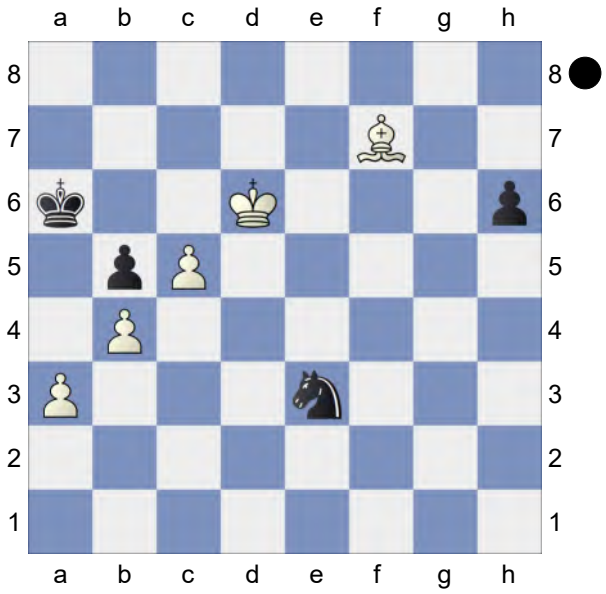
41.Bg4 And now Bh5 would win.
41...Ng6? 4.25/25
[41...f6 2.57/22 42.Kd3 Kc7]
42.Bh5 gxf4 43.exf4 Nxf4 44.Bxf7 Kb7 45.Ke3 Ng2+



46.Kd4 Threatening mate with Bd5+.
46...Ka6 #16/26
[46...Nh4+- 5.14/22 47.Bd5+ Kc8 48.Be4 Kd8 49.c6 *(49.Kd5 Kd7 50.c6+ Ke7 51.Ke5 h5 52.Kd5 Kf6 53.c7 Nf5 54.Bxf5 Kxf5)* 49...Ke8 50.Kd5 *(50.Kc5 Kf7 51.c7 Kf6 52.c8Q Kg5 53.Kd5 Kf4 54.Qh3*

Kg5 55.Qg3+ Deflection Kf6)
50...Ke7 51.Ke5 *(51.Kc5 Ke6+-)*
51...h5]

47.Ke5 Ne3 48.Kd6 22.05/29
[⌓48.c6 #18/26 Ng4+ 49.Kd6 Nf6 50.Ke7 *(50.Ke5 Nh7+-)* 50...Kb6 51.Kxf6 Kxc6 52.Ke6 Kc7 53.Be8]

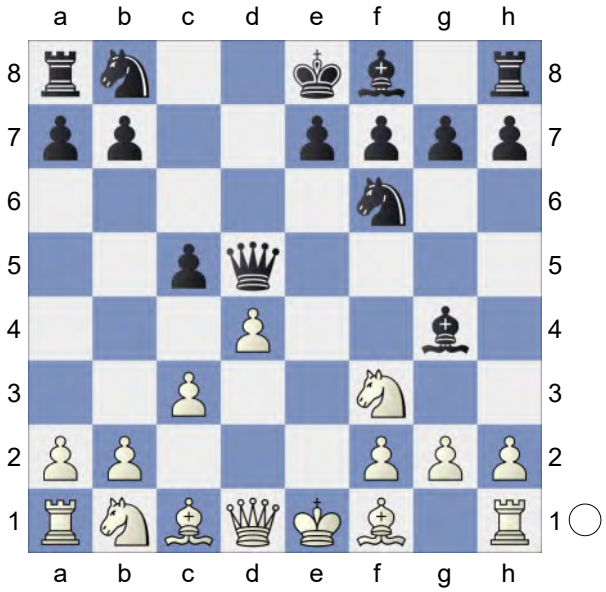


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.39
1-0

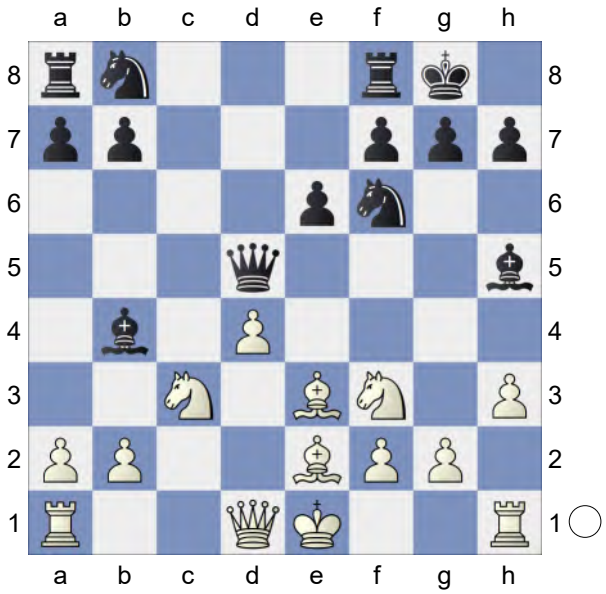
97 **B22**
□ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2725**
■ **Kasparov,Garry** **2810**
PCA/Intel-GP rapid (3.2) 1994
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

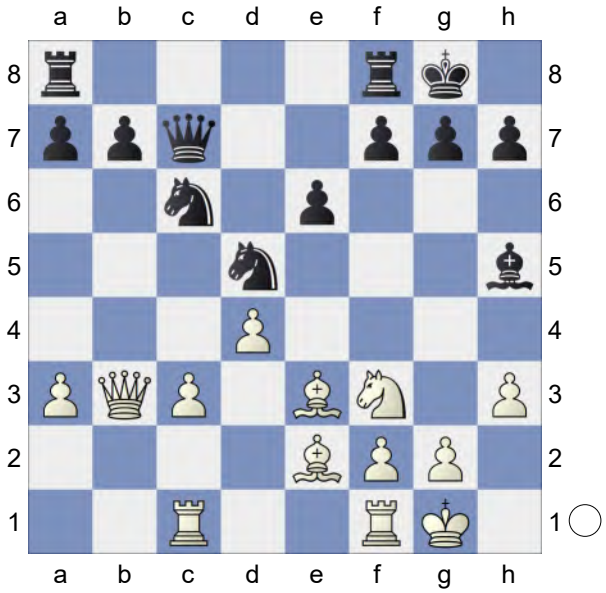
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4



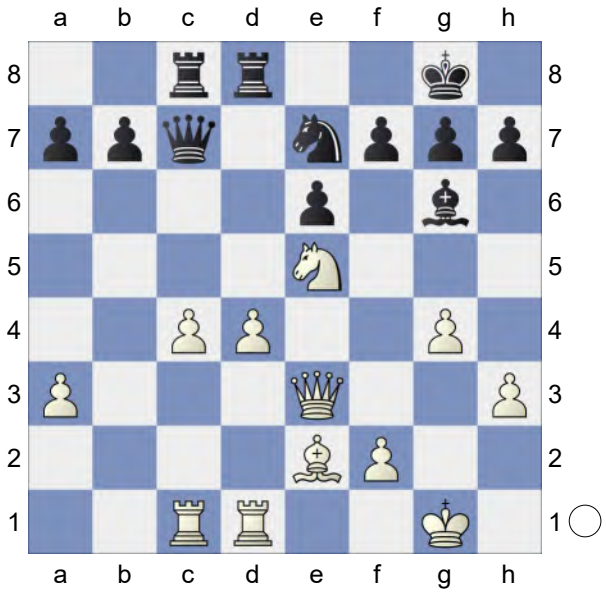
6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.Be3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 0-0



11.0-0 Qa5 12.Qb3 Nc6 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nd5 15.Rac1 The position is equal. **15...Qc7**

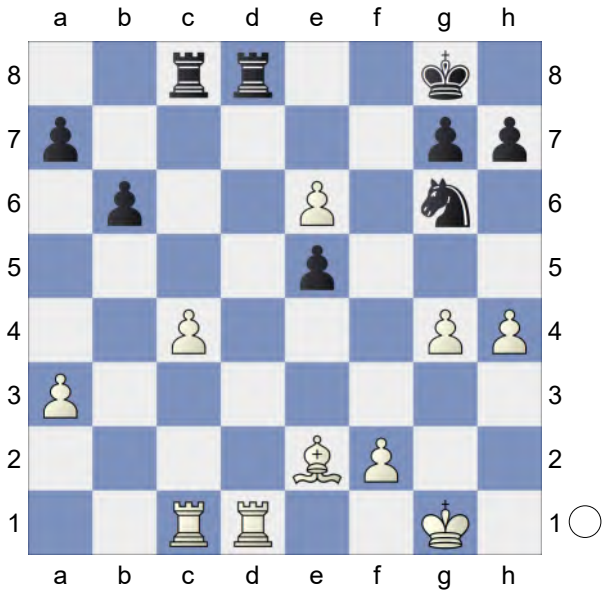


16.c4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Rfd8 18.Rfd1 Ne7 0.93/20
[18...Re8± 0.47/21]
19.g4± Bg6 20.Ne5 Rac8N



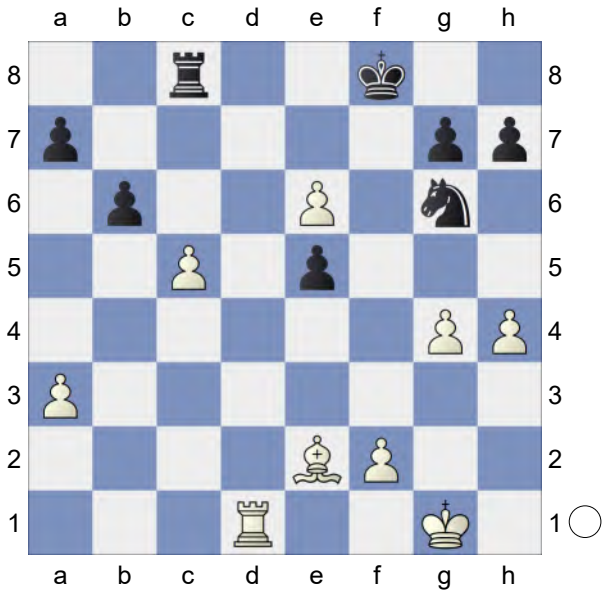
21.d5! b6
[21...exd5 22.cxd5]
22.h4 Strongly threatening h5. White has more active pieces.
[22.dxe6 simplifies fxe6 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Nxg6 Nxg6 25.Qxe6+ Kh8 26.Rc3]

22...f6 23.Nxg6
[23.Nd3 feels hotter. exd5 24.cxd5 Qd6 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Qe6+]
23...Nxg6 24.dxe6
[Don't play 24.Qxe6+ Kh8 25.Re1 Re8=]
24...Qe5? 2.98/23
[24...Nxh4± 1.01/22 25.c5 Qc6 26.Rxd8+ Rxd8]
25.Qxe5 fxe5 3.53/23
[25...Nxe5 2.29/22 might work better. 26.c5 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 g5]

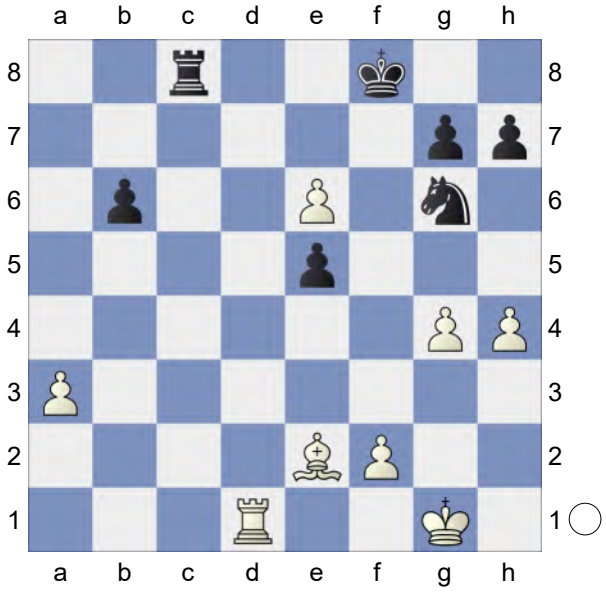


26.Rxd8+? 1.13/24
[26.c5+- 3.53/23 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1]
26...Rxd8+- Endgame. KRB-KRN **27.c5** Threatens to win with c6. **27...Rc8** 3.70/22
[27...Nf4± 1.27/21 28.Ba6 Nxe6]
28.Rd1! Kf8

(Diagram)

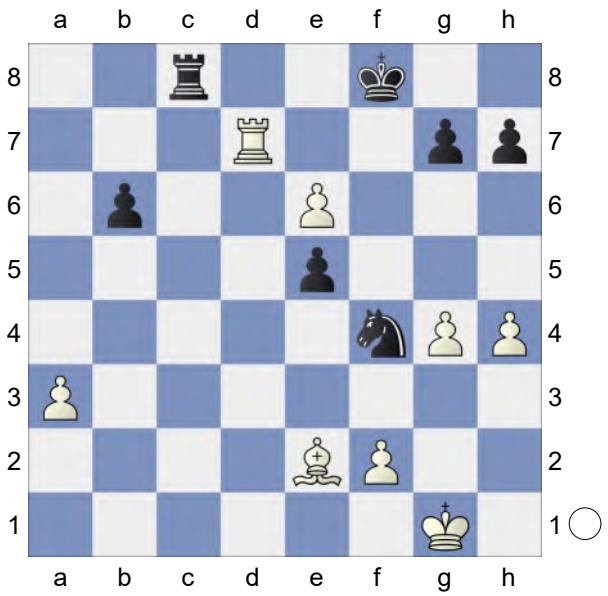


29.cxb6 1.44/22
[29.Rd7!+- 3.44/22 is the precise move to win. Rxc5 30.Rf7+ *(30.Rxa7 Nf4±)* 30...Kg8 31.Rxa7]
29...axb6±

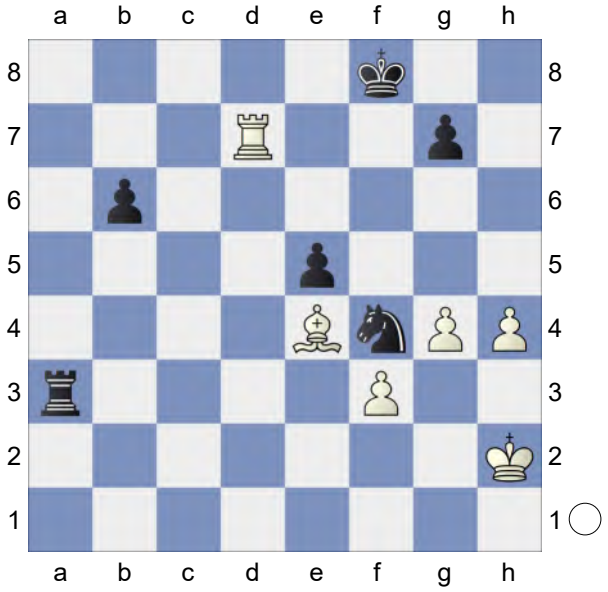


30.Rd7 1.09/23
[⌓30.g5! 1.56/20]
30...Nf4

(Diagram)

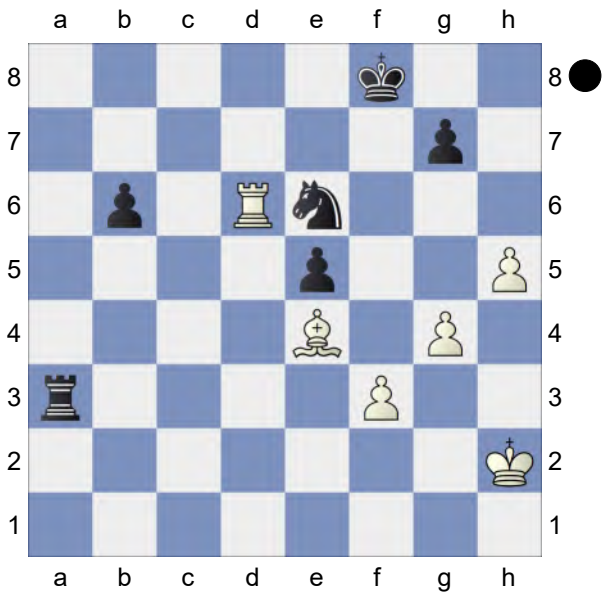


31.Bd3
[31.e7+ Ke8 32.Rd8+ *(32.Bb5 Rc5±)* 32...Rxd8 33.exd8Q+ Kxd8]
31...Nxe6 32.Bxh7 Nf4 33.Be4 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 Rc3 35.f3 Rxa3



36.h5 Ne6 37.Rd6 0.47/24
[37.Kg2± 0.99/24]

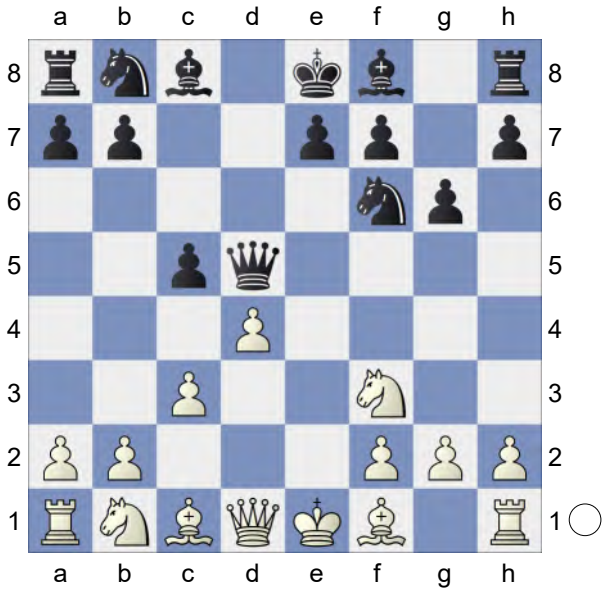
(Diagram)



White really could win this.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.38
½-½

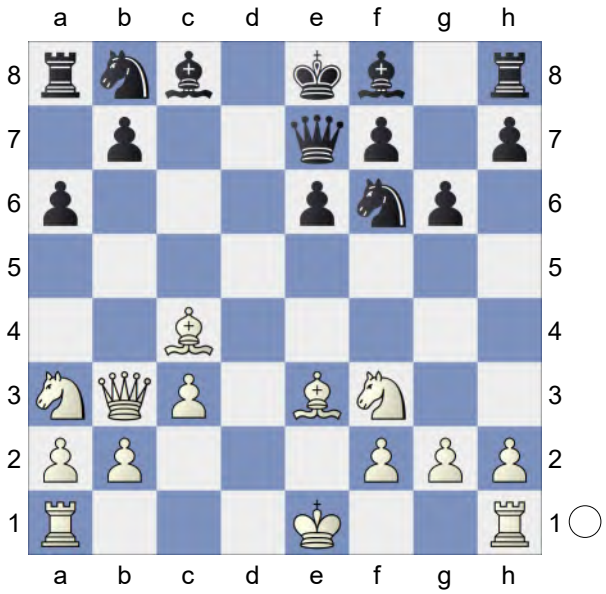
98 **B22**
□ **Ellithorpe,Gilbert P** **2724**
■ **Kausar,Dilshad** **2526**
Jugoslavija 76/187 (7) 13.08.2007
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Christiansen,Larry Mark: 'Christiansen, L: 'Inf 86/105'' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6**

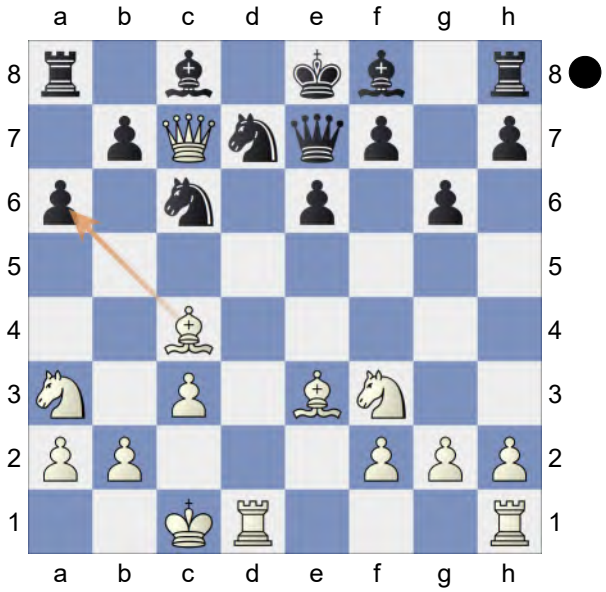


6.Qb3 e6N
[6...cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Kf1 e6 9.Nbd2 *(9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Nc3 Qf5 11.Nb5 Kd7 12.Ne5+ Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5 14.Be3 Bc5 15.Rd1+ Ke7 16.Qc3* 1-0 Vajda,L (2510)-Rodriguez Lopez,R (2320) FSGM June Budapest HUN 2011 (1)*)* 9...Qf4 10.Nxd4 Nc6 11.N2f3 Qc7 12.g3 a6 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rd1 Nxd4 16.Rxd4 Qc6 17.Rf4 b5 18.Rxf6 bxc4 19.Qa3 Bb7 20.Rxf7 0-0-0 21.Rg1 ½-½ (44) Vajda,L (2576)-Christiansen,L (2566) (ol) 86/105 Bled 2002]
7.Bc4 Qd6 8.Na3 a6 Repels Nb5. White is slightly better. **9.dxc5 Qxc5**

10.Be3 Qe7

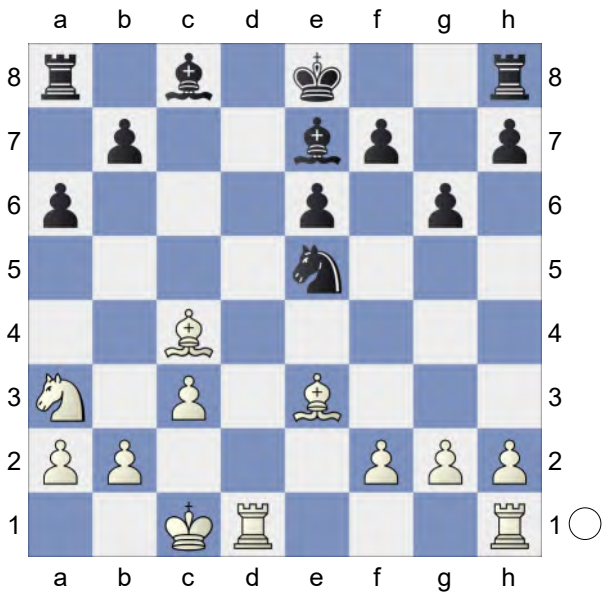


11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Qb6 Bb5! would now be deadly. **12...Nd7! 13.Qc7**

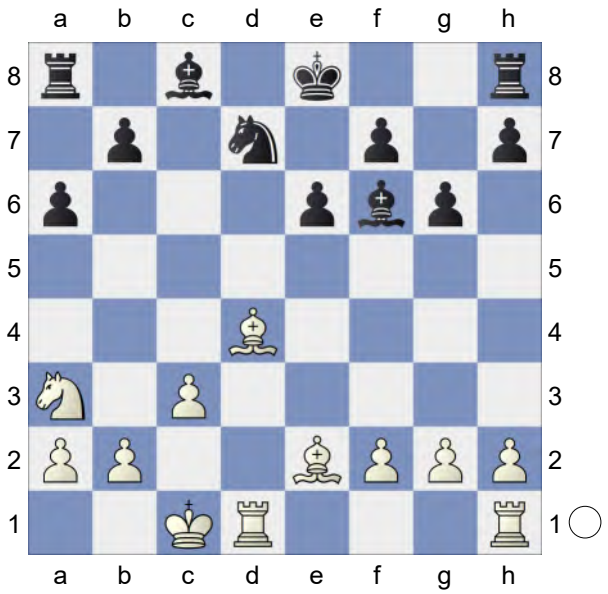


Nde5 0.55/26 **14.Qxe7+± Bxe7 15.Nxe5 Nxe5**

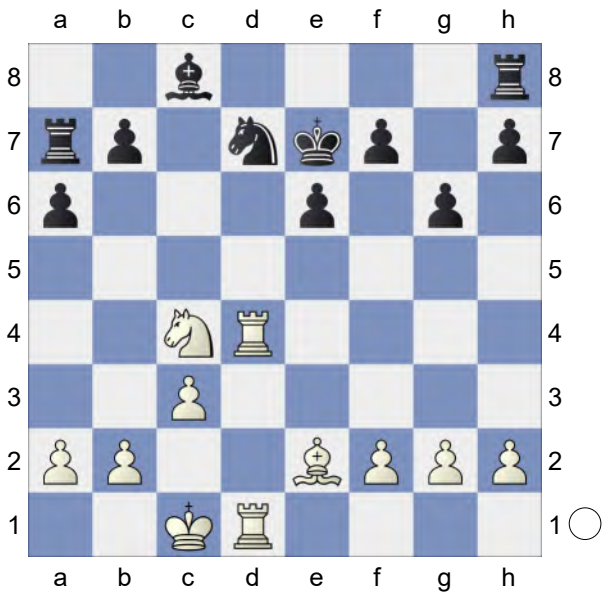
(Diagram)



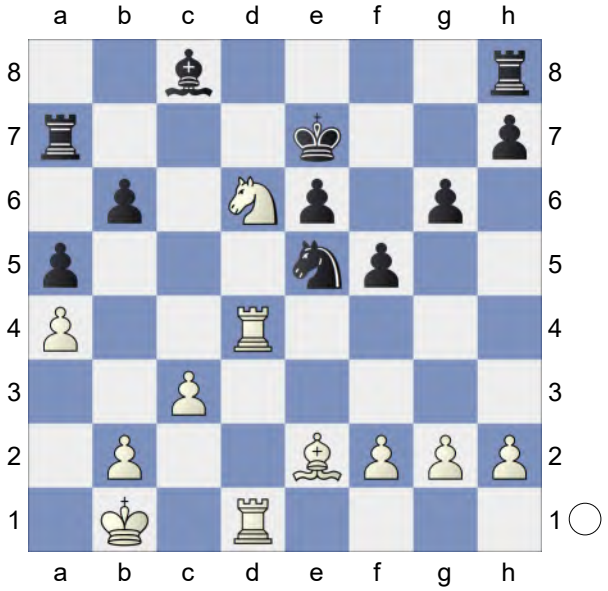
16.Bd4 Bf6 17.Be2 Nd7 1.09/21
[17...b5± 0.62/21 is more appropriate.]



18.Nc4 0.61/20
[18.Be3!± 1.09/21]
18...Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Ke7 0.95/20
Black is weak on the dark squares. White stays focused until the end.
[19...b5± 0.57/21 should be considered. 20.Nd6+ Ke7]
20.Rhd1± Ra7
(Diagram)

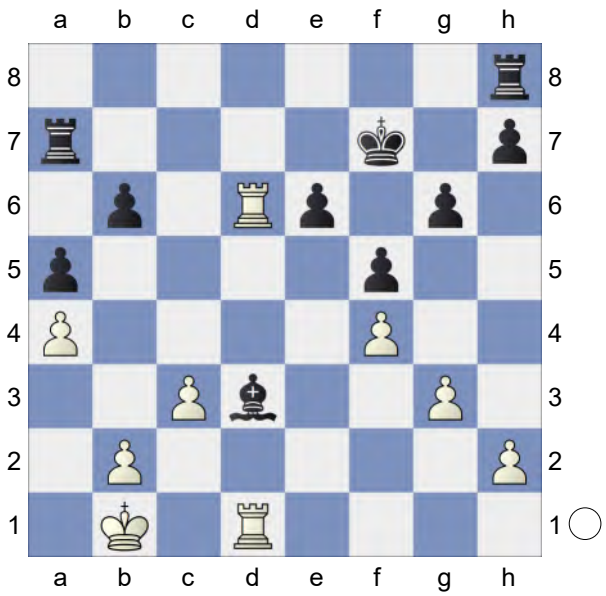


21.a4 a5 1.46/19
[⌓21...Nc5 0.87/20]
22.Kb1 f6 23.Bf3 f5 24.Nd6
White has more active pieces. **24...Ne5 25.Be2 b6**

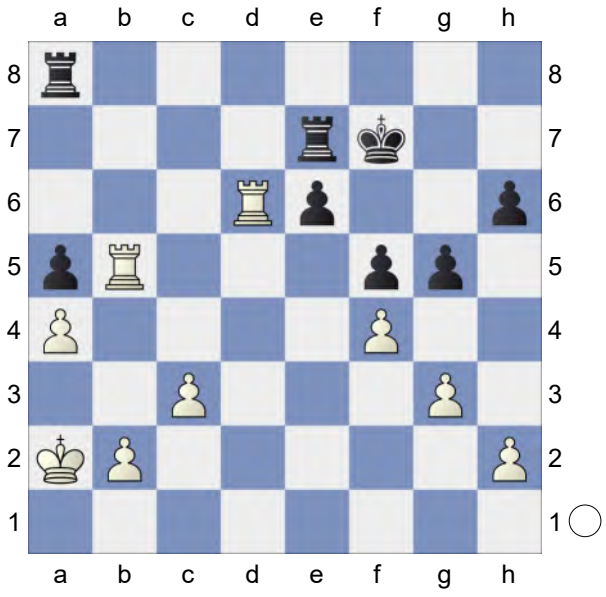


26.f4 Nf7 27.Nxf7 Kxf7 28.Rd6 Bb7 29.g3 Be4+ 30.Bd3 Bxd3+

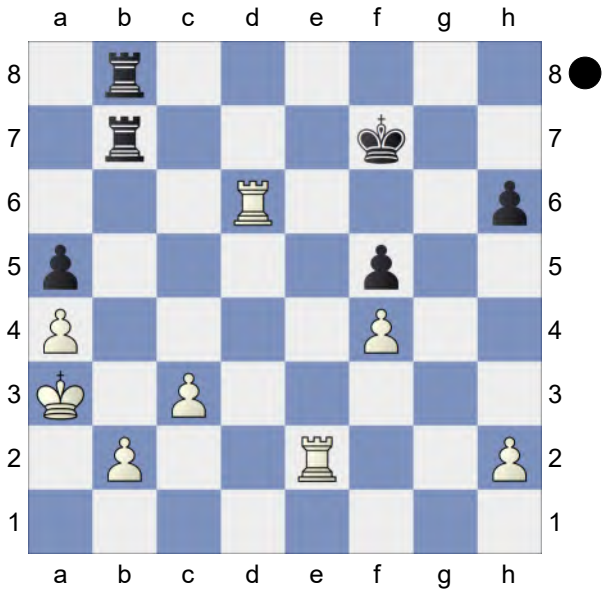
(Diagram)



31.R1xd3 Endgame. KRR-KRR
31...Rc8 1.83/22
[31...Rb7± 1.46/24 was necessary. 32.Re3 Re8]
32.Rxb6+- h6 2.74/24
[⌓32...Rc4 1.64/22 33.Rd4 *(33.b3 Re4=)* 33...Rxd4 34.cxd4 h5]
33.Rdd6 Re7 34.Rb5 Ra8 35.Ka2 g5



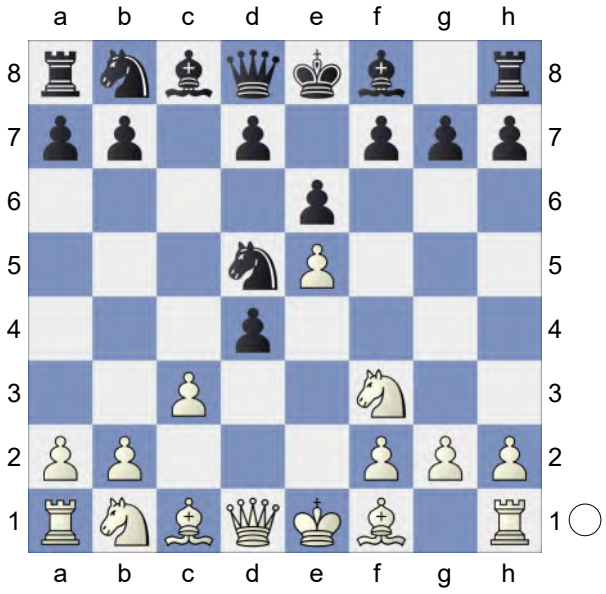
36.Ka3 gxf4 37.gxf4 Rc7 38.Re5 Rb7? 6.26/25
[38...Re7 2.53/21 39.b3 Kf6]
39.Rexe6 Rab8 40.Re2
[Stronger than 40.Rxh6 Rb3+ 41.Ka2 Rxb2+ 42.Ka1 R2b3 *(42...Rb1+ 43.Ka2=)* 43.Rdf6+ Ke7 44.Re6+ *(44.Rxf5? Ra3#)* 44...Kf7 45.Rhf6+ Kg7 46.Rg6+ *(46.Rxf5? Ra3#)* 46...Kh7 47.Rh6+ Kg7 48.Reg6+ Kf7 49.Rf6+ Ke7 50.Re6+ *(50.Rxf5? Ra3#)* 50...Kf7 51.Ref6+=]



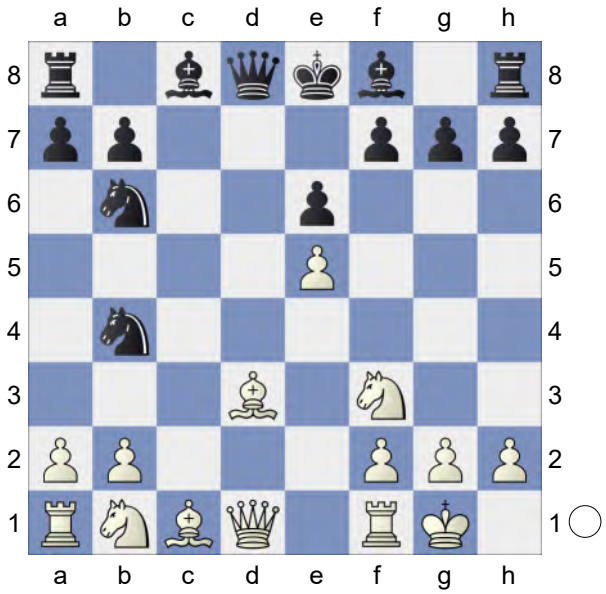
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

99 **B22**
□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2724**
■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2720**
Tata Steel India Rapid (1) 29.11.2022
[Kitty Kat]

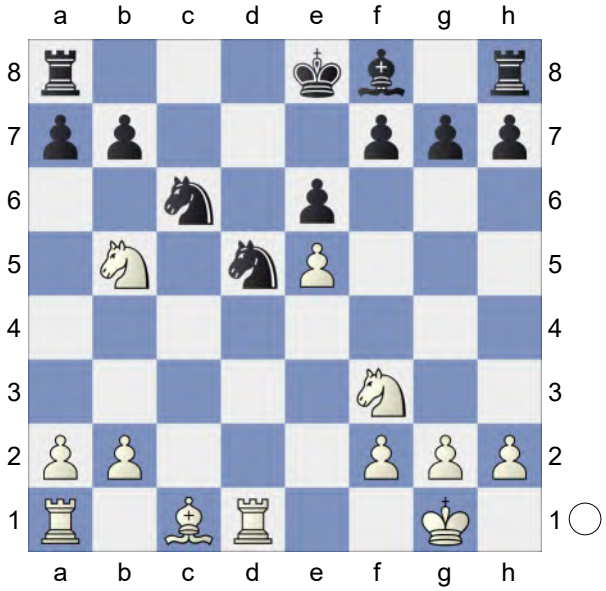
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4



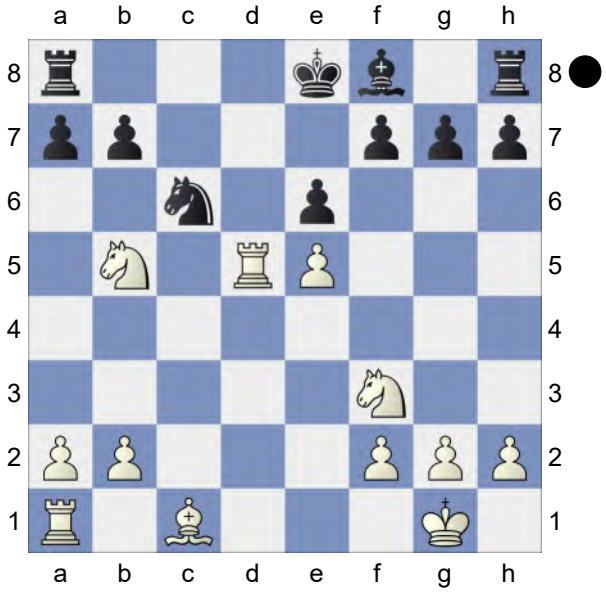
6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nb4



11.Be4 Qxd1 White is slightly better.
12.Rxd1 Bd7 13.Nc3N 0.22/21
White is more active.
[13.Bxb7± 0.81/19 Nc2 14.Bxa8 Nxa8 15.Be3 *(15.Rxd7? Kxd7 16.Ng5 Be7-+; 15.Ne1 Nxa1 16.Be3 Nb6 17.Nd2* 22) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4. Nf3 e6-5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 *)*]
13...Bc6= 14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.Nb5 Nd5

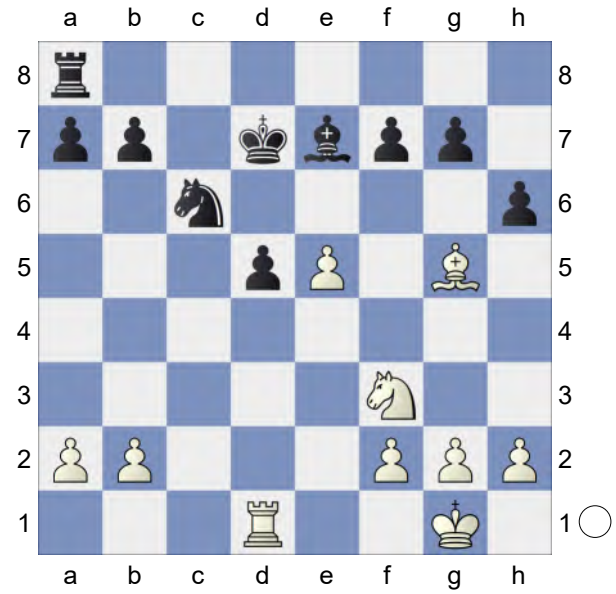


Repels Nc7+ **16.Rxd5**

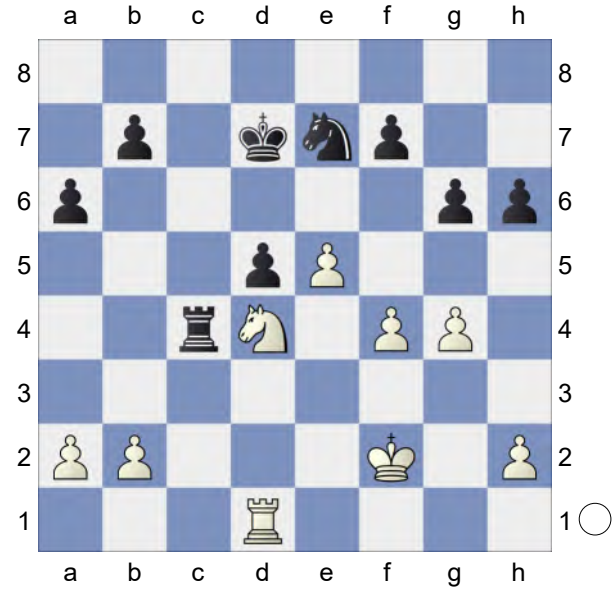


Remove Defender **16...exd5 17.Nc7+ Kd7 18.Nxa8** Bf4 is the strong threat.
18...Be7 19.Bg5 e6+! would now be

deadly. **19...Rxa8 20.Rd1 h6**

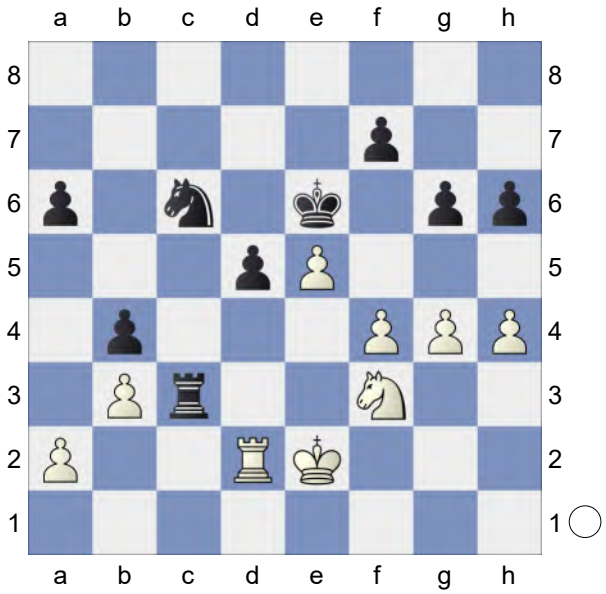


21.Bxe7 Nxe7 Endgame. KRN-KRN **22.Nd4! Rc8 23.f4 a6 24.Kf2 g6 25.g4 Rc4**

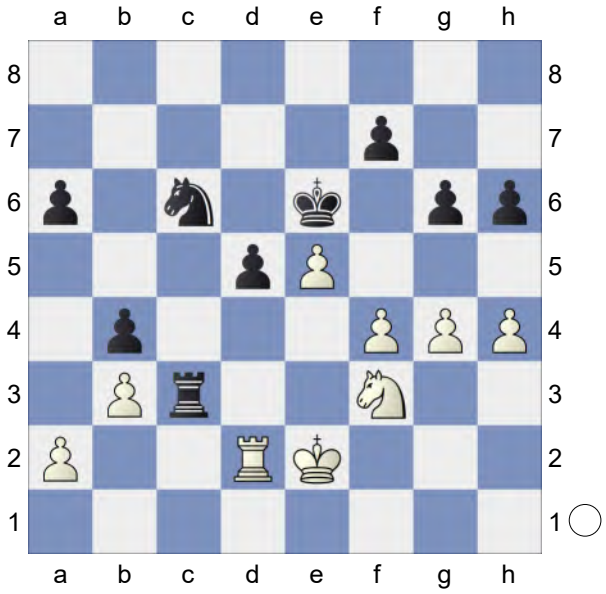


26.b3 Rc3 27.Rd2 Nc6 28.Nf3 Ke6 29.h4 b5 30.Ke2 The position is equal. **30...b4**

(Diagram)



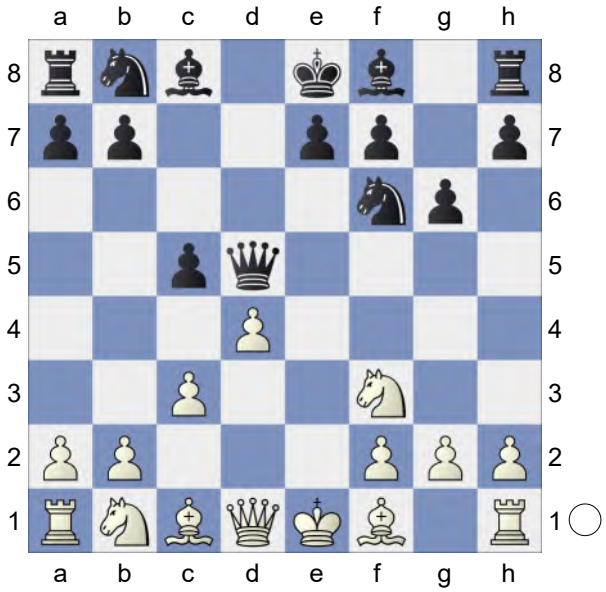
31.Rd3 Rc2+ 32.Rd2 Rc3 33.Rd3 Rc2+ 34.Rd2 Rc3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

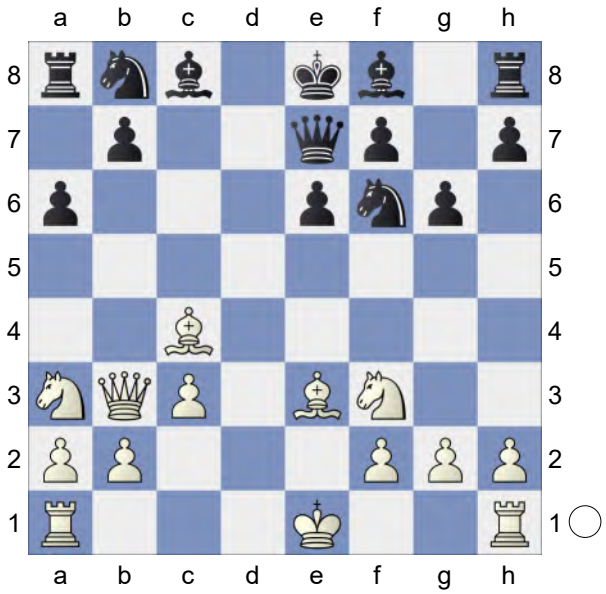
100 **B22**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2724**
■ **Jones,Gawain C B** **2526**
Staunton Memorial 5th (7) 13.08.2007
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Christiansen,Larry Mark: 'Christiansen, L: 'Inf 86/105'' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6**

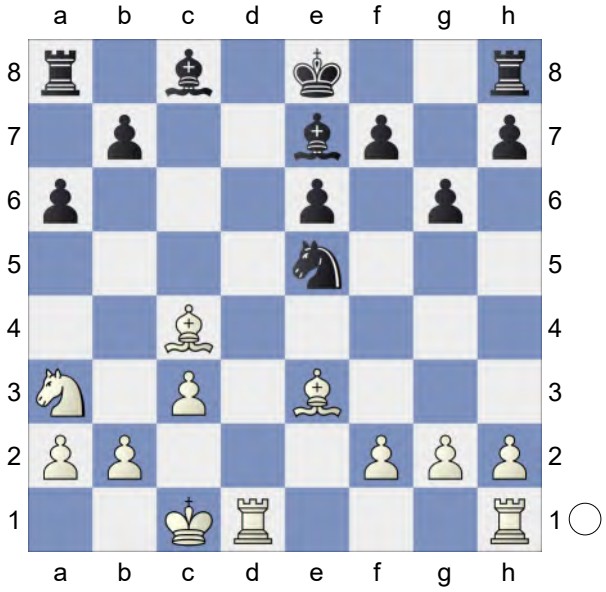


6.Qb3 e6N
[6...cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Kf1 e6 9.Nbd2 *(9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Nc3 Qf5 11.Nb5 Kd7 12.Ne5+ Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5 14.Be3 Bc5 15.Rd1+ Ke7 16.Qc3* 1-0 Vajda,L (2510)-Rodriguez Lopez,R (2320) FSGM June Budapest HUN 2011 (1)*)* 9...Qf4 10.Nxd4 Nc6 11.N2f3 Qc7 12.g3 a6 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rd1 Nxd4 16.Rxd4 Qc6 17.Rf4 b5 18.Rxf6 bxc4 19.Qa3 Bb7 20.Rxf7 0-0-0 21.Rg1 ½-½ (44) Vajda,L (2576)-Christiansen,L (2566) (ol) 86/105 Bled 2002]
7.Bc4 Qd6 8.Na3 a6 Wards off Nb5. White has an edge. **9.dxc5 Qxc5**

10.Be3 Qe7

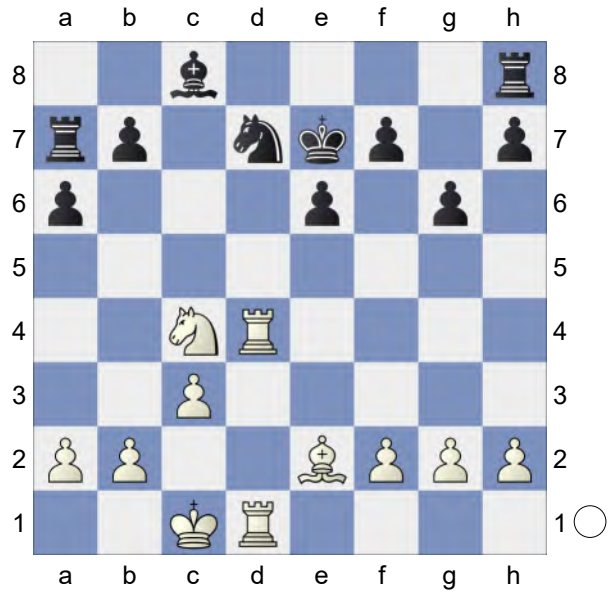


11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Qb6 0.01/20
[12.Rhe1± 0.44/18]
12...Nd7!= 13.Qc7 Nde5 0.46/25
14.Qxe7+± Bxe7 15.Nxe5 Nxe5

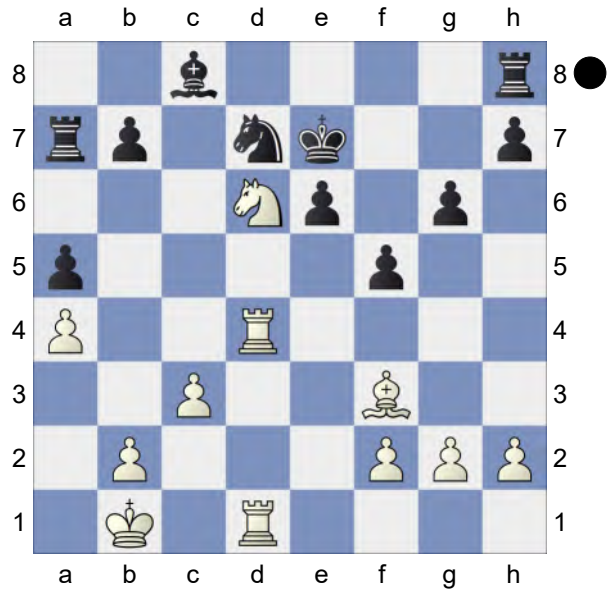


16.Bd4↑ White is more active. **16...Bf6**
17.Be2 Nd7 1.06/21
[17...b5± 0.64/21]
18.Nc4 0.61/21
[18.Be3± 1.06/21]
18...Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Ke7 1.04/19
Black is weak on the dark squares
[19...b5± 0.65/20]

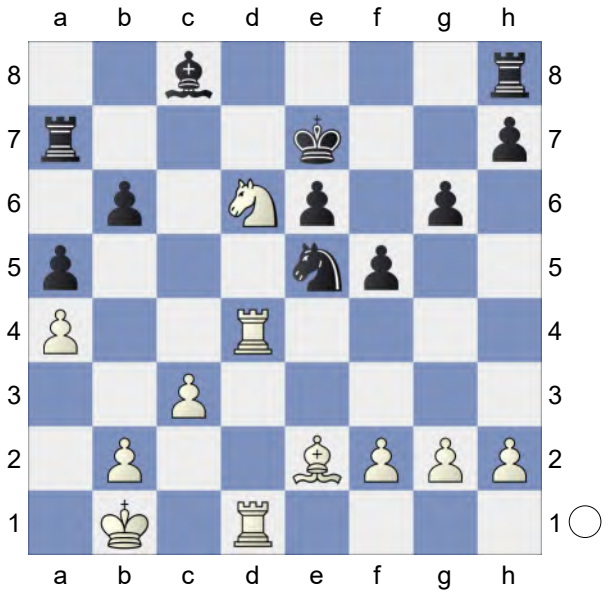
20.Rhd1± Ra7



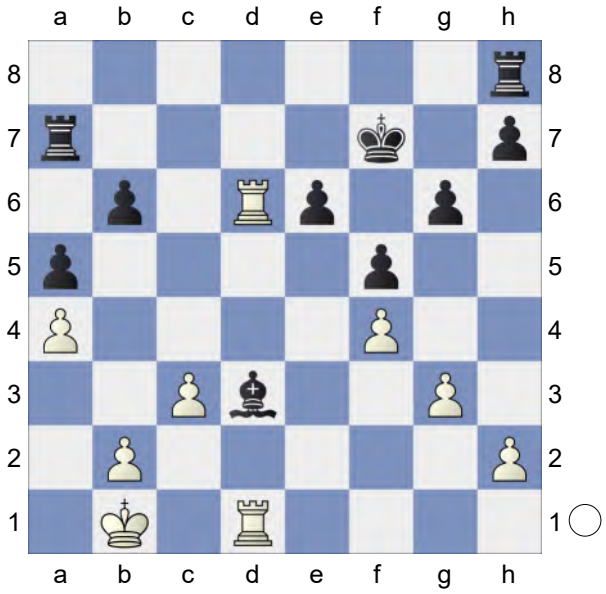
21.a4 a5 1.33/19
[⌓21...Nc5 0.87/19]
22.Kb1 0.91/18
[⌓22.Kc2 1.33/19]
22...f6 1.49/19
[⌓22...b6 0.91/18]
23.Bf3 f5 24.Nd6



Nxc8+ would now be deadly. White is much more active. **24...Ne5** 1.11/21
[Black should try 24...Nb6 1.49/21 25.g3 Rf8]
25.Be2 b6

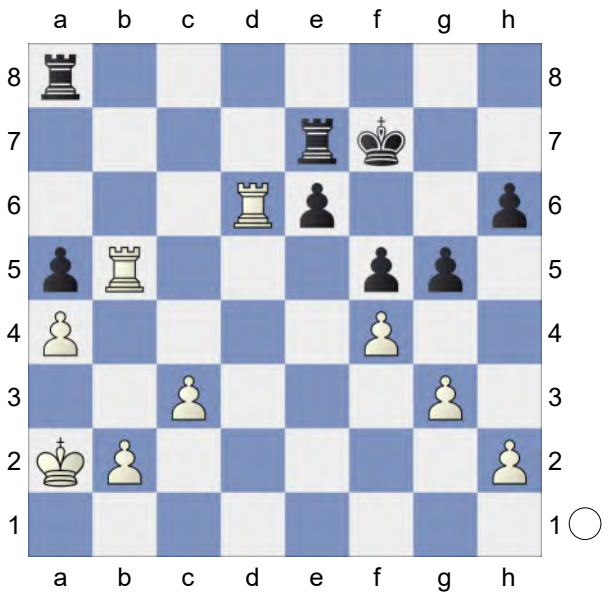


26.f4 Nf7 27.Nxf7 Kxf7 28.Rd6 Bb7 29.g3 Be4+ 30.Bd3 Bxd3+



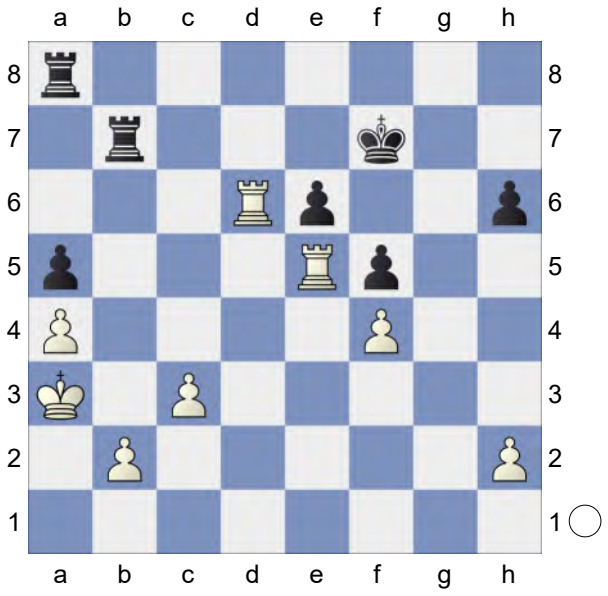
31.R1xd3 Endgame. KRR-KRR
31...Rc8 1.77/22
[31...Rb8± 1.34/21 might work better. 32.Re3 Re7]
32.Rxb6+- h6 2.52/22
[⌓32...Rc4 1.69/19 33.b3 Re4]
33.Rdd6 Re7 34.Rb5 Ra8 35.Ka2 g5

(Diagram)



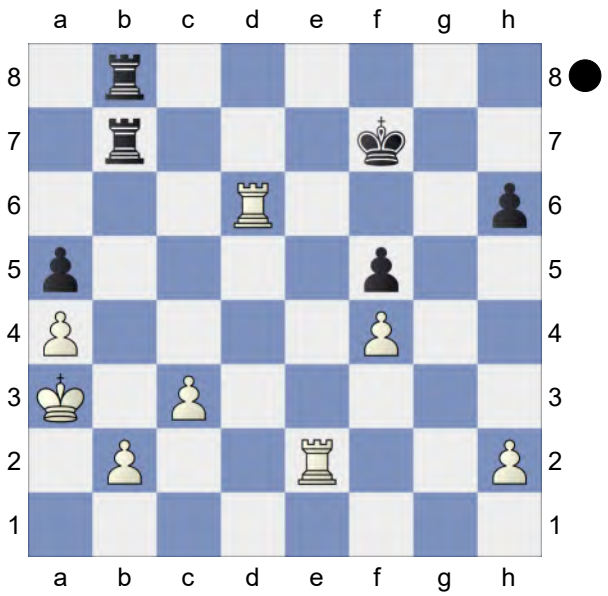
36.Ka3 gxf4 37.gxf4 Rc7 38.Re5 Rb7? 6.04/23

[38...Rc4 2.73/21 39.Rdxe6 *(39.Rexe6 Rxf4 40.Rxh6 Rf2±)* 39...Rxf4 40.Rxh6 Rf2]



39.Rexe6 Rab8 40.Re2

[Stronger than 40.Rxh6 Rb3+ 41.Ka2 Rxb2+ 42.Ka1 Rb1+ 43.Ka2 R1b2+ 44.Ka1 R2b3 *(44...Rb1+ 45.Ka2=)* 45.Rhf6+ Kg7 46.Rg6+ *(46.Rxf5? Ra3#)* 46...Kh8 47.Rh6+ Kg8=]

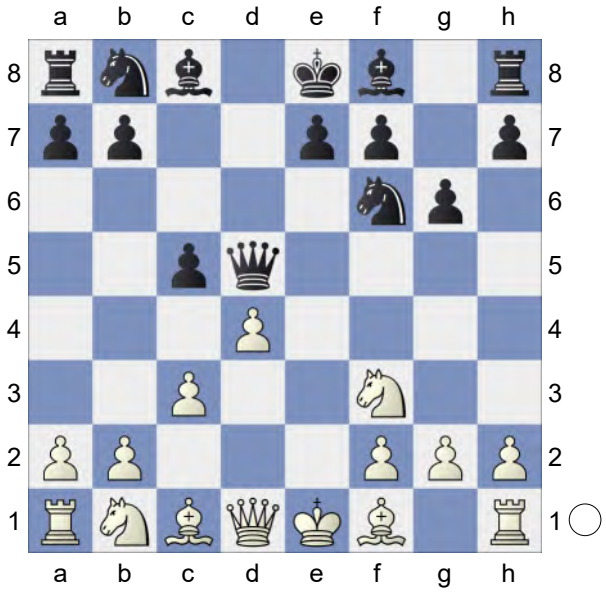


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

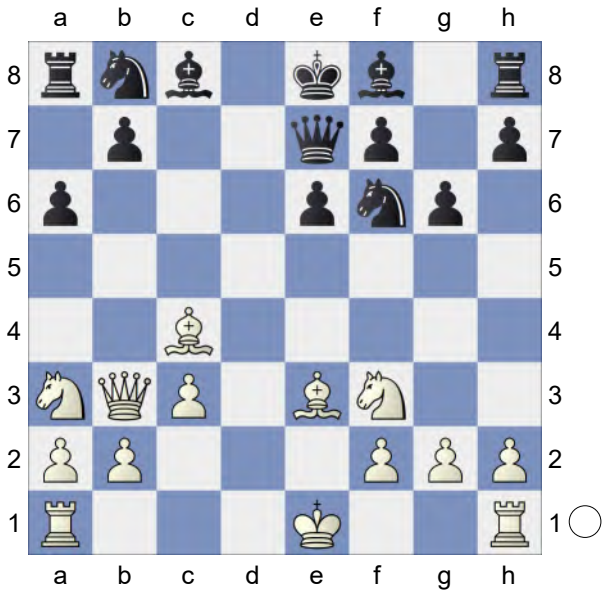
101 **B22**
□ **Ellithorpe,Gilbert P** **2724**
■ **Kausche,Gunnar** **2526**
corr 118/(198) 2007
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Christiansen,Larry Mark: 'Christiansen, L: 'Inf 86/105'' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6**

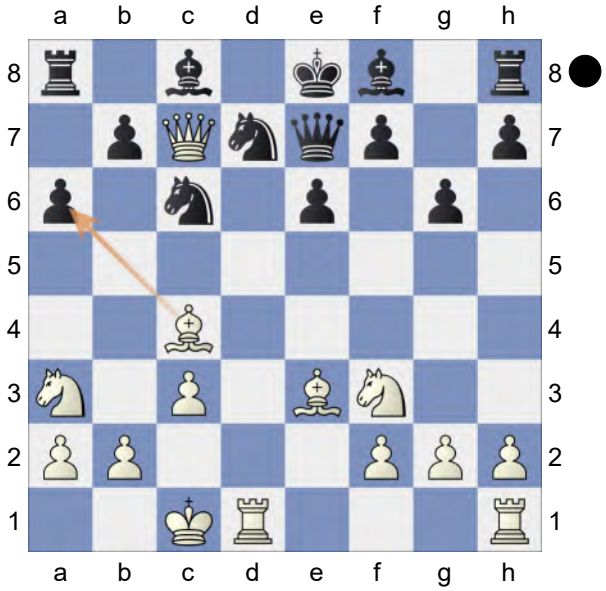


6.Qb3 e6N
[6...cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Kf1 e6 9.Nbd2 *(9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Nc3 Qf5 11.Nb5 Kd7 12.Ne5+ Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5 14.Be3 Bc5 15.Rd1+ Ke7 16.Qc3* 1-0 Vajda,L (2510)-Rodriguez Lopez,R (2320) FSGM June Budapest HUN 2011 (1)*)* 9...Qf4 10.Nxd4 Nc6 11.N2f3 Qc7 12.g3 a6 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rd1 Nxd4 16.Rxd4 Qc6 17.Rf4 b5 18.Rxf6 bxc4 19.Qa3 Bb7 20.Rxf7 0-0-0 21.Rg1 ½-½ (44) Vajda,L (2576)-Christiansen,L (2566) (ol) 86/105 Bled 2002]
7.Bc4 Qd6 8.Na3 a6 Dodges Nb5. White has an edge. **9.dxc5 Qxc5**

10.Be3 Qe7

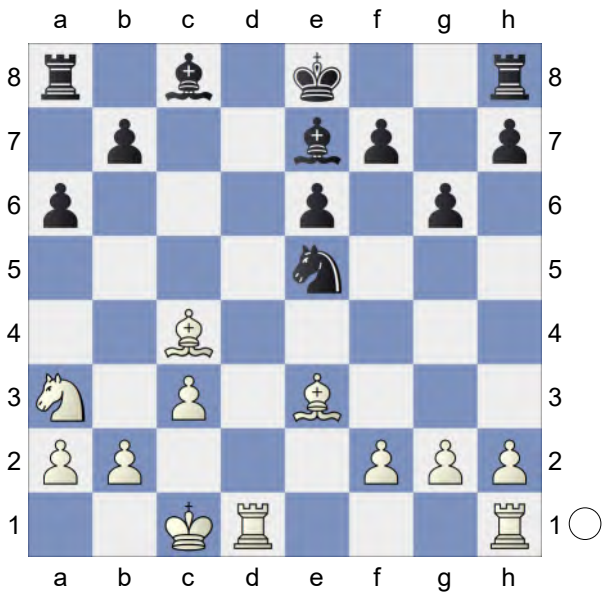


11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Qb6 -0.01/21
[12.Bf4± 0.38/18 was preferrable.]
12...Nd7!= 13.Qc7

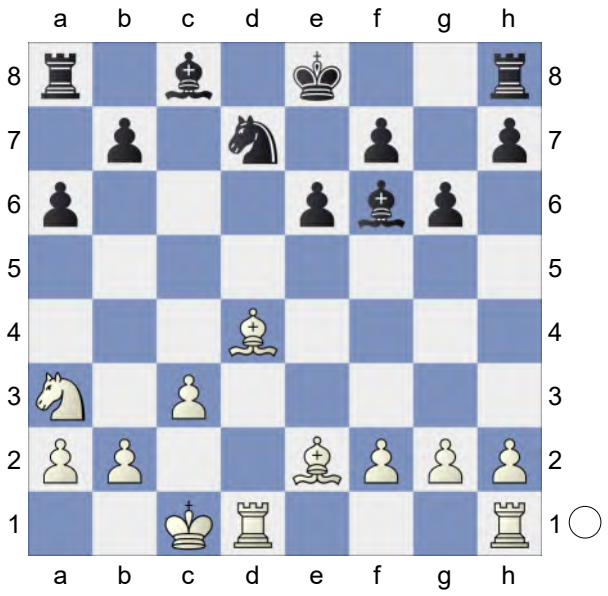


Nde5 0.49/24 **14.Qxe7+±** **Bxe7**
15.Nxe5 Nxe5

(Diagram)

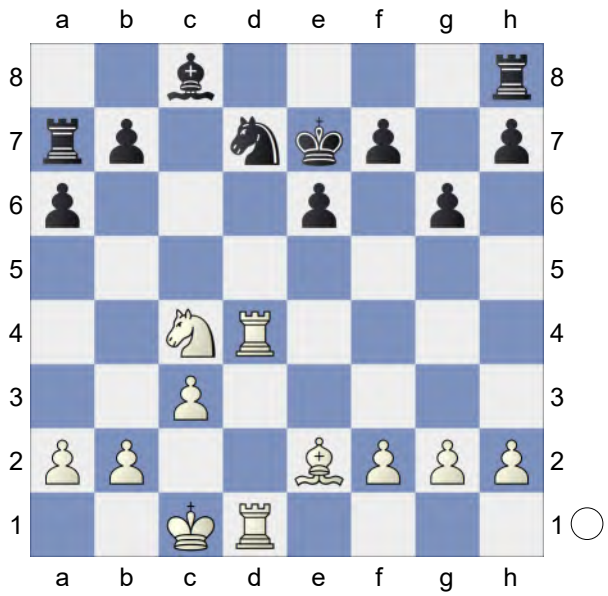


16.Bd4 Bf6 17.Be2 Nd7 1.04/19
[17...b5!± 0.51/21]

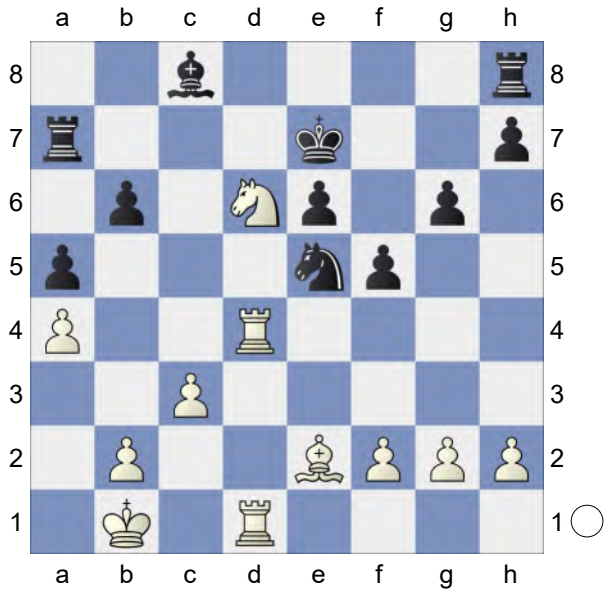


18.Nc4 0.57/21
[White should play 18.Be3!± 1.04/19]
18...Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Ke7 1.12/20
Black is weak on the dark squares. White now steadily converts the win.
[19...b5= 0.30/19 keeps the balance. 20.Na5 Kf8]
20.Rhd1± Ra7

(Diagram)

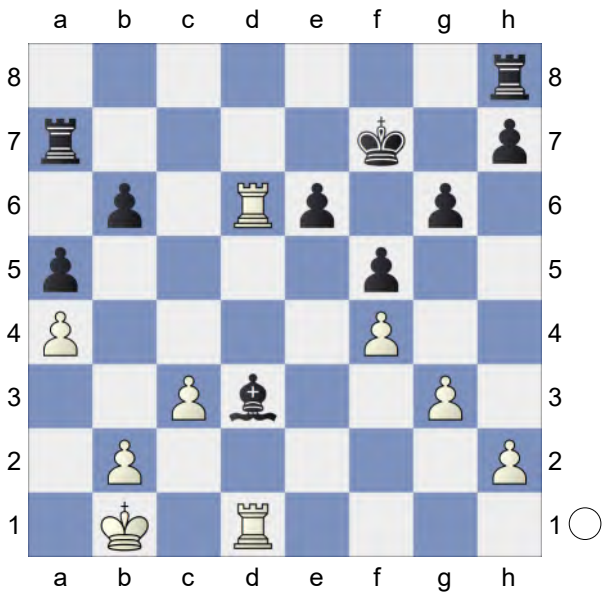


21.a4 a5 1.18/19
[⌓21...Nc5 0.81/20]
22.Kb1 f6 23.Bf3 f5 24.Nd6
White is much more active. **24...Ne5**
25.Be2 b6



26.f4 Nf7 27.Nxf7 Kxf7 28.Rd6↑
Black is under strong pressure. **28...Bb7**
29.g3 Be4+ 30.Bd3 Bxd3+

(Diagram)



31.R1xd3 Endgame. KRR-KRR

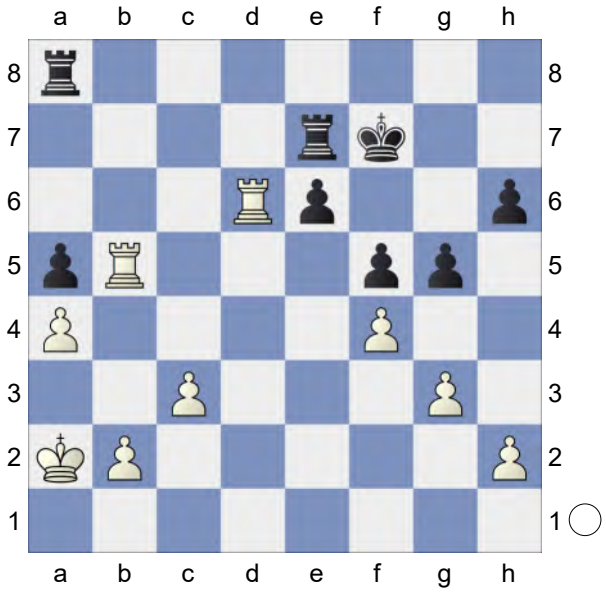
31...Rc8 1.87/21

[31...Rb8± 1.36/21 is a better defense. 32.Re3 Re7]

32.Rxb6+- h6 2.74/22

[⌓32...Rc4 1.67/20 33.Re3 *(33.b3 Re4+-)* 33...Rxa4 34.Rbxe6 *(34.Rexe6 Rc4+-)* 34...Rc4]

33.Rdd6 Re7 34.Rb5 Ra8 35.Ka2 g5

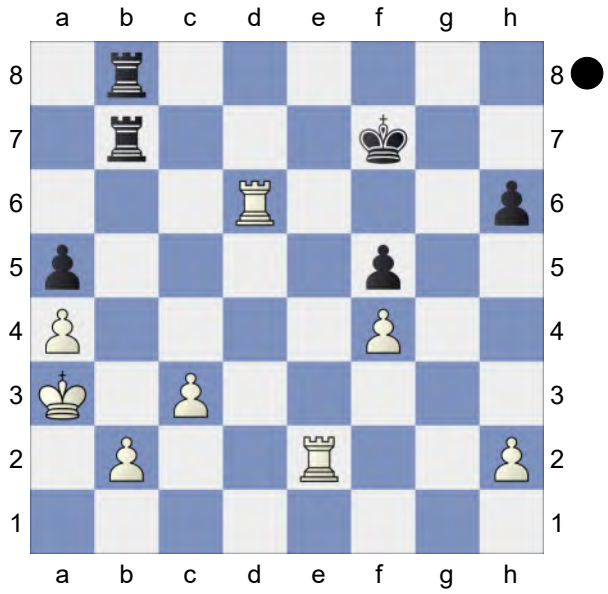


36.Ka3 gxf4 37.gxf4 Rc7 38.Re5 Rb7? 6.01/23

[38...Rc4 3.11/22 39.Rexe6 Rxf4 40.Rxh6 Rf1 41.Rd7+ Kg8 42.Rg6+ Kh8]

39.Rexe6 Rab8 40.Re2

[Stronger than 40.Rxh6 Rb3+ 41.Ka2 Rxb2+ 42.Ka1 Rb1+ 43.Ka2 R1b2+ 44.Ka1 Rb1+ 45.Ka2 R1b2+=]

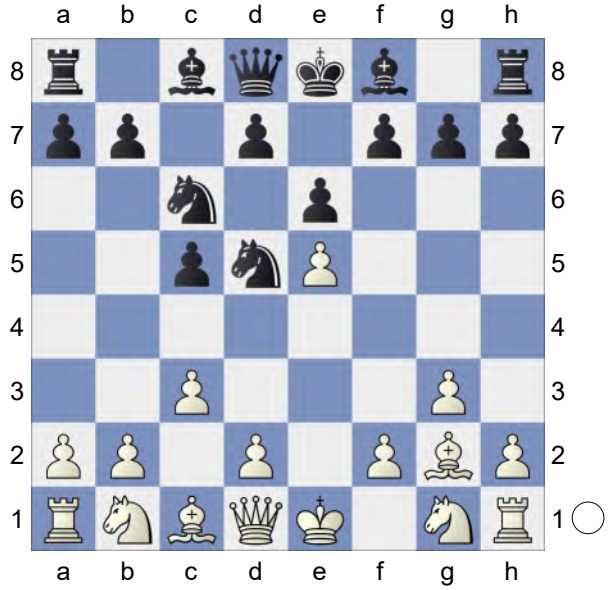


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

102 **B22**
□ **Kamsky,Gata** **2723**
■ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2781**
Sochi FIDE GP (2) 01.08.2008
[Rogozenco,Dorian]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 e6



Playing the Sveshnikov Sicilian against Kamsky without special preparation is at least questionable. The point is that Kamsky plays a very solid system, which suits his style perfectly.

6.Nf3 Qc7N
[6...d6 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 Qc7 *(9...b6 10.c4 Nde7 11.Nc3 Bb7 12.d5 exd5 13.cxd5 Nb4 14.Ng5 h6 15.Nge4 Nbxd5 16.Bxh6 Be5 17.Bd2 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Ng6 19.f4 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 f5 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 22.Bxb7 Rb8 23.Bg2 Qd3 24.Rf3* 1-0 (84) Peignien,L (2505)-Dauvergne,D (2630) 62/(96) Russia 1994*; 9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qc7 12.Nd2 Bd7 13.Ne4 Be5 14.Qc5 Bc6 15.f4 Bf6 16.Nxf6+ Nxf6 17.Bxc6 Rfc8 18.Be3 Qxc6 19.Qxc6 Rxc6 20.Rfd1 Nd5* ½-½ Patriarca,L (2035)-Wyeth,D (2103) World Championship Match, 9th Game 2008 (7)*)* 10.Na3 a6 11.Nc4 cxd4 12.Nxd6 Qxd6 13.Nxd4 Bd7 14.c4 Nf6 15.Nxc6 Qxd1 16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Rxd1 Rfe8 18.Bxb7 Ra7 19.c5 Ba4 20.Bc6 Bxd1 21.Bxe8 1-0 (43) Rhodin,C (1910)-Cherniak,L (2121) Reggio Emilia 9495 37th 1994 (5)]

7.Qe2 Be7
[7...d6 and the endgame should be winning for White. 8.exd6 Bxd6+- Even better than 9.Na3 a6 Wards off Nb5 10.Nc4 0-0 *(10...Be7)* 11.0-0 Be7 12.Rd1± or 12...b5 13.Ne3 Nb6 14.d4 cxd4 15.cxd4± Rd8 is premature due to the simple 16.b3 and the position opens up in Black's favor. With the kingside weaknesses a defence like 16...Bb7 17.Bb2 Nb4 18.Rac1 Qb8 is out of question. White can even consider the direct refutation 19.a3 N4d5 20.Ng4 with a strong attack. After 20...Rc8 21.Nge5 Rxc1 White still had a hard job to break through. Kamsky decided that it's too early to start concrete play with 22.Rxc1 although it looks promising: Qf8]

8.Na3
[Or 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Rb8 0.40/22 *(9...d6=* 0.01/20 *)* 10.d4± cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 b5 13.Bxd5 exd5 14.Nc3 Qc6 15.Bf4 b4+- similar to 41...a4 16.Nd1 Qe6 17.Qd2 Ba6 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Qxg5 d6 20.Qd2 Rfe8 21.Ne3 -0.11/24 *(⌓21.a3!* 0.27/22 *)* 21...dxe5= 22.dxe5 Rbd8+- 23.Nc2 d4!+-]
[8.d3 0-0+- 9.0-0

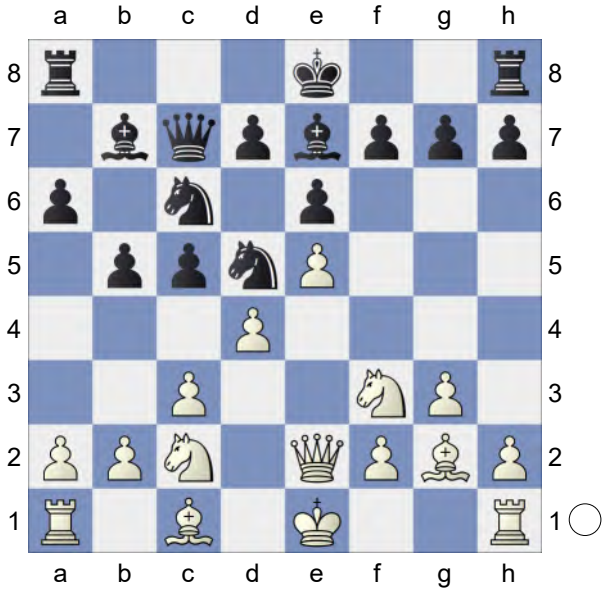
A) 9...Rd8 10.c4+- Nb6 or 11.Nc3 would have kept some chances to make White's task more difficult. After 11...d5 Black protects pawn d6 with the amazing 12.b3 and White cannot take the pawn yet: d4?? 13.Nb5 Qb8 14.Bf4-+ Nd7 15.h4+- 0.05/19 *(15.Nd6± 0.46/19)* After 15...a6 the pawn a5 falls: 16.Nd6+- Bxd6 is strongly met by 17.exd6! h6 Against Ng5 18.b4 cxb4 19.Rfe1 Qa7 20.Bh3 0.01/20 *(20.g4± 0.41/21* deserves consideration.*)* 20...Nf8= 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.Qxe5 -0.68/21 *(22.Bxe5= 0.01/22 f6 23.d7 Rxd7 24.Bf4)* 22...Ng6 0.06/20 *(22...f6∓ -0.68/21 23.Qh5 e5)* 23.Qa5!= b6 24.Qxb4 Nxf4;

B) 9...b6 10.c4 Ndb4+- 11.a3 Na6! 12.Nc3 Bb7+-]

8...a6 9.Nc2

[9.0-0?? even loses after g5 0.93/19 *(9...0-0=* 0.00/20 keeps the balance. *)*]

9...b5 The position is equal. **10.d4 Bb7**



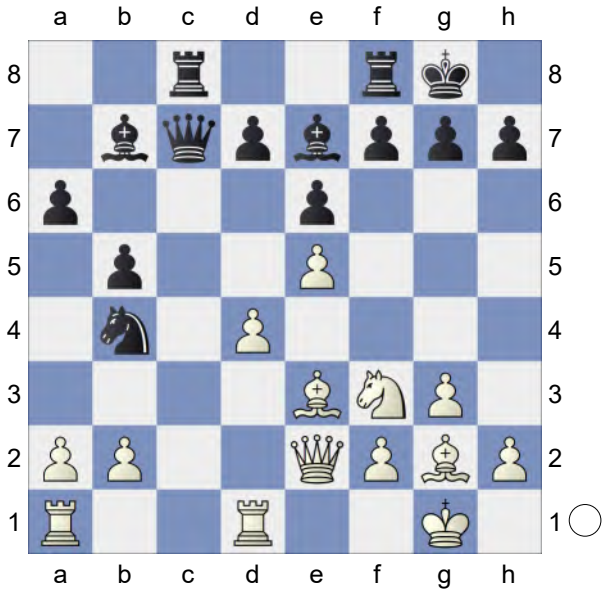
11.0-0 0-0 12.Rd1

[12.Bg5 f6 0.53/19 *(Black should try 12...cxd4=* 0.00/19 *13.Bxe7 Ndxe7)* 13.exf6± Nxf6=]

12...Rac8 13.Ne3 Nxe3 14.Bxe3

[14.fxe3 -0.46/18 14.Bxe3 -0.08]

14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Nb4!



A common way of development, but combining moves a6-a5 with ♖b 8 somehow doesn't look like the most optimal set-up. **16.Rac1 Qa5**

[16...Qb8]

17.a3 Nd5 18.Nd2

[18.Bd2 Qb6 19.Qd3 f6 0.06/18 *(19...Rc4∓* -0.35/18 feels stronger.*)* 20.Qe2 a5 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc1 -0.67/18 *(22.exf6=* -0.15/19 *Nxf6 23.Be3)*]

18...b4N 0.25/20 This novelty prepares the transfer of the knight to c5. The question remains if Black really needed a move like ♖a8-b8 then.

[18...Qa4 -0.23/19 should be considered.]

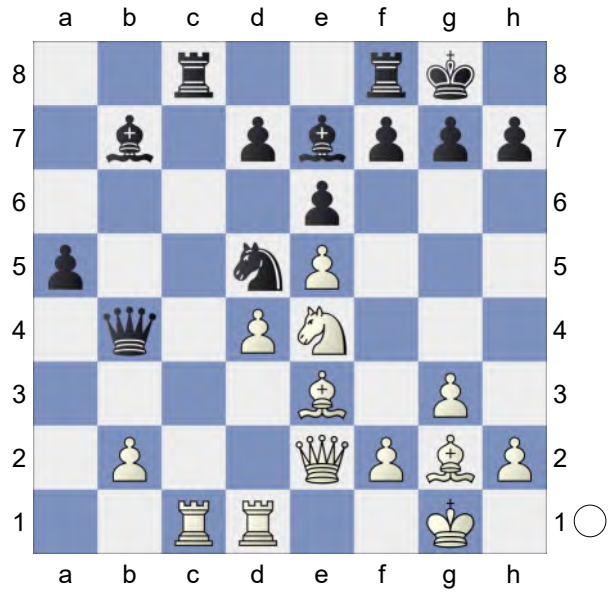
19.axb4 -0.35/21 Typical play for White in this system. The queen's retreat to e2 has several purposes. First of all White frees the d3-square and is ready to double rooks on the d-file. Secondly, 19. ♕e2 prepares the transfer of his bishop to the diagonal c8-h3. Finally, the queen

runs away in case Black transfers the knight to c5.

[19.Nc4= 0.25/20 Qd8 20.axb4]

19...Qxb4?!∓ This is a rather strange decision, most likely dictated by the fact that Ivanchuk didn't feel comfortable with Black's position (but then the opening choice was a clear mistake!).

20.Ne4 a5



21.h4 Simple chess: White has clear plans to increase the pressure in the centre. **21...Nxe3?!** Another nervous move, designed to prevent ♗f3-g4. The weaknesses created by this advance will make Black's life harder, though.

22.fxe3± Bd5 No choice for Black, even if placing the rook on the d-file (instead of protecting ♙d6 from the 6th rank) means that he must always watch out for the advance c4-c5. **23.Qd2!**

[23.Nc3+- -1.42/20 23.Qd2 -0.77 Bxg2 -0.88/20 (Black should play *23...Bb3 -1.42/20 24.Re1 h6*) 24.Qxg2+- Not 24...f6?]

23...Qxd2 The collapse of Black's strategy. He is not able to deal with all his weaknesses. **24.Nxd2** A dream position for White in this system. Black has no counterplay, while his structure is full of weaknesses. **24...Bb4**

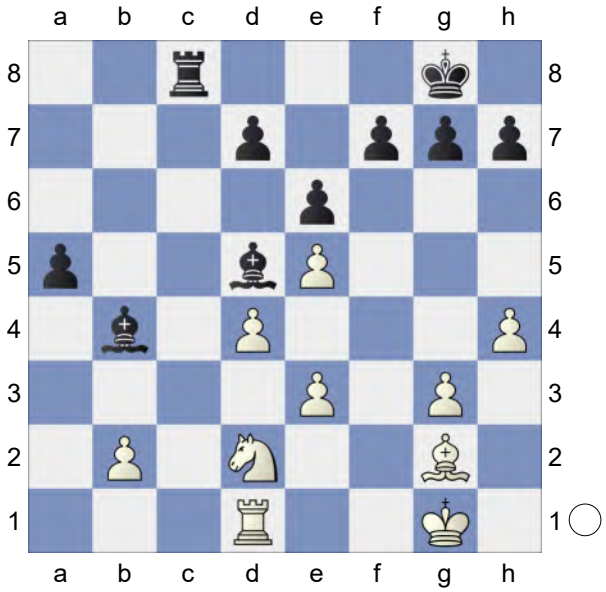
25.Rxc8 -1.03/21

[25.Bxd5+- -4.26/22 25.Ne4 -0.82 Avoiding 25...Rxc1? 26.Rxc1 Bxd2]

[25.Nf3 Bb3 26.Rf1 Bc4 27.Rf2 Bd3 28.Rxc8 -1.15/22 *(⌓28.Ra1* -0.75/18 *)* 28...Rxc8]

[25.Nf1∓ -0.55/24]

25...Rxc8∓



Ivanchuk tries his last chance: to build a kind of fortress in the endgame. However, the unfortunate pawn on h5 will prove to be the decisive factor in the evaluation of resulting positions.

26.Bxd5 exd5∓ Endgame. KRB-KRN

27.Nb3 -1.47/24

[27.Nb1!∓ -0.70/25]

27...Rc2∓ 28.Rc1!± -2.04/26 /+-

[28.Ra1∓ -0.90/24 was called for.]

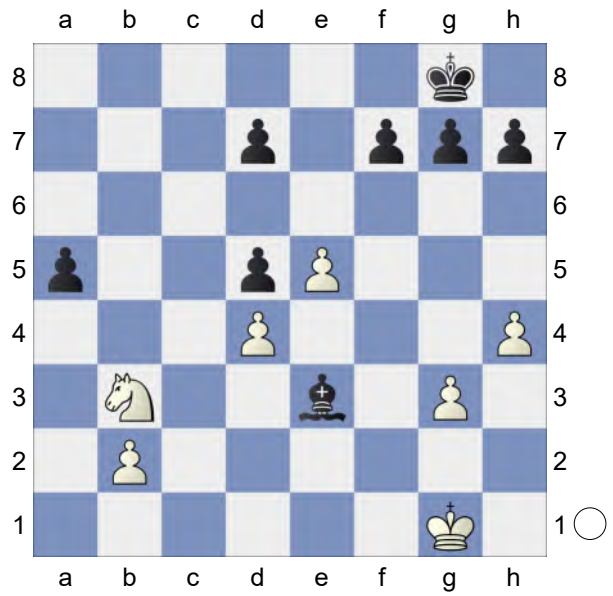
28...Rxc1+-+

[28...Rxb2? is the wrong capture. 29.Rc8+ Bf8 30.Nc5+- *(30.Nxa5 g6=)*]

29.Nxc1 KB-KN **29...Bd2! 30.Nb3** -2.12/30

[⌓30.Ne2 -1.72/26]

30...Bxe3+



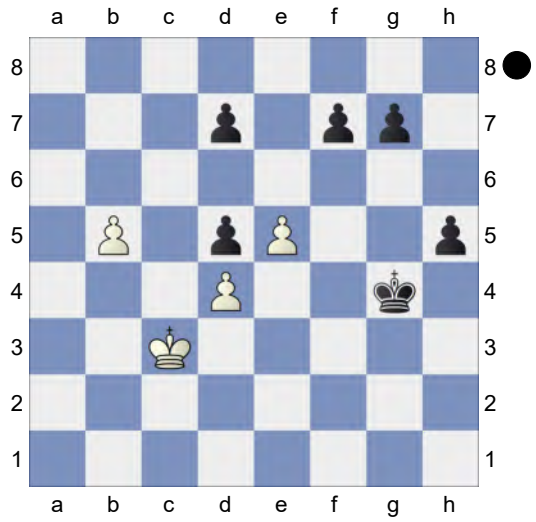
31.Kf1

[31.Kg2 a4 32.Kf3 Bg1 33.Kg2+- -3.13/29 *(⌓33.Nc5 -2.21/29)* After 33...axb3-+ 34.Kxg1 h5 35.Kf2 Kh7 36.Ke3 White wins by threatening to bring the bishop to b5 (via b7 and a6), after which Black will be in zugzwang. Black can prevent it only by advancing the a-pawn and create threats to sac the bishop on c4. However, as soon as Black plays a5-a4 (thus weakening the ♙b4), White wins the pawn endgame arising after ♗d5: Kg6 Strongly threatening ...Kf5.

A) 37.Kf4 f6 38.exf6 gxf6? 0.00/36 *(38...Kxf6-+ -1.65/35 39.g4 Kg6)* 39.Ke3 Kf5 Hoping for ...Kg4. 40.Kf3 d6 41.Ke3+- -22.48/35 *(41.g4+= 0.00/27 Kg6 42.Kf4)* 41...Kg4-+ 42.Kf2+- f5;

B) 37.Kf4 -2.43/31 f6 38.exf6 Kxf6 39.g4;

C) 37.Kd3? -5.84/27 37...Kf5-+ 38.Kc3 Kg4 39.Kxb3 Threatens to win with Ka4. Kxg3 40.Kc3? -6.33/25 *(40.Ka2 -3.14/24 g5 41.b4 gxh4 42.b5)* 40...Kxh4 41.b4 Kg4 42.b5



h4! 43.b6! h3 ...h2 would now be deadly. 44.b7 h2 45.b8Q! h1Q Against Qh8]

31...a4 32.Ke2 Bg1 33.Kf1 Bh2 -1.27/27

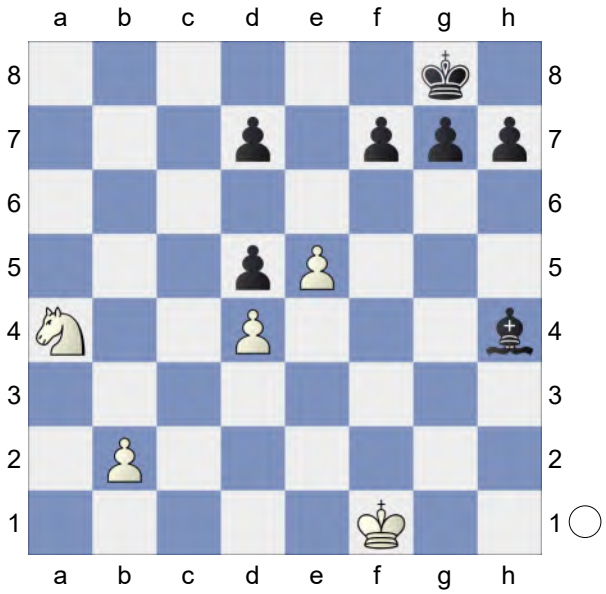
[33...axb3]

[33...Kf8-+ -2.93/30 and Black stays clearly on top. 34.Kxg1 axb3]

34.Nc5∓ Bxg3 35.Nxa4 -2.41/25

[35.h5∓ -1.29/25]

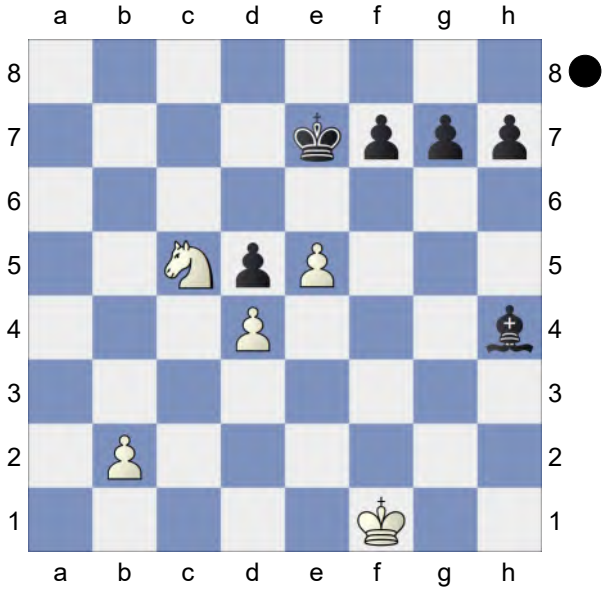
35...Bxh4-+



36.Nb6 Kf8 -1.30/24

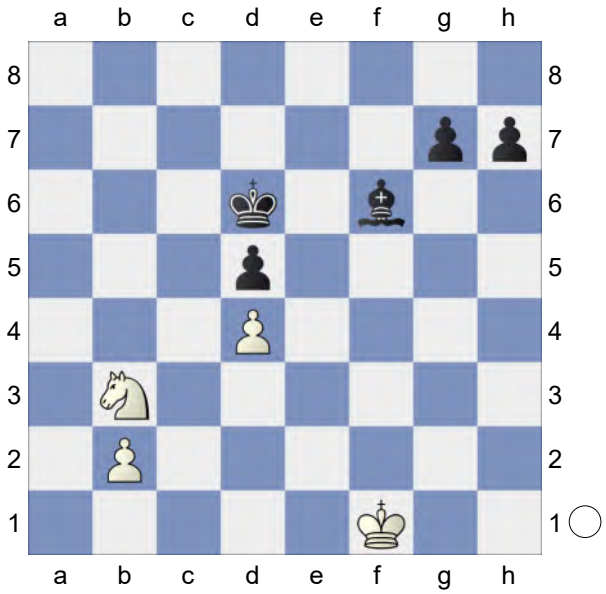
[Better is 36...f6-+ -2.55/26 aiming for ...fxe5. 37.Nxd7 Kf7]

37.Nxd7+ -2.21/26
[37.b4∓ -1.30/24]
37...Ke7 The final part of endgame is very instructive: White needs to break through on the kingside and Kamsky achieves it in just three moves.
38.Nc5

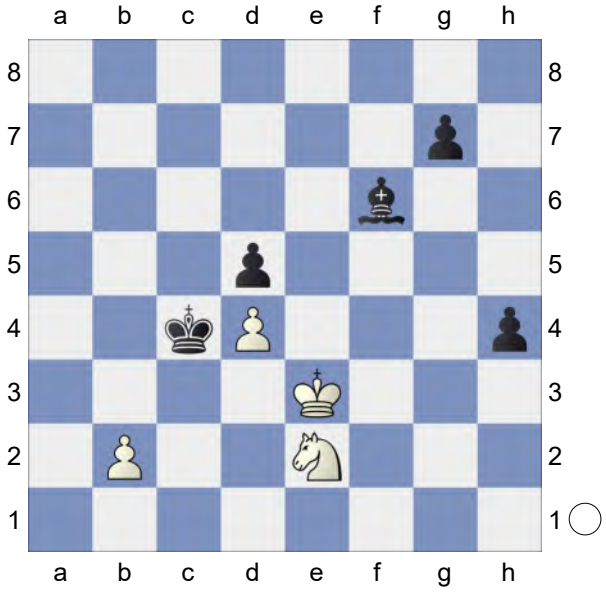


f6! 39.exf6+! -6.52/27
[39.Nd3 -3.43/26 39.Kg2 -2.16 fxe5 40.Nxe5? -5.74/32 *(40.dxe5* -3.39/25 *Ke6 41.Kg2)* 40...Bf6]
[⌓39.Kg2 -2.30/28]
39...Bxf6 Black is clearly winning.
40.Nb3! Kd6

(Diagram)



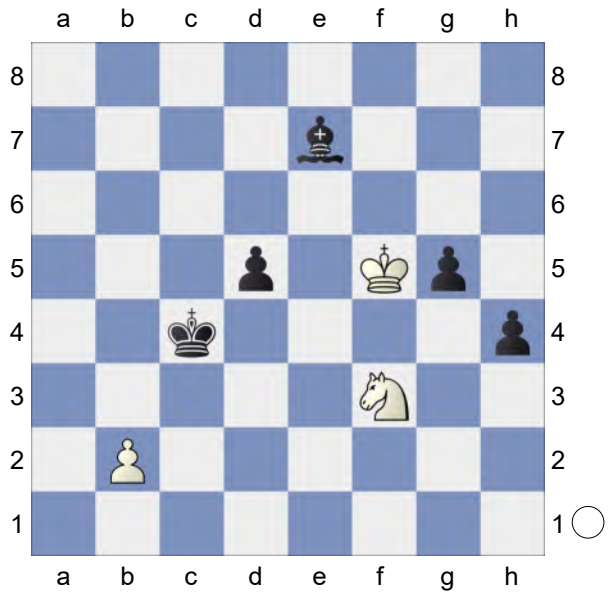
41.Ke2 Kc6 42.Kd3 Kb5 43.Nc1 h5 44.Ne2 h4 White must now prevent ... h3. **45.Ke3**
[45.Nf4 Kc6]
45...Kc4



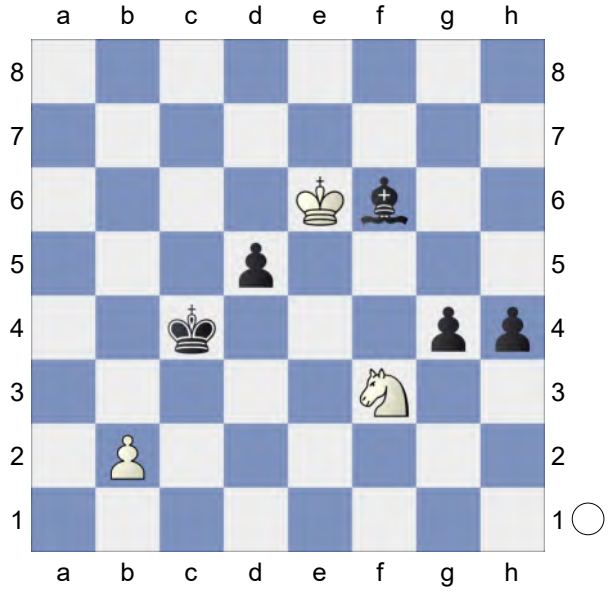
46.Kf3 g5 47.Kg4 As often happens in such situations, things end up in a zugzwang for Black, who cannot keep control over all the important squares: e6 (against ♗e6), c5 (against the advance of the c-pawn), f7 (against the advance of the f-pawn and g4 (against ♔g4). Therefore Ivanchuk resigned.

47...Kd3 48.Ng1 Kxd4 49.Nf3+ Kc4+- 50.Kf5 Be7

[Not 50...Bxb2 51.Kxg5 Kd3 *(51...h3 52.Kg4=)* 52.Nxh4=]



51.Ke6 Bd8 ...Kb3 is the strong threat.
52.Kd7 Bf6 53.Ke6 g4



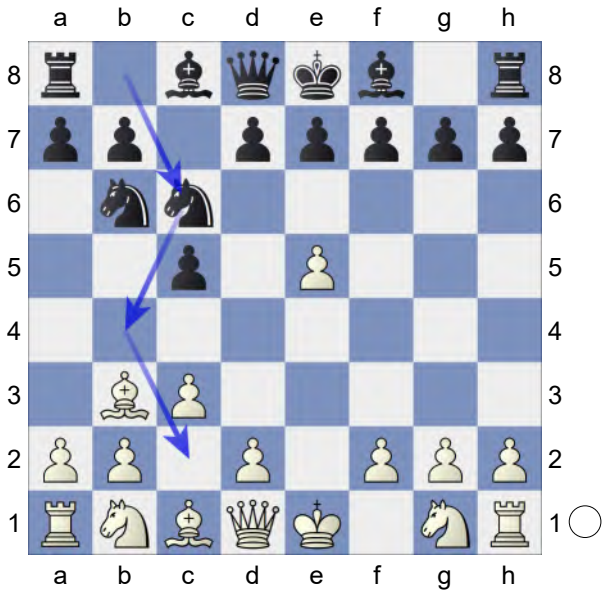
Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.19 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

103 **B22**
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2717**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2752**
Berlin FIDE GP 1 Pool-D (5) 09.02.2022
[Arsovic,Zoran]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4
[1.e4 0.5 e5 0 2.Nf3 0 Nc6 0 3.d4 0 exd4 0 4.Bb5 0 Bc5 0 5.0-0 0 Nge7 0 6.c3 0 dxc3 0 7.Nxc3 0 0-0 0 8.Bg5 0 h6 0 9.Bh4 0 a6 0 10.Bc4 0 d6 0 11.Nd5 0 Qd7 0 12.Rc1 0 Nxd5 0 13.Bxd5 0 Qg4 0 14.Bxc6 0 bxc6 0 15.Re1 0 Re8 0 16.Qa4 0 Rb8 0 17.b3 0 Bb6 0 18.Bg3 0 Bd7 0 19.Rc4 0 Qe6 0 20.h3 0 c5 0 21.Qa3 0 Bc6 0 22.Rc3 0 a5 0 23.e5 0 Qd7 0 24.Rd1 0 Re6 0 25.Qc1 0 Rbe8 0 26.a4 0 Qe7 0 27.Bh4 0 g5 0 28.Nxg5 0 hxg5 0 29.Bxg5 0 Qf8 0 30.Bf6 0 Rxe5 0 31.Rg3+ 0 Kh7 0 32.Qc4
White threatens mate multiple times
Be4 hangs the rook e5 for 3 moves]
1...c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4
Collins,Sam: 'Dubbed an "interesting move order" by Anish Giri, and with plenty of recent high level endorsement at rapid time controls by strong players, Mamedyarov and Mamedov in particular. There are lots of transpositional possibilities, but also some prospects of reaching fresh positions, as occurred in this game.' **4...Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6**
[Collins,Sam: 'Shankland recommends' 5...c4 - 145/131 6.Bc2 and now the rare g6!?]
[Giri analyses 5...d6]

(Diagram)



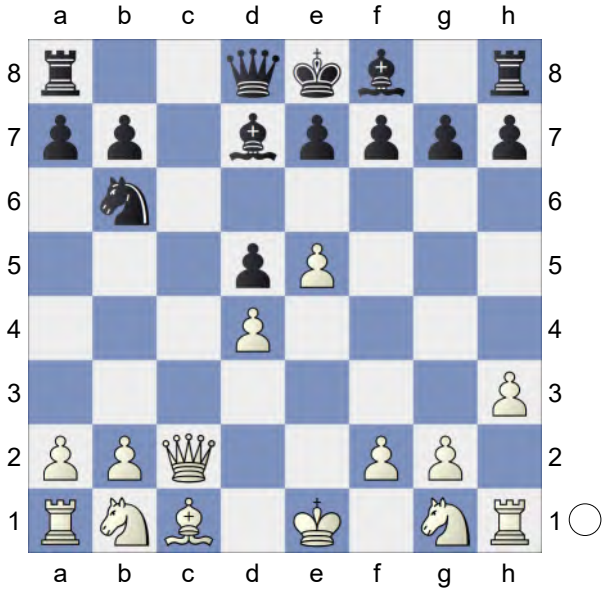
6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 d5
[One of the ideas in this move order is 7...d6 8.e6! , a typical pawn sacrifice which leads to unclear play.]
8.Bc2 Collins,Sam: 'The current trend, preventing ...Bf5.'
[8.Nc3 Bf5 is comfortable for Black.]
[8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Nf3 Be6 10.0-0 Bxb3 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Be3 0-0 14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.a3 Na5 16.Qa2 Nac4 17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Ne4 Qd5 19.Qb1 Qf5 20.Nc5 Qxb1 21.Rxb1 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Bxc5 0-1 (55) Goroshkov,M (2261)-Bok,B (2618) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Late blitz 2023 (4)]
8...Nb4 9.h3N
[9.Nc3 - 151/(42) Collins,Sam: 'has been played in several top level games, with White retaining some advantage after the automatic capture on c2. The problem is'
A) 9...Nxc2+ 10.Qxc2 Bg4 *(10...Bd7 11.Nge2 e6 12.Qd3 Rc8 13.0-0 Qh4 14.a4 a6 15.b3 Be7 16.Ba3* Mamedyarov,S (2767)-Vitiugov,N (2726) chess.com (Int.-blitz) 151/(42) 2022*)* 11.Nge2 e6

12.Ng3 g6 13.Qb3 h5 14.h3 Bf5 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.a4 Qd7 17.Bg5 Nc4 18.0-0 Na5 19.Qb5 Nc6 20.Rfd1 Rg8 21.h4 Be7 22.f4 Rc8 23.Qe2 Bd8 24.Nb5 1-0 (37) Mendez Fortes,E (2646)-Line (2542) 69/11 Madrid 1997 (2.12);

B) 9...Bg4! when Black is quite comfortable: 10.Nge2 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Nxc2+ 12.Qxc2 e6 T.Beerdsen - P.Lombaers, Belgium 2020 (0-1 in 61). Engines still give White a small edge here, on account of the extra space, but I think this is a comfortable outcome of the opening for Black, who has traded two minor pieces and can easily complete development without facing a kingside attack.]

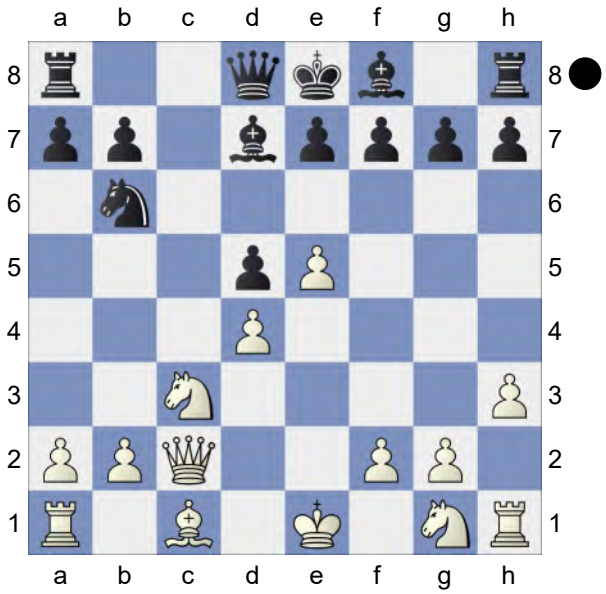
9...Nxc2+ 10.Qxc2 The position is equal. **10...Bd7**

[10...g6!? 11.Nc3 Bf5 12.Qd1 Rc8 13.Nge2 Bg7 14.0-0 0-0 15.b3!±]



11.Nc3 Diagram

(Diagram)



11...Qc8!? 12.Qd3

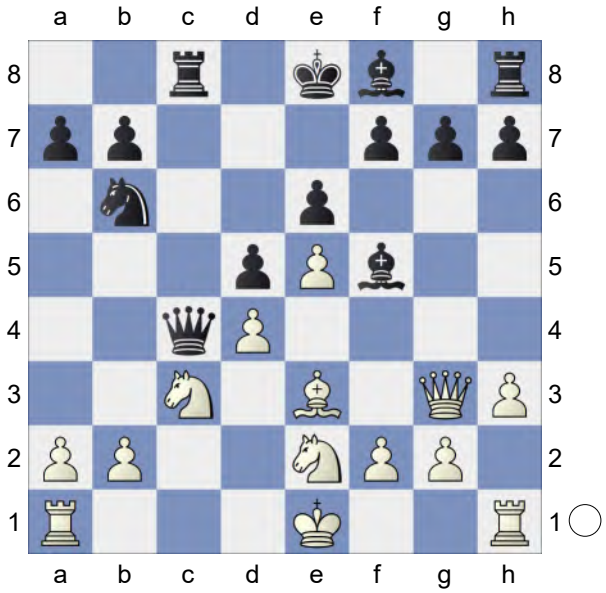
[12.Nge2 Bf5 13.Qd1 e6 14.0-0 Be7"]

12...Bf5 13.Qg3 e6 14.Nge2 Qc4! Collins,Sam: '!?' **15.Be3**

[15.b3 Qd3 16.Qxd3 Bxd3 17.Kd2 Bxe2 18.Kxe2 a6"]

15...Rc8

[15...Qa6! 16.b3 *(16.0-0 Nc4 17.Bc1 Rc8 18.b3 Na5! 19.Be3 Nc6 20.Rac1 h5! 21.h4 g6=)* 16...h5 17.0-0 h4 18.Qf3 Ba3"]



16.0-0 Collins,Sam: 'This position strongly resembles an Advance Caro-Kann with 3... Bf5, an opening in which Harikrishna is a major expert. For several moves, he plays in a model fashion.' **16...h5** Collins,Sam: '?!' Collins, Sam: 'This is a principled and ambitious move, aiming to clamp down on the white kingside pawns with ...h4 (while guarding the f5-bishop against a disruptive g4 push in the interim). As we will see, the problem is that g4 remains a strong option in the resulting structures, while the h4-pawn remains weak.'

[Collins,Sam: 'After' 16...Qb4!? Collins,Sam: 'the b2-pawn can't be comfortably defended. A long forcing variation ends in equality:' 17.b3!! Rxc3 -0.01/24 *(17...a6± 0.42/18)* 18.Nxc3= Qxc3 19.Rac1! Bc2 20.f4! Ba3 21.Qf2! Bxc1 22.Rxc1 Kd7 23.Rxc2 Qd3=]

17.Rac1 h4 18.Qf3 And now Nf4 would win. **18...Qc6 19.Bg5**

[19.g4! is strong here. We'll see a similar idea in the notes to White's 22nd move.]

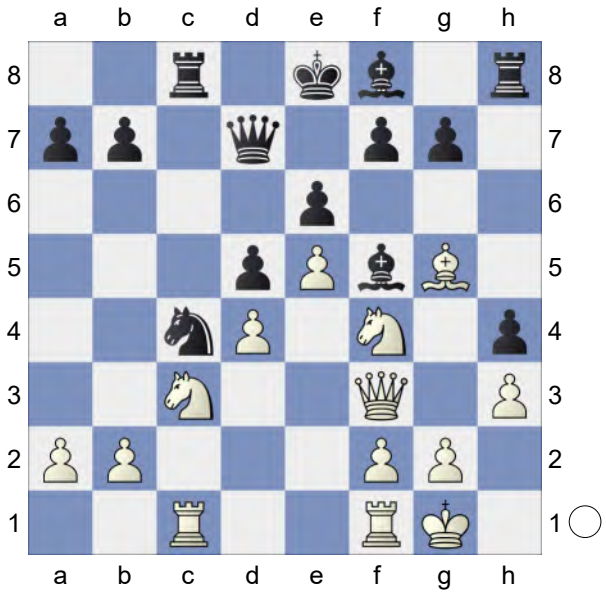
19...Qd7 20.Nf4 Nc4

[20...Rc6 21.g4! hxg3 22.fxg3

A) 22...Bxh3? 1.10/21 22...Bh7 0.13 23.Nxh3 Rxh3 24.Bh4! Threatens to win with Rc2. g5 1.56/20 *(*Better is *24...Nc4±* 0.31/20 *)* 25.Qg4+-;

B) 22...Nc4 23.Rf2± Prevents Nd2.]

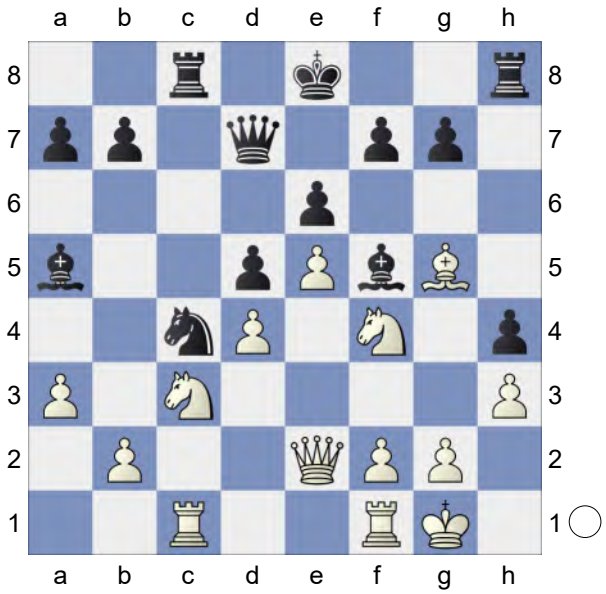
(Diagram)



21.Qe2 Dodges Nd2 **21...Bb4 22.a3**

[22.g4!? -0.14/18 22.a3 0.76 is a very strong move proposed by the neural nets. White forces open lines on the kingside, relying on the tactical detail hxg3 23.fxg3 Bxh3 0.74/21 *(23...0-0=* -0.09/19 *)* 24.Nxh3± Rxh3 25.Bh4 followed by Kg2, winning the exchange.]

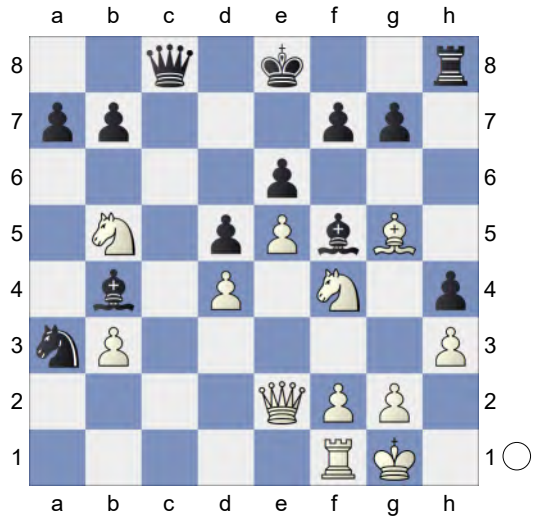
22...Ba5 Diagram



23.a4 -0.15/21 Collins,Sam: '?!'

[23.b3! Nxe5 *(23...Nxa3* 0.98/22 23...Bxc3 0.42 *24.Nb5! Bb4□*

Against Nd6+. ...Rxc1 would now be deadly. *25.Rxc8+ Qxc8*



26.Nh5! Rxh5 27.Rc1! Qd7 28.Nc7+ Kf8 29.Qxh5 Kg8 Prevents Qh8+ *30.Qe2±* Dodges Nc2 *)*]

[23.Nd1! 0.01/20 23.b3 0.77 Bd8 24.Bxd8 Kxd8 25.Ne3± gives White some initiative.]

[23.b3!± 0.75/23 Nxe5 *(23...Nxa3 24.Nb5±)* 24.b4 *(24.Qxe5 f6±)*]

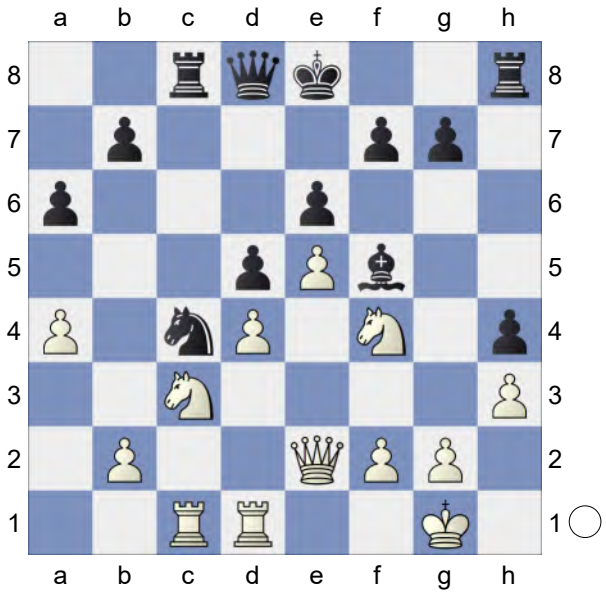
23...a6= 24.Rfd1 Collins,Sam: '?' Collins, Sam: 'As we know from the Carlsen - Duda playoff in the FIDE World Cup 2021, it only takes a couple of slow moves from White in this structure to risk being seriously worse.'

[24.Nh5! Rh7 *(24...Kf8 25.Nd1 Bd8 26.Bxd8 Rxd8 27.Ne3 Nxe3 28.fxe3* with some attacking chances*)* 25.Bf6 Kf8 26.b3 leads to unclear and dynamically balanced play.]

[24.Nh5!? Kf8 25.b3∓]

24...Bd8!∓ Collins,Sam: '!' **25.Bxd8 Qxd8**

(Diagram)



26.Nd3

[26.b3 Na5 27.Qb2 0-0∓]

26...Qb6 27.Nc5 -1.33/22 Collins,Sam: '?'

[27.Qf3 was more tenacious, although after Bxd3 28.Rxd3 Nxb2 29.Rb1 Black must now prevent Qe2. Qb3∓ Black is a healthy pawn up.]

[⌓27.a5 -0.71/22 Bxd3 *(27...Qxd4 28.b3±; 27...Nxa5 28.Na4=; 27...Qxa5 28.b3=)* 28.Qxd3 Qxa5 *(28...Nxa5 29.Nxd5 Qd8 30.Rxc8±)* 29.Ne2]

27...Qxb2∓ Collins,Sam: '!' **28.Qf3** -1.88/22

[28.Qxb2 Nxb2 29.Rd2 Nc4 30.Ra2 Rc7∓]

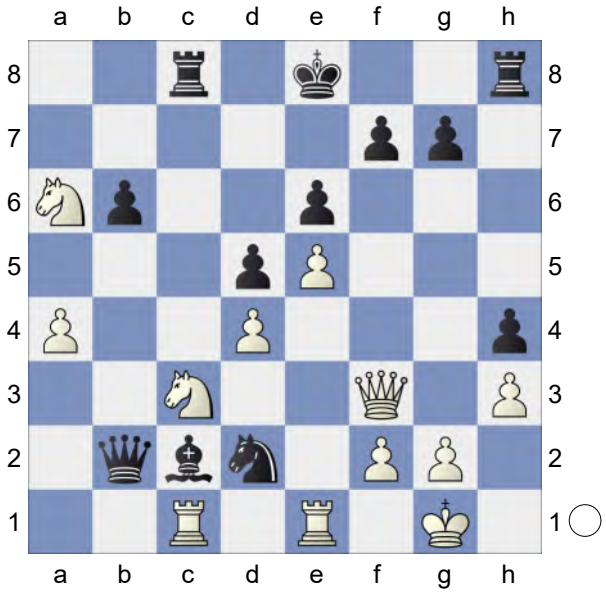
[28.Qxb2∓ -1.26/21 was worth a try. Nxb2 29.Rd2 *(29.Nxb7? Nxd1* Pin *30.Nc5 Rxc5-+)*]

28...Bc2!-+ 29.Re1 b6 Active counter play! **30.Nxa6 Nd2** -0.92/23

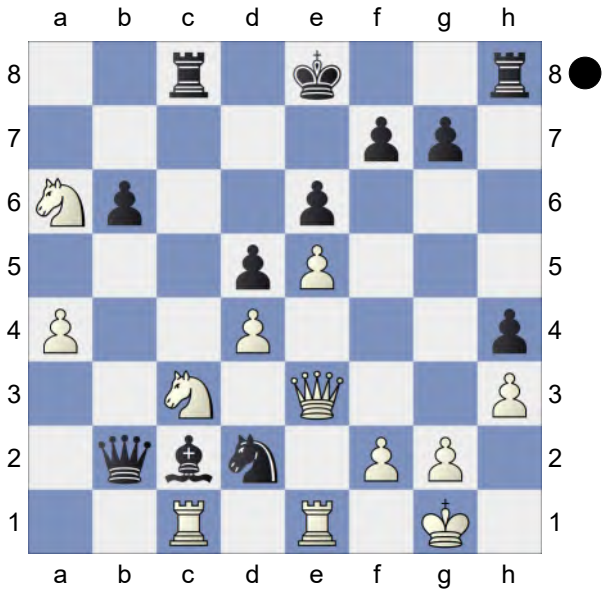
[30...Nxe5 31.dxe5 -2.25/22 *(⌓31.Qf4* -1.85/22 *Rxc3 32.dxe5)* 31...Rxc3-+ 32.Qf4 Rc4 33.Qg5 -3.58/22 *(⌓33.Qd2* -2.39/24 *0-0 34.Rb1)* 33...0-0]

[30...Nxe5-+ -1.89/23 and Black stays clearly on top. 31.Qe2 Qxc3 32.Qxe5

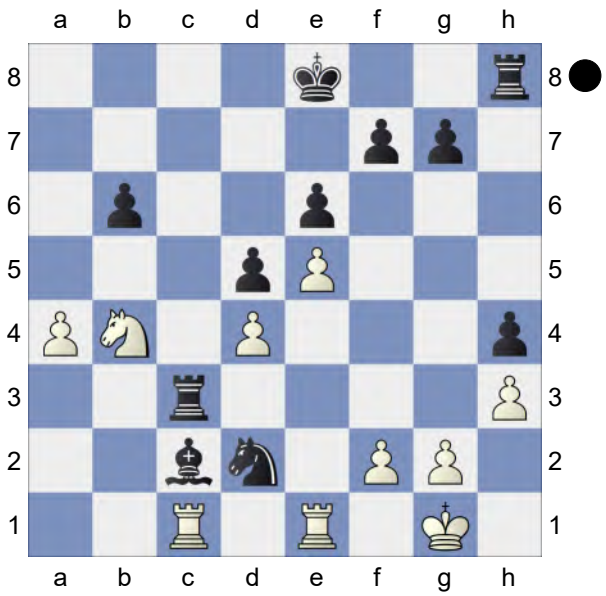
0-0]



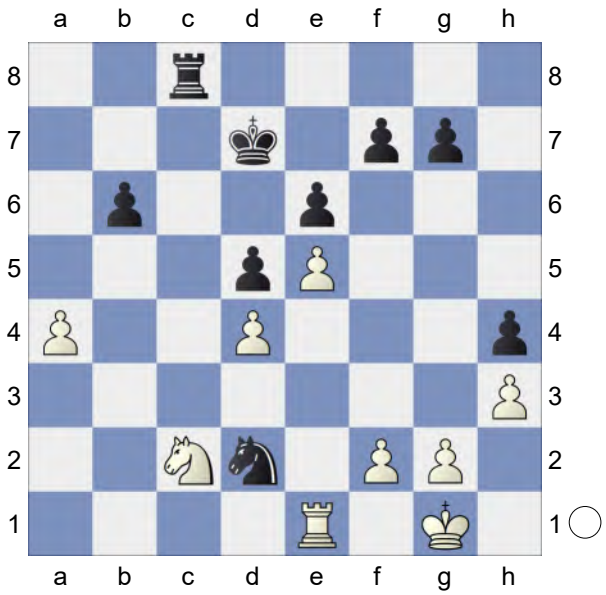
31.Qe3 -1.98/23
[31.Qe2∓ -0.92/23 Qxc3 32.Qb5+ Qc6 33.Re2 Qxb5 34.axb5]



31...Qxc3 -0.91/25
[31...Nb3!-+ -1.98/23 has better winning chances. 32.Nb5 0-0]
32.Qxc3 -1.40/21
[⩲32.Re2 -0.91/25 Qxe3 33.fxe3]
32...Rxc3∓ 33.Nb4
(Diagram)

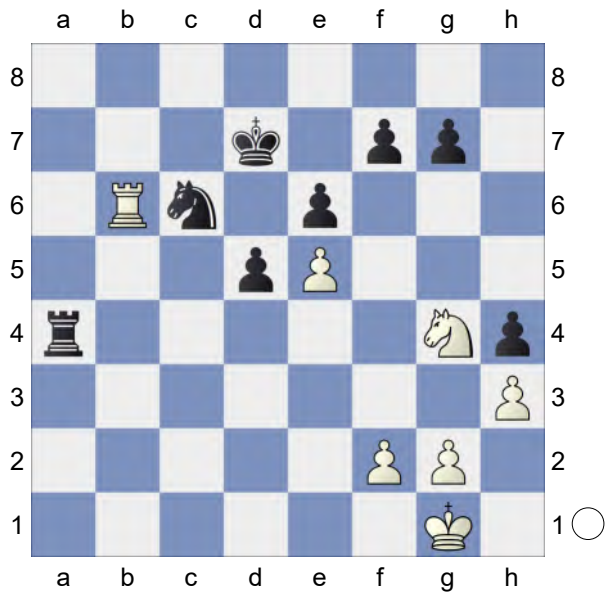


Kd7! 34.Rxc2 Rxc2 35.Nxc2-+
Endgame. KRN-KRN **35...Rc8**



Collins,Sam: 'This is like a French gone badly wrong for White. The d4- and a4-pawns are weak. Stockfish 15 NNUE already gives a -5 assessment.' **36.Ne3 Ra8 37.Ra1 Nb3 38.Rb1 Nxd4** Strongly threatening ...Kc6. **39.Rxb6 Nc6 40.Ng4 Rxa4**

(Diagram)



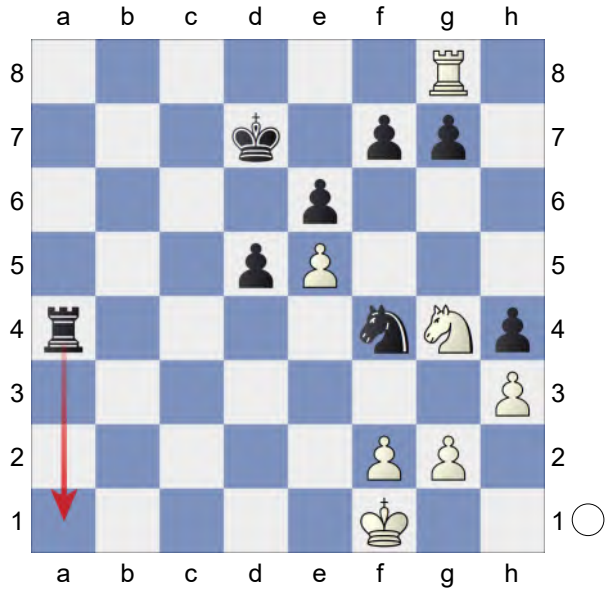
Collins,Sam: 'There are no saving chances here.' **41.Rb7+ Ke8 42.Rc7** -2.65/24

[42.Kf1∓ -1.55/20 keeps fighting.]

42...Ne7

[42...Rc4 ...Nxe5! is the strong threat. 43.Rc8+ Kd7 44.Ra8 Rc1+ 45.Kh2 Re1 46.f4 Re4]

43.Kf1 Ng6 44.Rc8+ Kd7 45.Rg8 Nf4

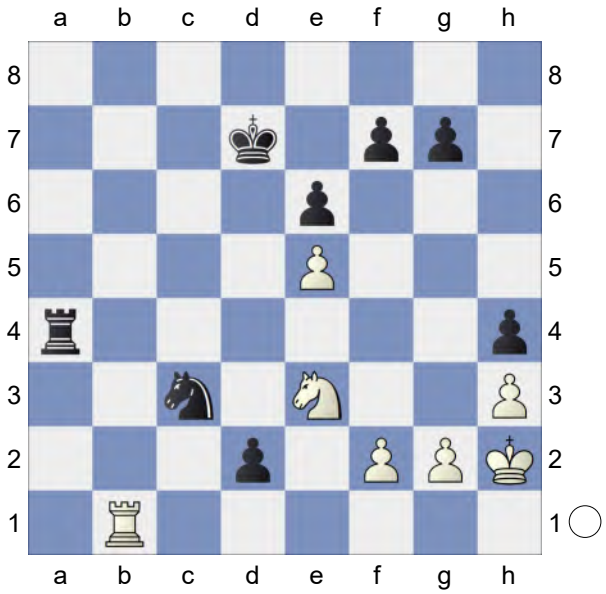


46.Kg1 -4.91/21

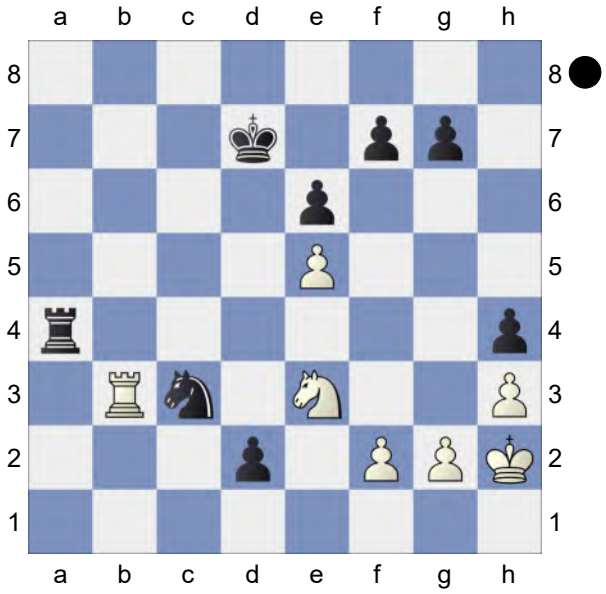
[46.f3 -3.40/22 is a better defense.]

46...d4 Black is clearly winning. **47.Rb8 d3 48.Ne3 d2 49.Rb1** Prevents Ra1

49...Ne2+ 50.Kh2 Nc3

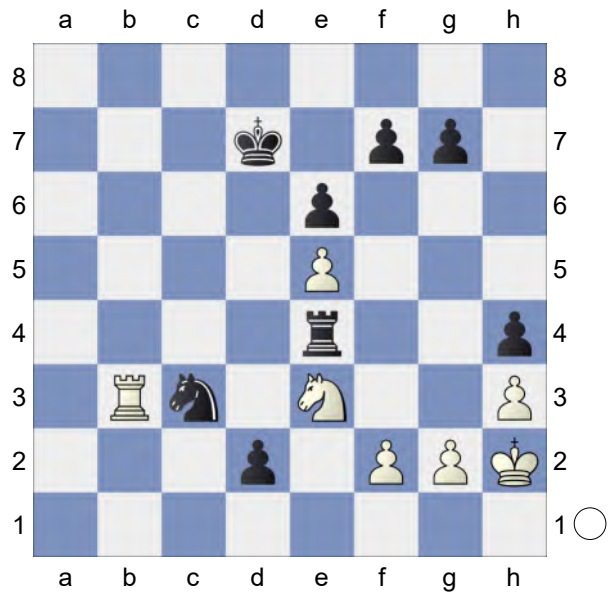


Dodges Rd1 **51.Rb3**



Re4!

(Diagram)

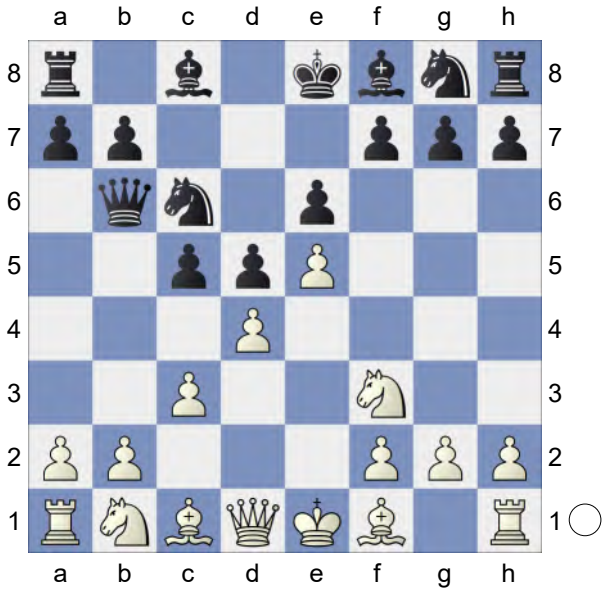


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)

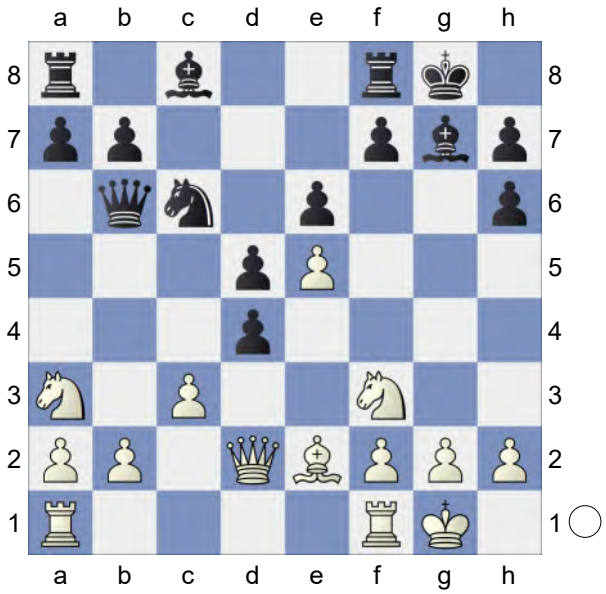
0-1

104 **C02**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2716**
■ **Short,Nigel D** **2697**
75/252 Sarajevo 1999
[Kitty Kat]

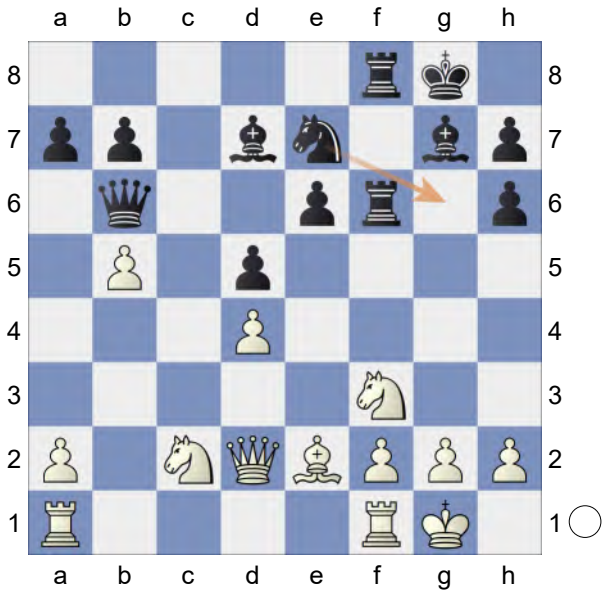
C02: French: Advance Variation
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6



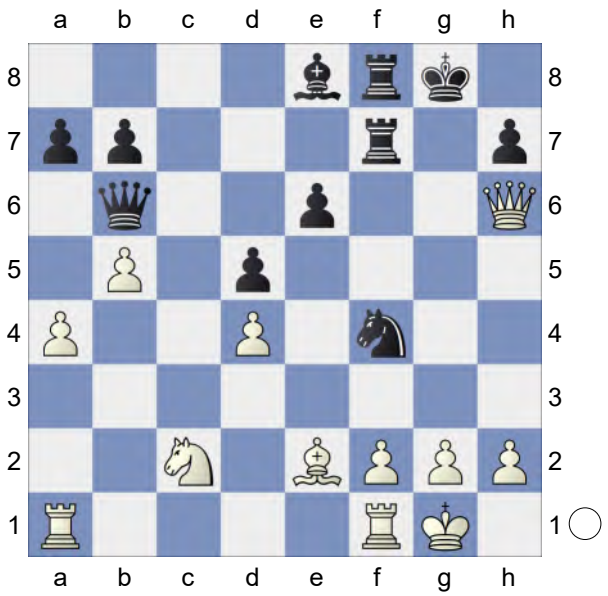
6.Be2 Nh6 7.Bxh6 gxh6 8.Qd2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Na3 cxd4



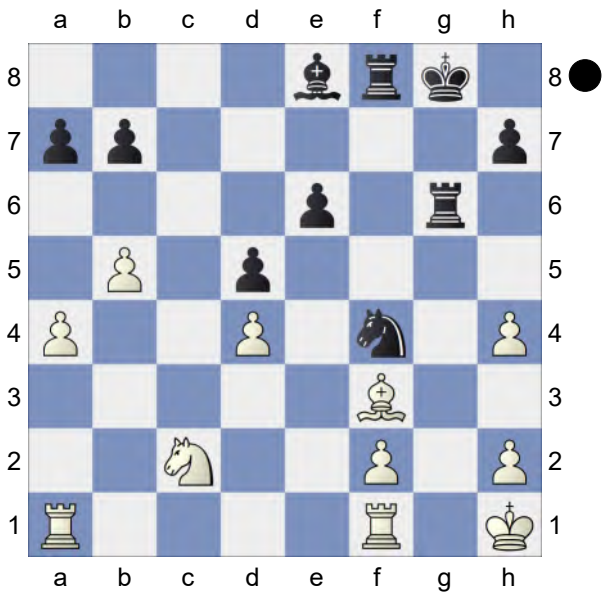
11.cxd4 f6 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Nc2 Bd7 14.b4 Raf8 15.b5 Ne7



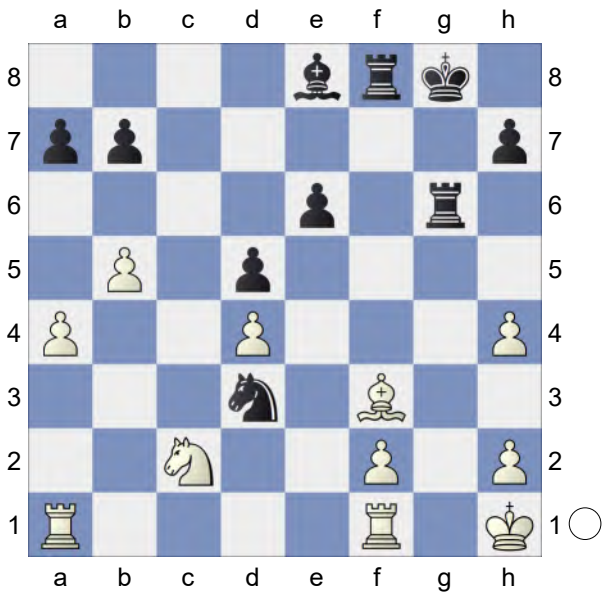
16.Ne5! White is better. **16...Be8**
[16...Bxb5? 17.Rab1+-]
17.a4N
[17.g3 h5 18.a4 Nf5 *(18...h4 19.Bd3 hxg3 20.hxg3 h5 21.Ne3 Bh6 22.a5 Qd8 23.f4 Kh8 24.Qh2 Qd6 25.a6 b6 26.Rab1 Qc7 27.Nc2 Qc3 28.Rf3 Qc7 29.Rbf1 Ng6 30.Qxh5 Qg7 31.Nxg6+ Bxg6 32.Bxg6 Rxg6 33.Qe5* 1-0 (37) 11... Qc7 12.Nbd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2725)-10. dc5 Bc5 11.Bd2 (2665) (m/22) 40/497 1985 *)* 19.a5 Qc7 *(19...Qd6 20.f4 Kh8 21.Ne3 Rg8 22.Nxf5 Rxf5 23.Bd3 Rff8 24.Kh1 h4 25.g4 Bxe5 26.fxe5 Qe7 27.Qh6* French Advanced-8.Qd2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 Survey 2022*)* 20.Rac1 Nd6 21.Ne3 Qe7 22.Qb2 Chess Informant ECO Chess Informant ECO C5 2006]
17...Ng6 18.Ng4 White is more active. A dynamic duo of knights. **18...R6f7**
19.Nxh6+ -0.01/25
[19.g3!± 0.64/20]
19...Bxh6= 20.Qxh6 Nf4
(Diagram)



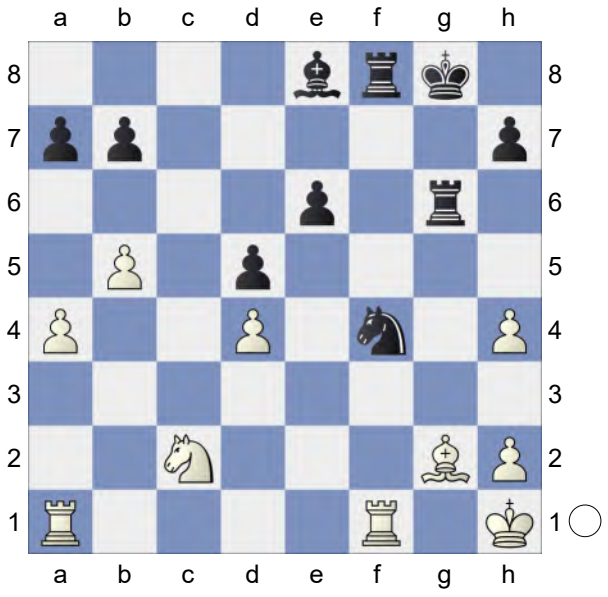
21.Bf3 -1.16/27
[21.Bh5= 0.06/22 remains equal. Rf6 22.Qg5+ Bg6 23.Bf3]
21...Rg7 -0.38/25
[21...Qd8∓ -1.16/27 Hoping for ...Rg7. 22.b6 axb6]
22.g3 -0.83/24
[22.Qh4∓ -0.38/25 is more appropriate.]
22...Qd8!∓ White must now prevent ... Rg6. **23.Kh1 Rg6 24.Qh4 Qxh4 25.gxh4**



Nd3!



26.Bg2 Nxf2+ 27.Kg1 Nh3+ 28.Kh1 Nf2+ 0.01/20
[28...Nf4∓ -1.18/26 29.Rg1 Kh8]
29.Kg1= Nh3+ -0.01/5
[Black should try 29...Nd3∓ -0.81/23 White should prevent ...Nf4. 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8]
30.Kh1 Nf4

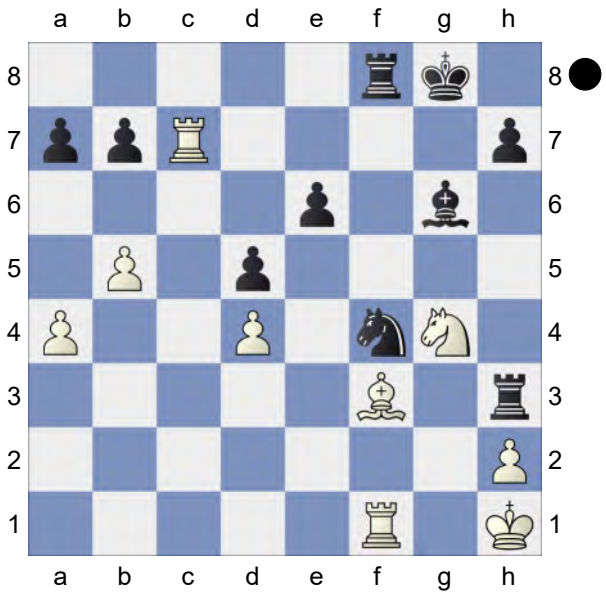


31.Bf3 Rh6 32.Ne3 Rxh4 33.Rac1 Bg6 Threatens to win with ...Nd3.
34.Rc7 -2.18/20
[34.Rc3 -1.73/21 was worth a try.]
34...Rh3? -0.67/21

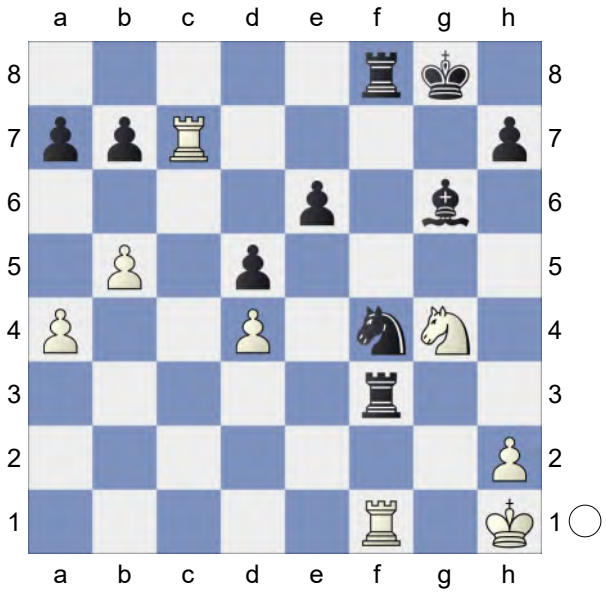
[Better is 34...Bd3-+ -2.18/20 35.Rfc1 Rh3]

35.Ng4!∓

[35.Rxb7? Rxf3 36.Rxf3 Be4-+]



35...Rxf3! 0.01/26

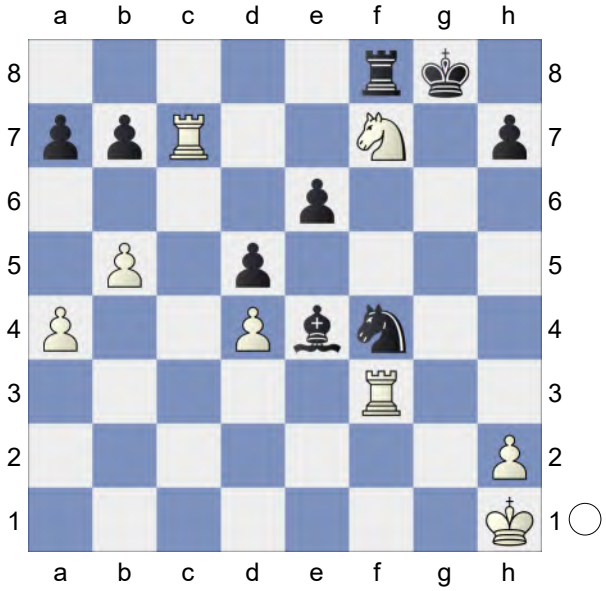


36.Rxf3 Be4 Pin **37.Nh6+! Kh8** Black has compensation. **38.Nf7+!** The position is equal. **38...Kg8!**

[38...Rxf7? 39.Rxf7 Bxf3+ 40.Kg1 Ne2+ 41.Kf2 Nxd4 42.Ke3+- *(42.Rxf3? Nxf3 43.Kxf3 b6-+; 42.Rxb7 Bd1±)*]

39.Nh6+ Kh8 40.Nf7+! Kg8!

[Don't blunder 40...Rxf7? 41.Rxf7 Bxf3+ 42.Kg1 Ne2+ 43.Kf2 Nxd4 44.Ke3+- *(44.Rxf3? perishes. Nxf3 45.b6 axb6-+; 44.Rxb7 Bd1±)*]

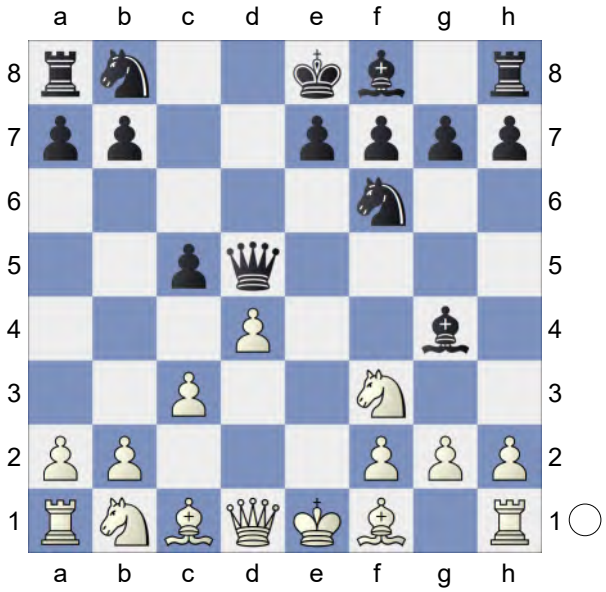


Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

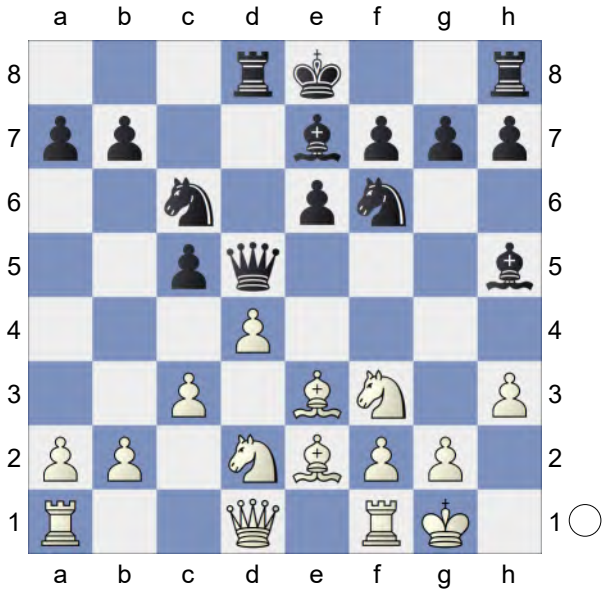
1-0

105 **B22**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2715**
■ **Sokolov,Ivan** **2637**
Sarajevo Bosnia 30th (9) 26.05.2000
[Mikhalevski,Victor]

1.e4 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V **1...c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4**



6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.Be3 Nc6 9.0-0
[9.dxc5 is the main line Qxd1+ 10.Bxd1 Nd5 11.Bd4 f6 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.b4 *(13.Nfd2 Bxd1 14.Rxd1 e5 15.Be3 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Bxc5; 13.Ng5 Bxd1 14.Nf7 Bh5 15.Nxh8 e5 16.g4 exd4 17.gxh5 Bxc5 18.Nf7 Rf8 19.b4 Be7 20.b5 Na5)* 13...Ndxb4 14.cxb4 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nxd4 16.Bd1 b6]
[9.Na3 0-0-0 *(9...cxd4 10.Nb5 Rc8 11.Nbxd4)* 10.Nc2 *(10.c4 Qe4 11.Bd3 Bxf3 12.Bxe4 Bxd1 13.Bxc6 Bh5)* 10...e5 11.0-0 *(11.c4 Qe4 12.d5 Nd4 13.Rc1 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qg6)* 11...exd4 12.cxd4 Be7 13.Re1 Rhe8]
9...Rd8 10.Nbd2
[10.dxc5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1± 1-0 Innala,H-Granthal,R/FIN 1996/EXT 99 (39) Rxd1+!? 12.Bxd1!? Nd5 13.b4 Be7 14.a4 0-0 15.b5 Rd8
A) 16.bxc6± Kovalev,A-Kaidanov,G/Blagoveshchensk 1988/TD/1-0 (44) Another plan is 16...Nxe3 17.Bb3 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nf5 19.cxb7 Bxc5 20.a5 a6 21.Ba4 *(21.Bc4 Rd1+ 22.Bf1 Ba7±* 1-0 Vasiesiu,D-Raceanu,V/Bucharest 1999/CBM 69 ext (31)*)* 21...Rb8 22.Bc6 Ne7 23.Be4 f5;
B) 16.Bd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Bf6]
10...Be7

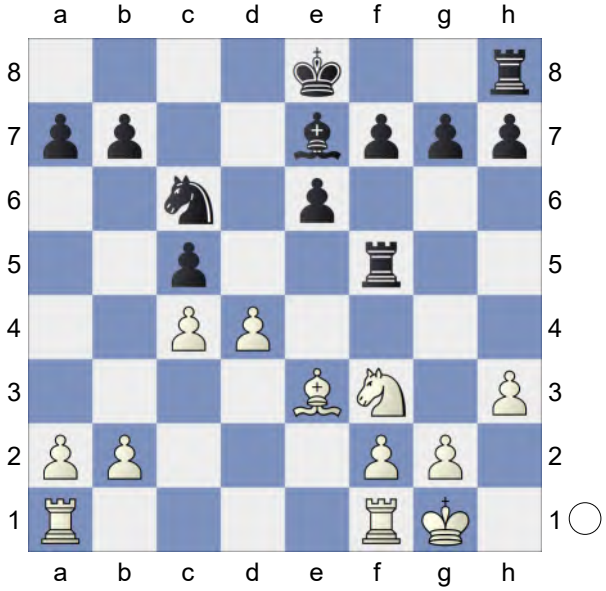


11.Bc4
[11.c4]
11...Bxf3 A rare but possible move.
12.Qxf3
[12.Qa4 Qh5 13.Nxf3 0-0± 14.Bb5? cxd4 15.Nxd4!? Nxd4 16.Bxd4+- a6 17.Bd3 e5 18.Rae1 exd4 19.Rxe7± dxc3 20.Be2! I think 20...Qg6!? would leave more chances to reach equality.]
[12.Bxd5 Bxd1 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Rfxd1!? Nd5 15.Nb3 Nxe3

16.fxe3 cxd4 17.exd4± 0-0?]
[12.Qb3 Qd7!? *(12...Na5!? 13.Qb5+? Qd7! 14.Qxa5 b6 15.Qa6 Bc6±* Almasi,Z-Jussupow,A/Ubeda 1997/CBM 58/[Hansen,Cu]/1-0 (47) *16.dxc5? bxc5 17.Nb3 Qc7 18.Rad1 Nd7)* 13.Nxf3 Na5 14.Bb5 Nxb3 15.Bxd7+ Rxd7 16.axb3 cxd4 17.Bxd4 a6]

12...Qxf3 13.Nxf3 Nd5!?N An attempt to revive 11... ♘e6. **14.Bxd5**
[14.Rad1 Nxe3 15.fxe3 0-0!]

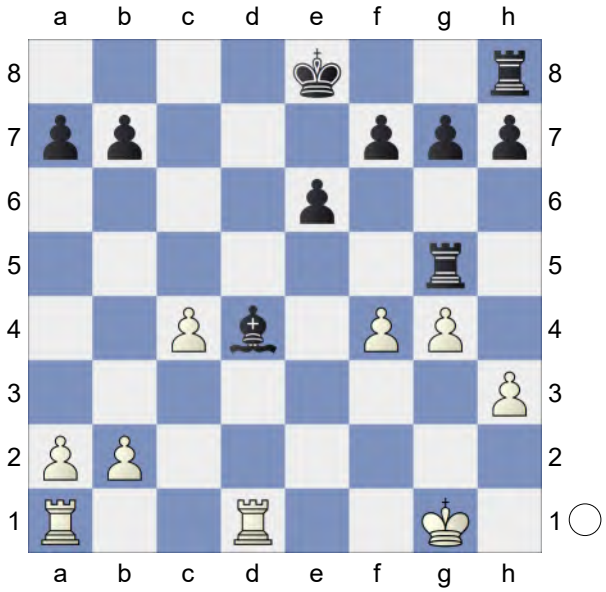
14...Rxd5 Black wants to keep the bishop. **15.c4 Rf5**



16.Rfd1
[16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.g4 Rxf3 18.Bxc5 h5!+-]
[16.Rad1 cxd4-+ 17.Nxd4 Nxd4! 18.Bxd4 Bf6 19.Bxa7
A) 19...Bxb2 20.a4+- Black could try sacrificing of two rooks for a queen: 20...0-0 *(20...Ra5 21.Bb6 Ra8± 22.a5!? Ke7 23.Rd3!! Rhc8 24.c5)* 21.Rd7 Ra5 22.Rxb7± Bf6 23.c5 Rxa4!? 24.Rc1 Bd4;
B) 19...Ra5 20.Bb6 Rxa2 21.b3 Rb2+- 22.Rd3 0-0]

16...cxd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4! Fixing the weakness on a6. **18...Bc5 19.g4**
[19.Bxg7 Bxf2+ 20.Kh2 Rg8↑ 21.g4? Rf4 22.Be5□ Rxc4! 23.Bf6 Bb6]

19...Rg5 Black has been preparing exchange of dark-squared bishops by means of ♕a7 hoping to get the f4-square for his knight. **20.f4!** The best square for the rook.It takes under control the f4-square and attacks the h4-pawn. **20...Bxd4+**

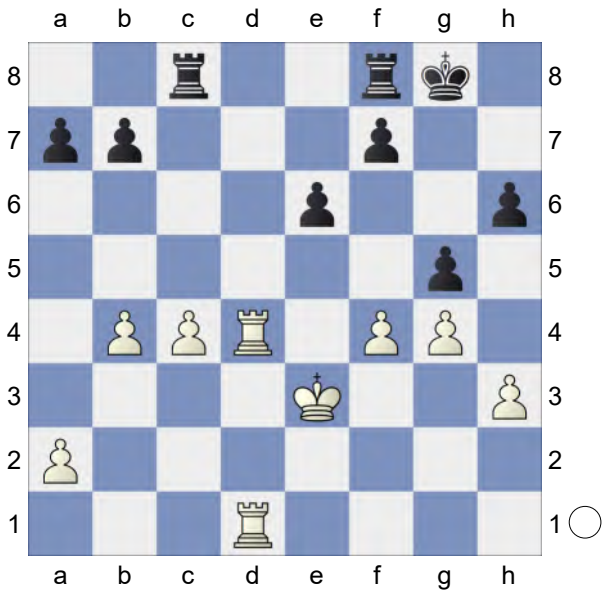


21.Rxd4 Rc5?! 22.Rad1 0-0
[22...Ke7 23.Rd7+ Kf6± 24.Rxb7? *(24.b3+- Rb8 25.a4! a6)* 24...Rxc4 25.Rdd7 Rf8 26.Rxa7 Rxf4 27.a4 Kg6 *(27...g5! 28.a5!? Kg6 29.a6 Rc8 30.Rac7; 27...Rb4 28.Rdb7±* Even more convincing was *28...Rxb7! 29.Rxb7! Ra8!! 30.b3)* 28.a5 Rc8" 29.Kg2 Rb8 30.Rab7 Rb4 31.Rxb8 Rxb8! 32.Rd2 Kg5 see 31.♗:a6 33.Kf3 *(33.a6± ≤Ra8 34.Rd6 Rb8)* 33...Rb3+ 34.Ke4 Rb4+! 35.Rd4 Rxb2 36.Ra4 f5+]

23.b4 Rcc8 Otherwise ♘g4 is unpleasant
[23...Rc7! 24.c5 b6! 25.Rd7]

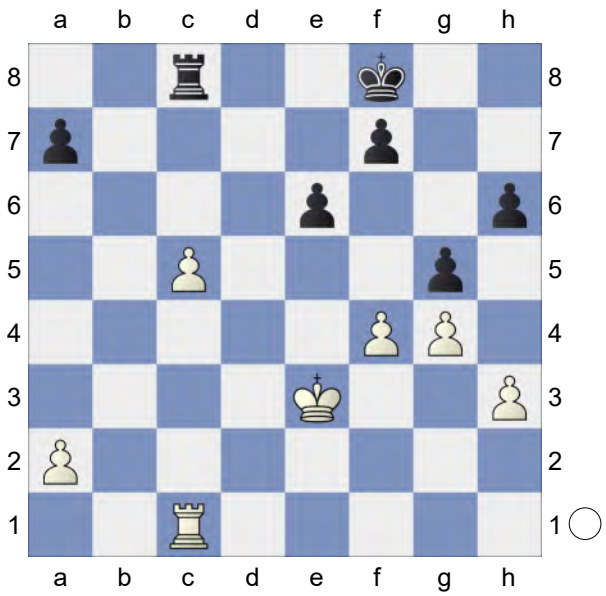
24.Kf2 h6 25.Ke3! Preparing ♘:g5.
[25.h4 h5! *(25...g5* Much simplier was *26.hxg5 hxg5 27.fxg5! Kg7 28.Kg3! Kg6 29.Kf4+-* Preventing any possible counterplay. *Rfe8 30.Re4 Rcd8 31.Rh1+-; 25...Rfe8* was sufficient for a big edge.For instance *26.a4 Kf8 27.a5)* 26.gxh5 Kh7! 27.Ke3 Kh6! 28.Rg1 Rc7!± *(28...Rfd8! 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.a4 Rd7± 31.c5 f6! 32.b5 Kxh5 33.Rc1 Kxh4 34.c6 Rc7± 35.Kd4?)* 29.Rg5 Rfc8 30.Kd3 f6 31.Rb5!? f5 32.Re5 Re8?! 33.Rd6 Kxh5 34.Rexe6 Rxe6 35.Rxe6 Kg4 36.Ke3 ⌓Rxc4! 37.Rg6+ Kxh4 38.Rxg7 Rxb4 39.Kf3]

25...g5

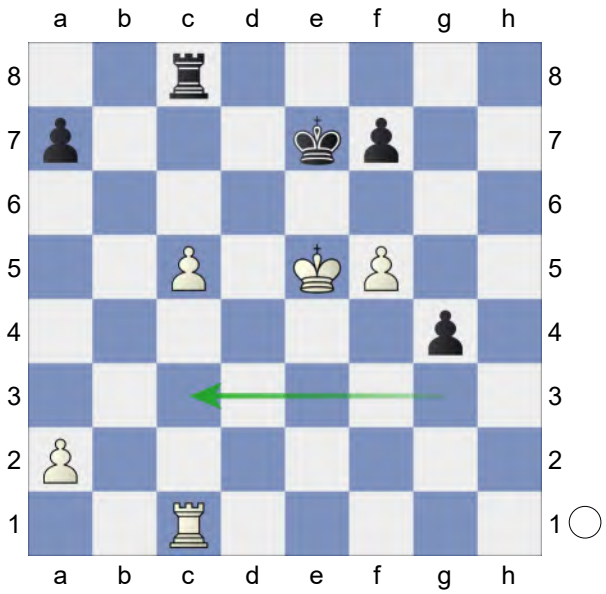


26.c5! Now it works as after ♘~ white knight on g5 will be defended from d2.
26...b6 27.Rc4 bxc5 28.Rxc5 Rxc5 29.bxc5 Rc8 30.Rc1!? Kf8
[30...gxf4+ 31.Kxf4 Kf8 32.g5 see 45...♖b2 hxg5+ *(32...h5 33.Ke5 Ke7!?v ⌓34.c6)* 33.Kxg5 Ke7 34.h4 Rg8+ 35.Kf4 Rh8]

(Diagram)



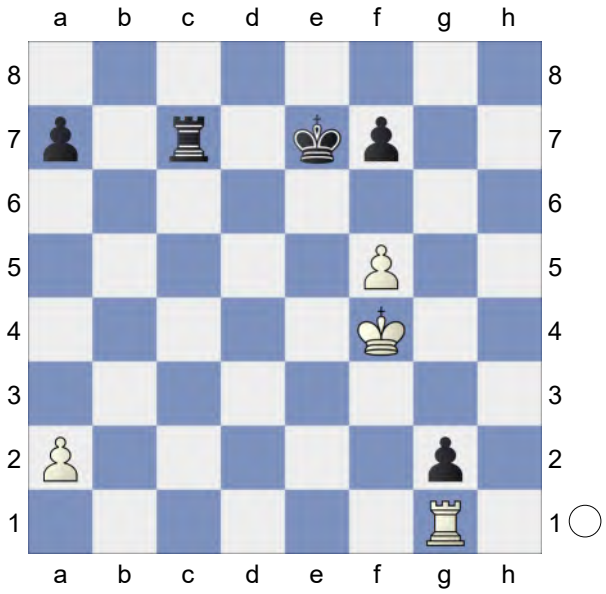
31.f5 exf5 32.gxf5 Ke7 33.Ke4± h5! The only chance. **34.Ke5 g4 35.hxg4? hxg4!**



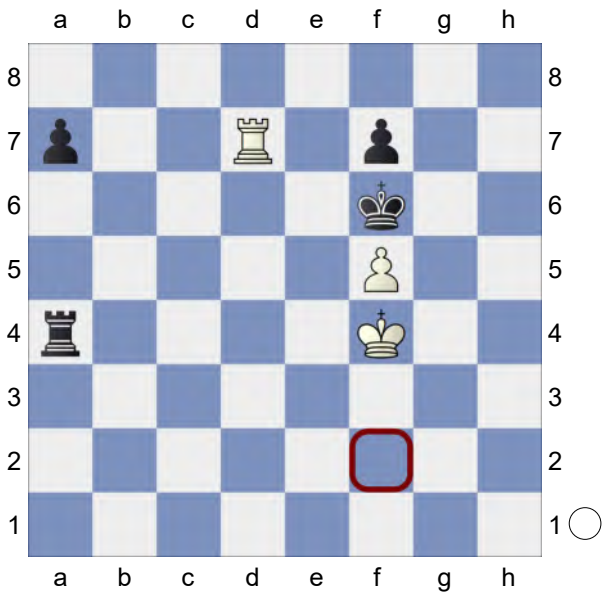
36.Kf4?!
[36.Rc3 g3 37.f6+ Kd7 38.Rd3++- Kc6 39.Rxg3 Re8+!? △40.Kf4?? Kxc5 41.Rg7 Rf8]
[⌓36.f6+ Kd7 37.Kf4 Rg8 38.Kg3! Kc6]
36...Rg8 37.c6?! g3 38.c7 g2G After series of White's time-trouble(?) inaccuracies Black gets counterplay.
39.Rd1

[39.Rg1 Kd7 *(39...Rc8)* ⌓40.Ke5! Kxc7? 41.Kf6 Rg3 42.Kxf7 ⌓Kd7!+- was winning on the spot 43.f6 a5 44.a4 Rg4 45.Kf8 Ke6 46.f7 Kd7 47.Rd1+ Kc7]

39...Rc8?! I think Black should keep the d-pawn. **40.Rg1 Rxc7**



41.Rxg2 Kf6 42.Rd2 Rc4+ 43.Ke3± Now open position of black king and pass pawns on the king side secure better chances for White. **43...Ra4 44.Rd7 Rxa2 45.Kf4 Ra4+**

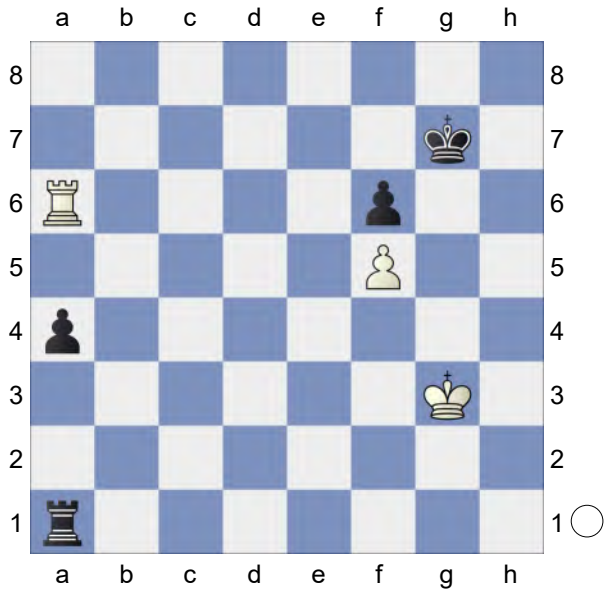


46.Kf3 a5 Mikhalevski,V: 'see 45...♖b2'

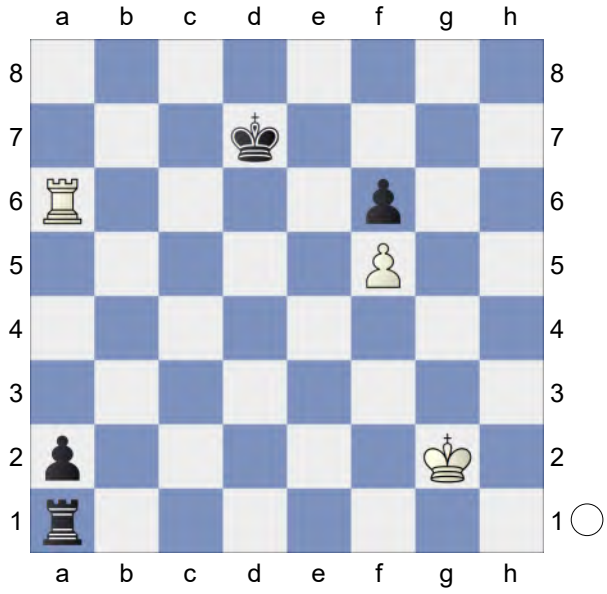
47.Ra7 Ra1 48.Kg4 Bringing his king to a safe place on h3.

[48.Kg2 a4 49.Kf3 a3 50.Kg2 Kxf5 51.Rxf7+ Ke4 52.Re7+ *(52.Rf3* More stubborn was *⌓52...Rg1+)* 52...Kd4]

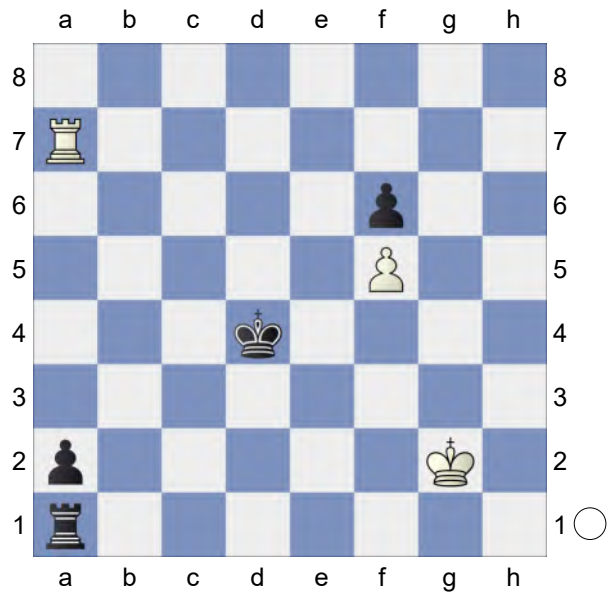
48...a4 49.Ra6+! Kg7 50.Kg3!? f6



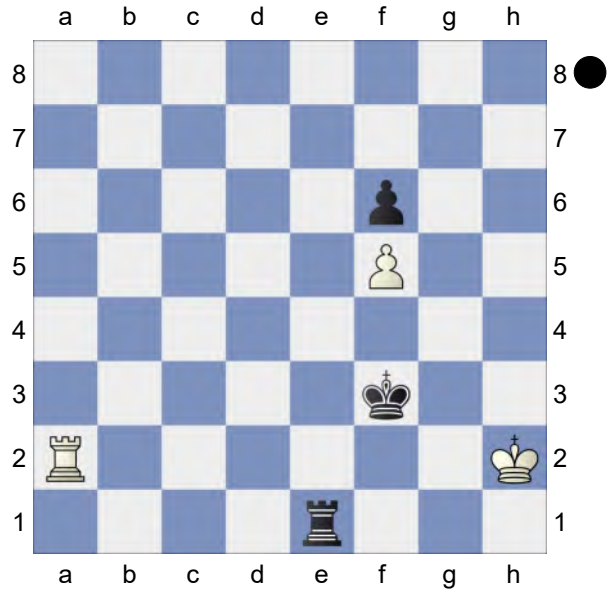
51.Kg2!± a3 52.Kh2 Kf7 53.Kg2 a2 54.Kh2? Ke8! 55.Kg2 Kd7



56.Kh2 Kc7 57.Kg2 Kb7? Now white queen is coming with decisive effect. **58.Ra3 Kb6 59.Ra8 Kc5? 60.Ra7 Kd4**



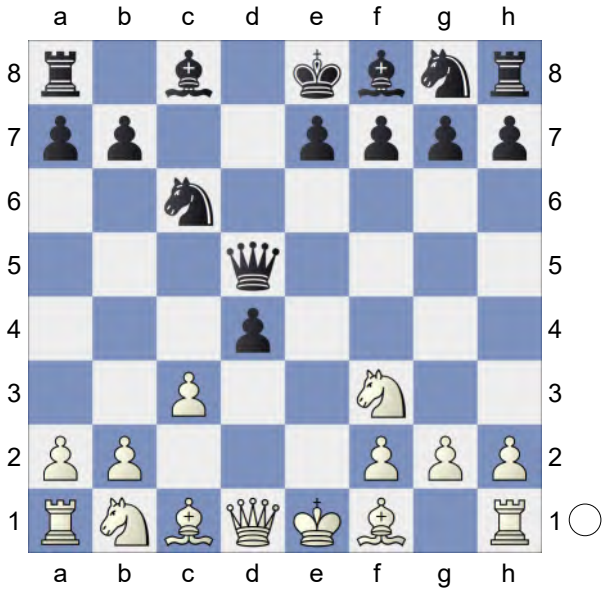
61.Ra8! Ke4 62.Ra5+- Kf4 63.Kh2 Kf3 64.Ra4 Re1 65.Rxa2



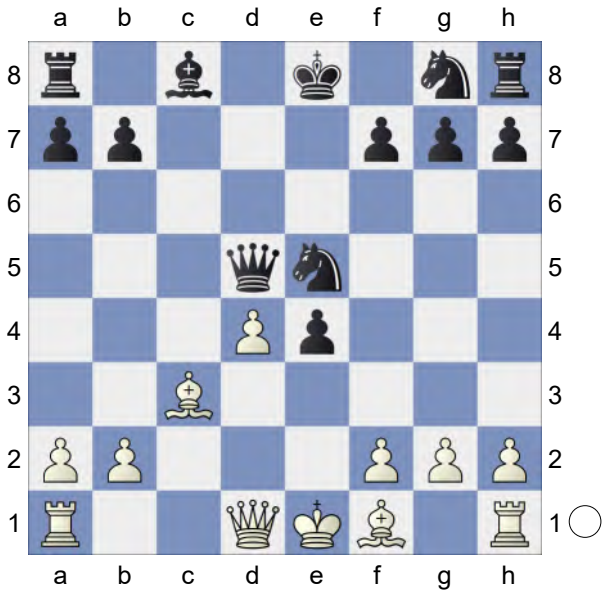
1-0

106 **B22**
□ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2715**
■ **Piket,Jeroen** **2670**
Monaco rapid (8) 1995
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4



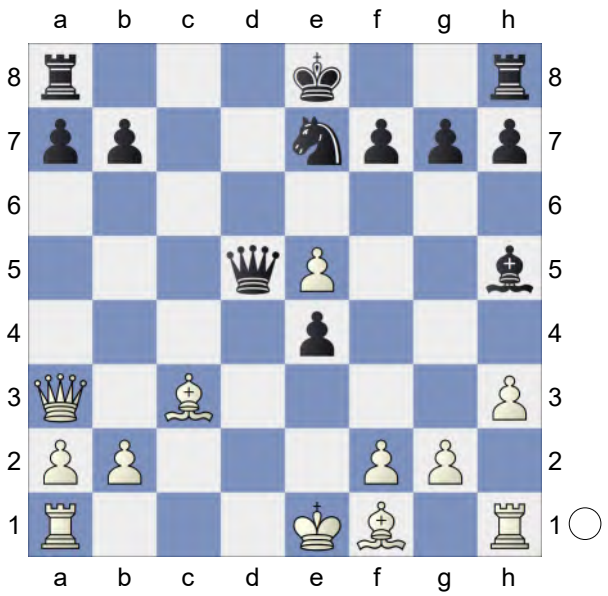
6.cxd4 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 e4 10.Ne5 Nxe5



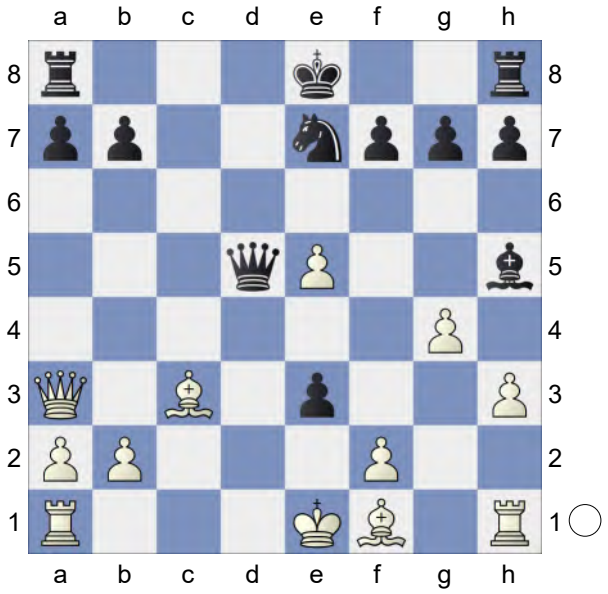
11.dxe5 Ne7 12.Qa4+ Bd7 13.Qa3

Bg4N 0.79/20 Prevents Rd1.
[13...Bc6± 0.34/19 was preferrable.]
[13...e3 14.f3 Qe6 15.Rd1 Nf5 16.Bd3 Qg6 17.0-0 e2 18.Bxe2 Ne3 19.Kf2 Nxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Qb6+ 21.Bd4 Qe6 22.b3 Bc6 23.Bc5 Qf5 24.Qc1 Rd8 25.Bd6 h5 26.Bd3 Qe6 27.Qg5 Rd7 28.Bf5 1-0 (32) Nimzowitsch,A-Chajes,O Carlsbad it 1911]
[13...Qe6 14.Rd1 *(14.Qb4 Nd5 15.Qxb7 0-0 16.Bc4 Bc6 17.Qa6 e3 18.0-0 Rad8 19.fxe3 Qh6 20.Qxa7 Nxc3 21.bxc3 Bxg2 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Qxf7+ Kh8 24.Qf4 Qc6 25.Bf1 Be4 26.Rd1 Qg6+ 27.Kf2 Ra8 28.a3 Bb7* 1-0 (34) Hernandez Montes,J (2275)-Toro,M (1949) Medellin Flores op 30th 2023 (6)*)*
14...0-0 15.Be2 Nf5 16.0-0 Bc6 17.Bg4 Qg6 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.Qc5 Rfd8 20.Qxa7 h5 21.Qe3 Rd3 22.Rxd3 exd3 23.f3 Rxa2 24.Rd1 Bb5 25.e6 fxe6 26.Qd4 Qg6 27.Re1 Ra4 28.Qd8+ ½-½ (69) Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2770)-Ferragut,A (2710) Nice 1937 (2)]
14.h3± Bh5 1.96/21
[14...Bd7± 1.10/21 was worth a try.]

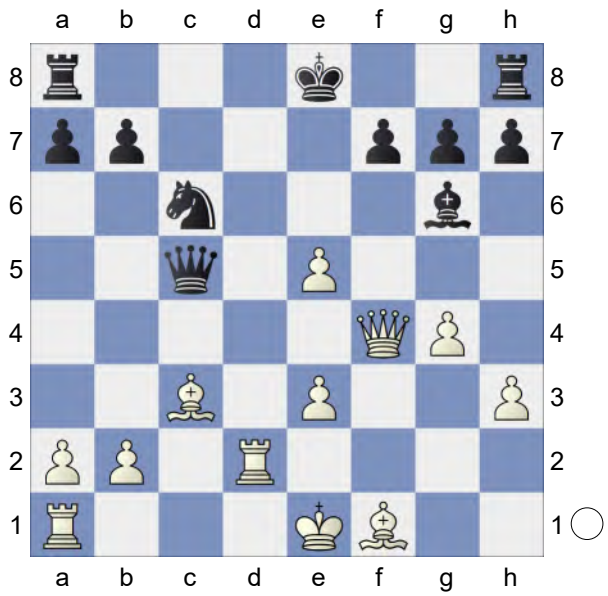
(Diagram)



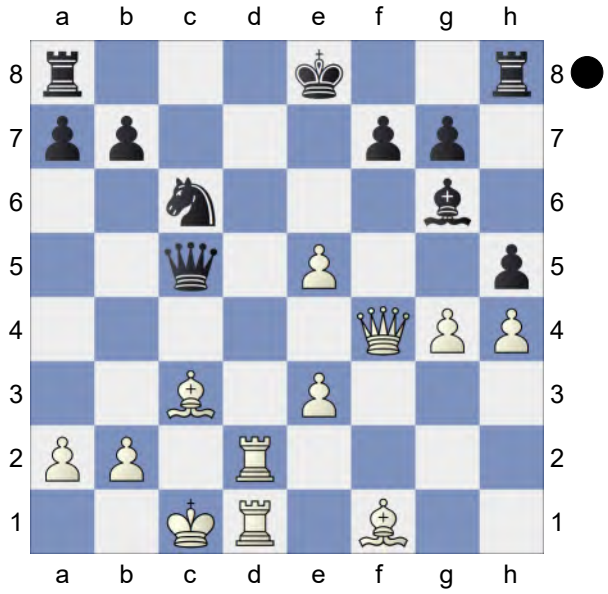
15.g4!+- e3



White is clearly better. **16.Rh2 Bg6 17.fxe3** 0.91/19
[17.Rd1+- 1.69/20 Qc6 18.f4 *(18.fxe3 h5+-)*]
17...Qf3 1.89/21
[17...h5± 0.91/19]
18.Qa4+ Nc6 19.Qf4 Qd5 2.47/22
[19...Be4 1.75/19 is a better defense. 20.e6 Qxf4 21.exf4 h5 22.exf7+ *(22.Bxg7 Rh7±)* 22...Kxf7 23.Bc4+ Kf8]
20.Rd2 Qc5

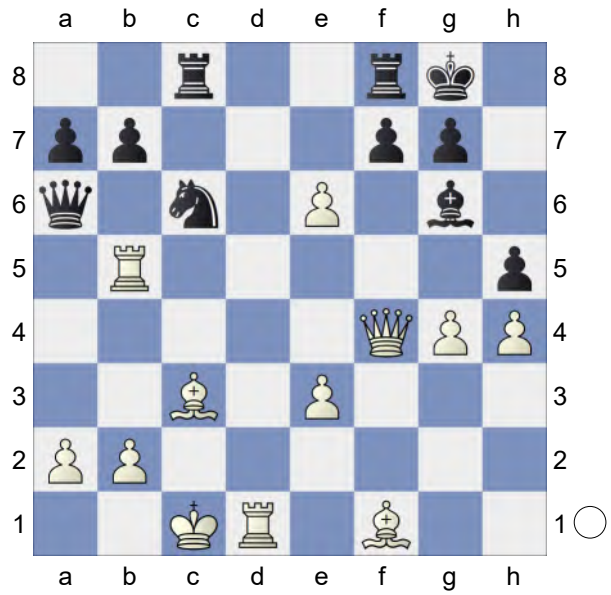


21.h4 h5 22.0-0-0

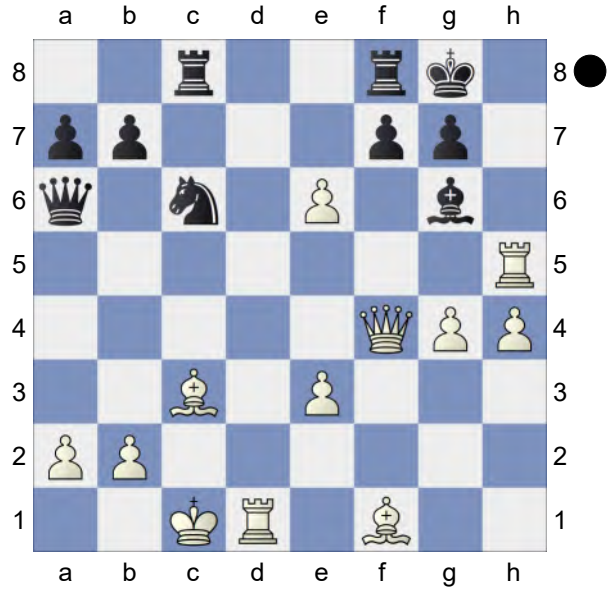


Rd5 is the strong threat. **22...Rc8?** 4.55/23
[22...Rd8 2.07/20 23.e6 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 *(24.Kxd2 fxe6 25.Qc7 Qe7±)* 24...0-0]
23.Rd5 Qb6 24.e6 0-0 6.70/22
[⌓24...Qc7 4.21/19 25.Rd6 *(25.Bxg7 Qxf4 26.exf4 Nb4+ 27.Kd2 Nxd5=)* 25...a6]
25.Rb5
[Weaker is 25.gxh5 fxe6 26.Rb5 Rxf4±]

25...Qa6 10.40/23
[⌓25...Qc7 4.14/21 26.gxh5 Qxf4 27.exf4 Be4 28.exf7+ *(28.Rxb7 Nd8+-)* 28...Rxf7]



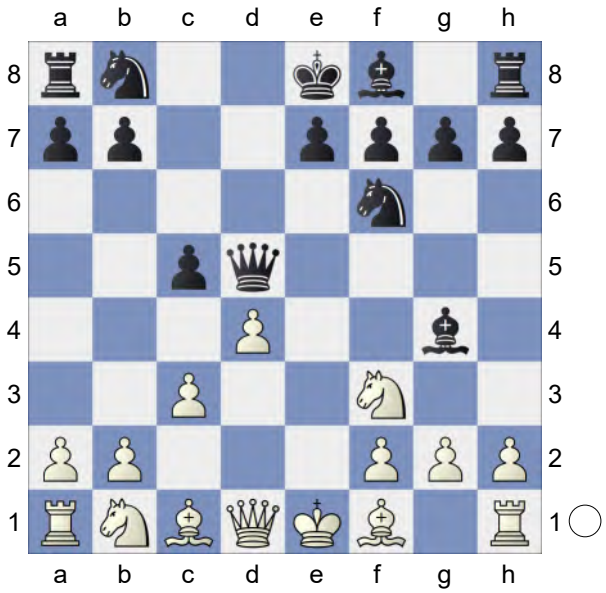
26.Rxh5



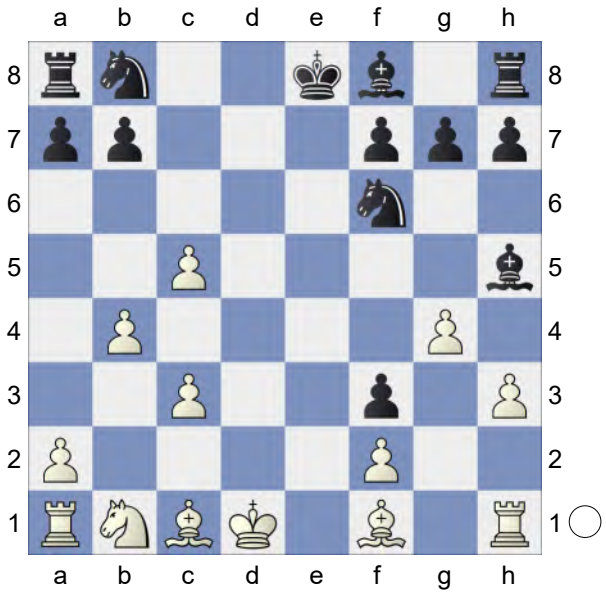
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.80
1-0

107 **B22**
□ **Malakhov,Vladimir** **2712**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2771**
RUS-ch 63rd Moscow (7) 18.12.2010
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4

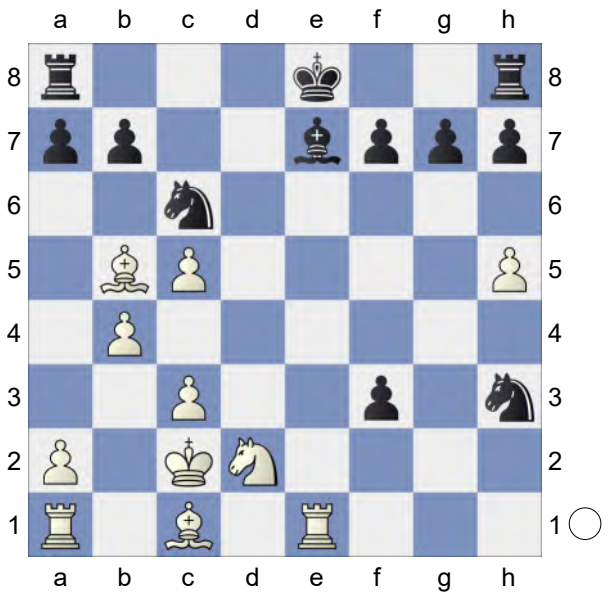


6.dxc5
[6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 *(8.c4 Qd8)* 8...Nc6∞ 1/2 Perelshteyn,E (2536)-Hernandez Guerrero,G (2536)/ Lubbock 2007/EXT 2008 (46) 9.Be3 *(9.a3!)* 9...cxd4! 10.cxd4 Be7!⩱ *(10...Bb4)*]
6...Qxd1+
[6...Qxc5! 7.h3 Bd7 8.Na3 e6!↑ L.Hazai ⌓9.Be3! Qa5 10.Nc4 - see 11.0-0 ♘a6. Qc7!? 11.Nfe5 b5 12.Qf3 Nc6 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.Bf4 Qb7 15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.Bxd6 Nf6 17.a4 Rd8 18.Ba3 a6= 0-1 Fercec,N (2464)-Krstic,U (2386)/Pula 2000/ CBM 075/[Hazai] (40) 19.axb5 axb5 20.Be2 Nd5 21.Bc5]
7.Kxd1 e5 8.b4 e4
[8...Nc6 9.Kc2 Bf5+ *(9...Nd5 10.Bb5 f6 11.Kb2)* 10.Kb2 Ng4= 0-1 Kacheishvili,G (2613)-Fernandez, D (2369)/Mesa 2009/CBM 130 Extra (38) 11.Be3?!]
9.h3 Bh5! This unusual move brings Black good results. Its idea is to meet f2-f4 with ...f7-f5 while the other knight goes to c7 covering the e6 square. Details - see CBM 112, annotations to Topalov - Radjabov by IM L.Hazai. **10.g4 exf3**
[10...Nxg4 11.hxg4 Bxg4 12.Nbd2]

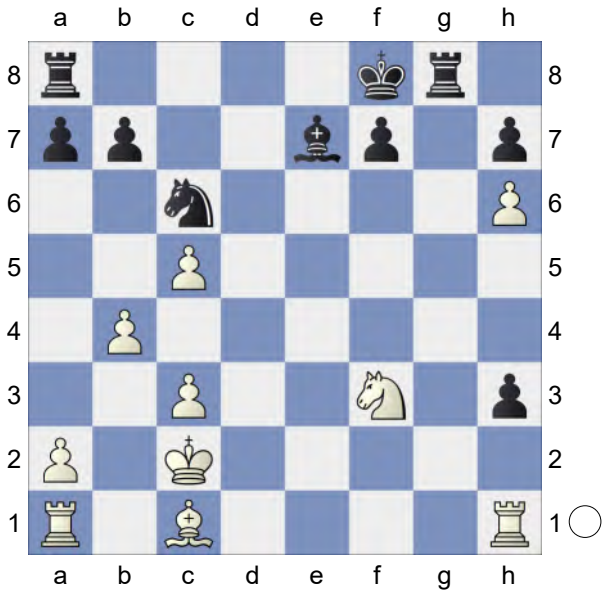


11.gxh5 Nc6! Preventing ♗c1-e3 and solving all opening problems. **12.Bb5**
[12.h6 0-0-0+ 13.Kc2 gxh6 14.Rg1]
12...Ne4
[12...Nxh5 13.Re1+= 1/2 Dreev,A (2650)-Khairullin,I (2605)/Moscow 2010/CBM 135 (44) ≤Be7 14.Nd2]
13.Kc2
[13.Re1 0-0-0+ 14.Kc2 Nxf2 15.Nd2 Nxh3 16.Nxf3]
13...Be7 14.Re1 Long manoeuvring starts now. **14...Nxf2 15.Nd2 Nxh3**

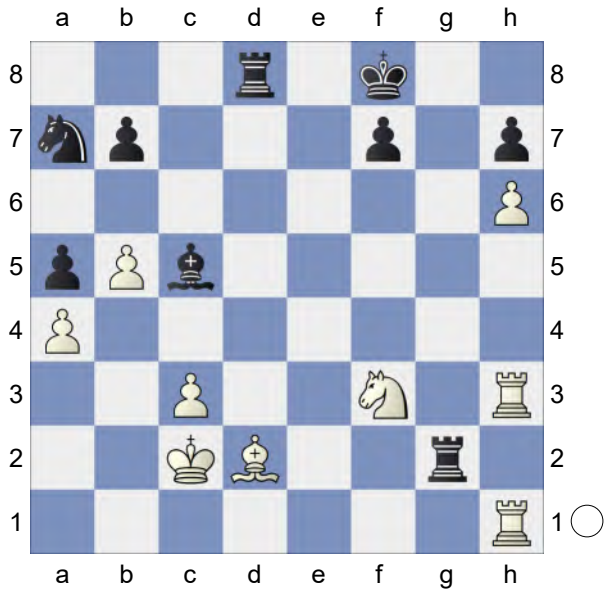
(Diagram)



16.Nxf3 Kf8 17.h6
[17.Be3 h6 *(17...g5 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Ne5)* 18.Rad1= 1/2 Sokolov,I (2652)-Efimenko,Z (2616)/Gibraltar 2007/CBM 116 ext (61) Ng5!? 19.Bxg5!? Bxg5 *(19...hxg5 20.Rd7⩱ T.Radjabov)* 20.Rd7 Nd8 21.Rc7!]
17...g5 18.Bf1 g4 19.Bxh3
[19.b5 Nd8 20.Ne5 f5 21.Bd3]
19...gxh3 20.Rh1 Rg8

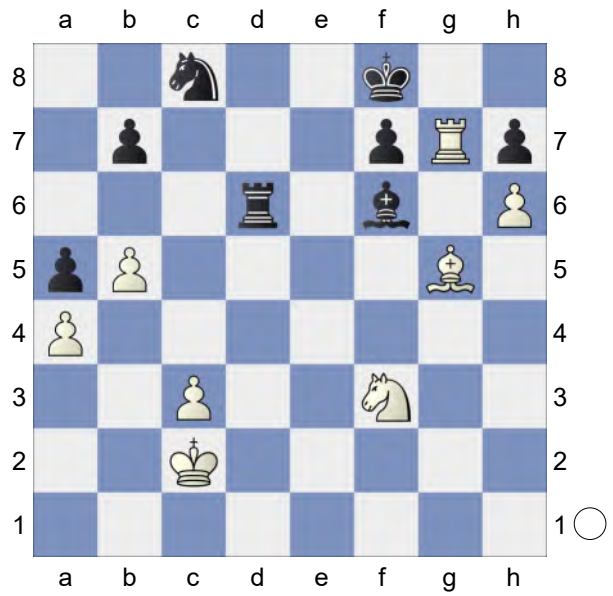


21.Rxh3 Rg2+ 22.Bd2 a5
[22...Rd8 23.Rd1 a5 24.a3]
23.b5 Na7 24.a4 Rd8
[24...Bxc5= 0-1 Topalov,V (2801)-Radjabov,T (2700)/Morelia/Linares 2006/CBM 112/[Hazai] (37) 25.Ng5!? Kg8 26.Re1 Rd8 27.Rd3]
25.Rah1
[25.Rh5]
25...Bxc5



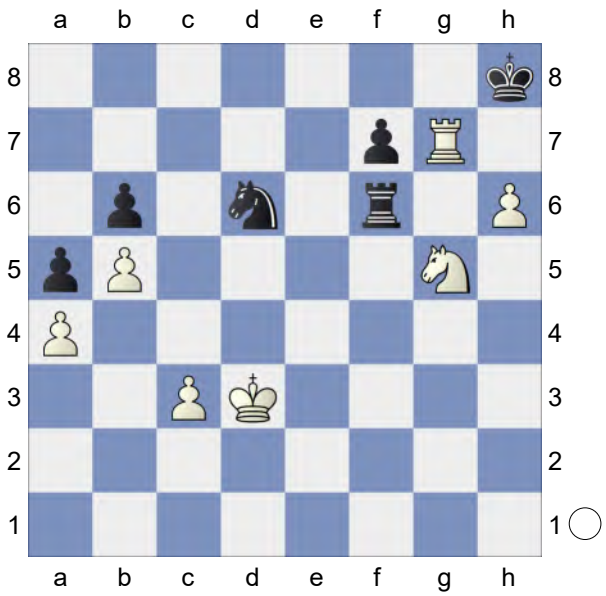
26.R1h2 Rxh2 27.Rxh2 Nc8 28.Rg2 Be7 29.Rg7 Bf6 30.Bg5
[30.Rxh7 Kg8]
30...Rd6?! This break is unnecessary and only allows the invasion of the white queen.
[30...Ke7 31.Rxh7 *(31.Bxf6+ Kxf6! 32.Rxh7 Nd6 33.Rg7 Rh8)* 31...Bxg5! 32.Nxg5 Nd6 33.Rg7 Kf6 34.Nh7+ *(34.Nf3 Rh8)* 34...Ke7 35.c4 1-0 Sokolov,I (2673)-Avrukh,B (2641)/Heraklio 2007/CBM 121 (40) Nf5!± I.Sokolov 36.Rg5 Ke6]

(Diagram)



31.Bxf6 Rxf6 32.Rxh7!
[32.Ng5 Rf2+ *(32...Rxh6 33.Rxf7+!=* 1-0 Dydyshko,V (2415)-Mochalov,E (2450)/Minsk 1978/EXT 2003 (41) *≤Ke8 34.Rxb7)* 33.Kd3 Nd6 1/2 Atalik,S (2564)-Czarnota,P (2575)/Polanica Zdroj 2007/CBM 120 34.Nxh7+!? is the most logical but Black's position is solid enough after Ke7 35.Ng5 Kf8= =36.Rh7 Kg8 37.Rg7+ Kf8 38.b6]
[32.Ne5 Rxh6!? 33.Rxf7+ Ke8 34.Rxb7]
32...Kg8
[32...Nd6 33.Rh8+ Ke7 34.h7 Rh6 35.Ng5]
33.Ng5
[33.Rg7+ Kh8 34.Ng5 Nd6]
33...Nd6 34.Rg7+! Kh8 35.Kd3 b6
[35...Rxh6 36.Rxf7]

(Diagram)

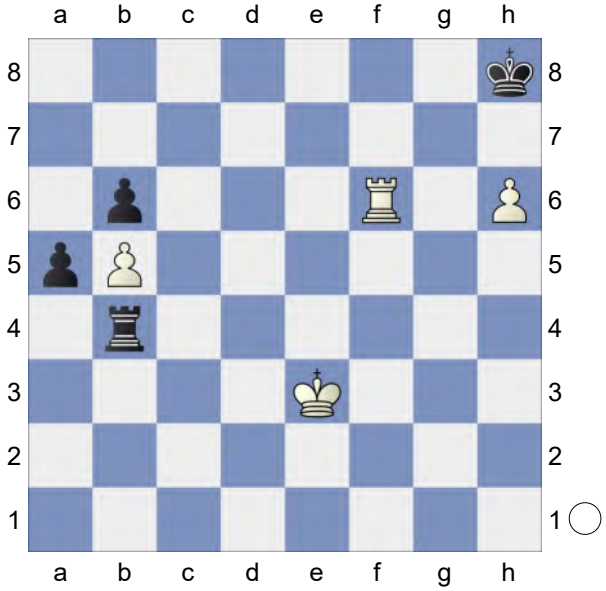


36.c4!?
[36.Ke3 Nf5+]
[36.Ke2 Rxh6 37.Rxf7 Rh2+= 38.Rf2? Rxf2+ 39.Kxf2 Nc4 40.Ne4? Nb2 41.Ke3 Nxa4 42.Kd4 Kg7 43.c4! *(43.Kd5 Kf7 44.Kc6 Ke6!?)* 43...Kf7 44.c5∓ is Black's best chance to continue a positional fight for a victory bxc5+!? 45.Nxc5 , and now White can try to break through by preparing a piece sacrifice on c5 or e5. ≤Nb6]
[36.Ne4 Rxh6]
[36.Kd4 Rxh6! *(36...Nf5+ 37.Ke5 Rxh6 38.Rxf7)* 37.Nxf7+ *(37.Rxf7 Rh4+)* 37...Kxg7 38.Nxh6 Kxh6 39.Kd5!? Nxb5!? 40.axb5 Kg6 41.c4 a4 42.c5= a3 *(42...bxc5 43.Kc4)* 43.cxb6 a2 44.b7 a1Q! A typical pawn sacrifice in this structure. 45.b8Q Qd1+]
36...Rf4
[36...Rf1 37.c5 bxc5 38.Ne4]
37.Ke3?! Too early. This capture gives the black pieces some fresh air.
[37.c5 bxc5 38.b6 Rd4+ 39.Ke2 *(39.Kc3 Rc4+)* 39...Rb4 40.Nxf7+ Nxf7 41.Rxf7 Rxb6 42.Ra7 Rxh6

43.Rxa5 *(43.Kd3 Rh3+ 44.Kc4! Rh4+ 45.Kb5 Rb4+! 46.Kxa5 Kg8! 47.Rc7 Rc4* with sufficient counterplay. *48.Kb5? Rb4+)* 43...Rd6 44.Rxc5 Kg7 45.Rf5 Kg6 46.Rf3 Ra6! 47.Ra3!? Kf5 48.Kd3 Ke5!! 49.Kc4 Kd6 50.Kb5 Ra8! 51.a5 Kc7! and surprisingly, Black has no win, e.g.]

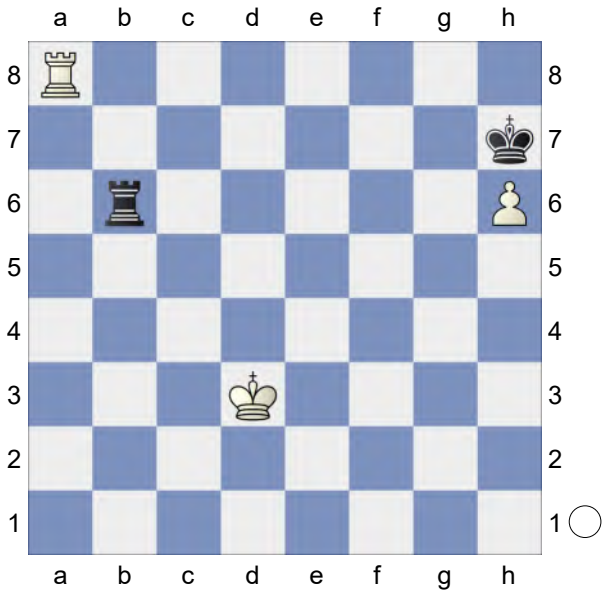
37...Rxc4 38.Nxf7+ Nxf7 39.Rxf7?

A blunder. White loses sense of danger. He was not better anymore and should have played quietly. **39...Rxa4 40.Rf6 Rb4**

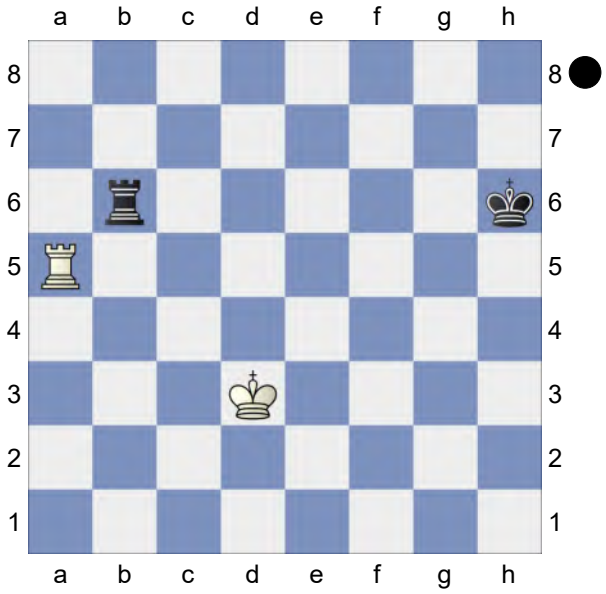


41.Rxb6? White fails to switch to stubborn defence. After this move Black simply wins a pawn and easily converts it. **41...a4 42.Kd3 a3 43.Ra6 Rxb5 44.Rxa3 Rb6 45.Ra8+ Kh7**

(Diagram)



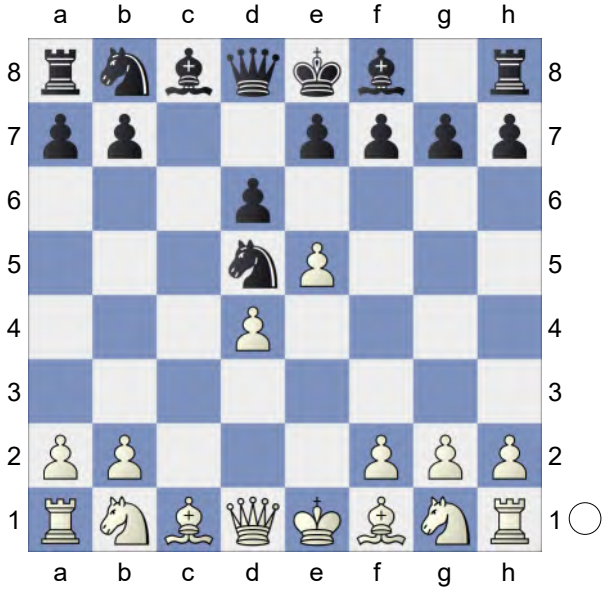
46.Ra7+ Kxh6 47.Ra5



0-1

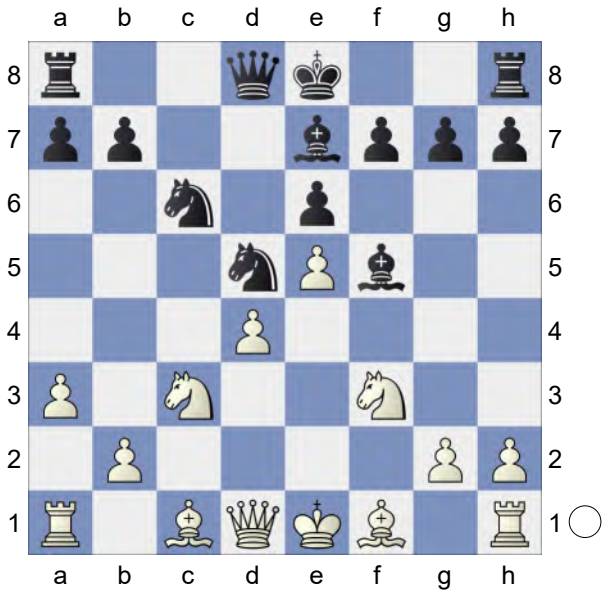
108 **B22**
□ **Jobava,Baadur** **2707**
■ **Safarli,Eltaj** **2628**
EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains (8) 30.03.2011
[Marchand,A/Primel,D]

(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 91 **4...cxd4** 91 **5.cxd4!?** 91
Une ligne secondaire qui était la préparation des Blancs et la partie est d'importance théorique car elle n'avait pas encore été jouée à haut niveau.
5...d6



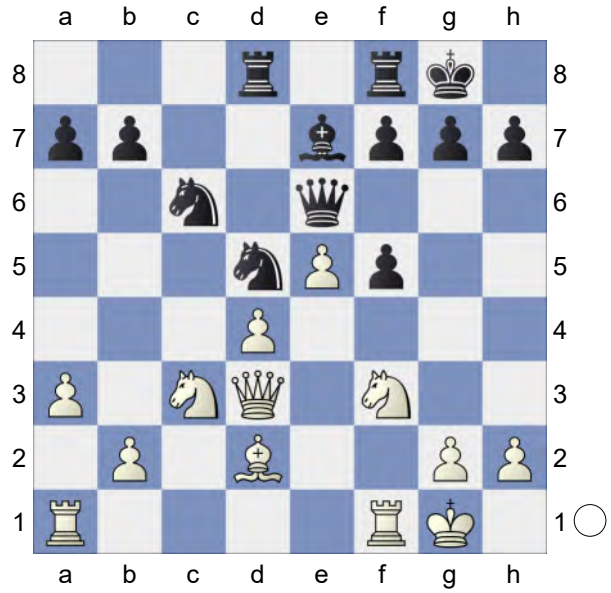
82 **6.f4**
[6.Nf3 Nc6 *(6...e6)*]
6...Nc6 7.Nc3 dxe5 8.fxe5 92 **8...Bf5** 76 **9.a3 e6! 10.Nf3 Be7**

(Diagram)



11.Bd3 0-0=
[11...Bg4 12.0-0 0-0 *(12...Rc8 13.h3 Bh5 ≤14.g4 Bg6* Quelques semaines plus tard, les Noirs ont tenté d'améliorer la position avec ♘bd7 *15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Kg2 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qd5 18.Qe2 Na5 19.Rb1 Rxc3 20.Rb5 Qd8 21.d5 a6 22.Bd2 Rc2 23.Rxa5 Qxa5 24.d6 Bxd6 25.exd6 Qd5 26.Rf2 Qxd6 27.Qe4)* 13.h3 Il y a a encore du travail pour les Blancs Bh5 14.g4 Plus solide car le ♙"h6" sera trés faible dans la partie Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bg6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Ra2 Rc8↻ ⌓18.Raf2 Na5 19.Qd3 Nc4 20.h4 Qd5 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Rfd8 23.Rh2? Kf8! 24.Nh4 Ke8 25.Rhf2 Rc7 26.Ng2]
[11...Bxd3 12.Qxd3 0-0 13.0-0 Goganov,A (2480)-Klimov,S (2503)/St Petersburg 2011/Mega2011 Update 24/½-½ (52) Rc8!? 14.Ne4]
12.Bxf5 92
12...exf5 73 **13.0-0** 92 **13...Qd7** 47
Les Blancs continuent de suivre la préparation maison et les Noirs commencent à accuser un net retard à la pendule **14.Qd3!** Force l'échange des

♕ qui va donner une finale agréable à jouer pour les Blancs **14...Rad8 15.Bd2 Qe6?!**



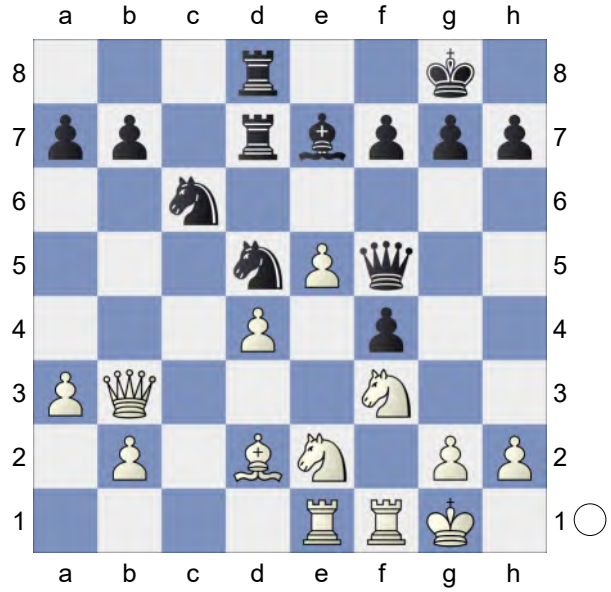
16.Rae1 Rd7 17.Ne2! 88 **17...Rfd8** 40 **18.Ng3 f4 19.Ne2**

[19.Ne4]

[19.Nf5]

19...Qg6 20.Qb3↑ 85

Les Blancs continuent de jouer quasiment à tempo! **20...Qf5**



31 **21.g3!** 83

La majorité noire à l'aile-dame n'est pas facile à mobiliser et les Blancs donnent une leçon technique!

Le plus impressionnant est de voir JOBAVA continuer de blitzer. **21...fxg3 22.Ng5±**

[22.Nxg3 Une partie impressionnante de la part du géorgien]

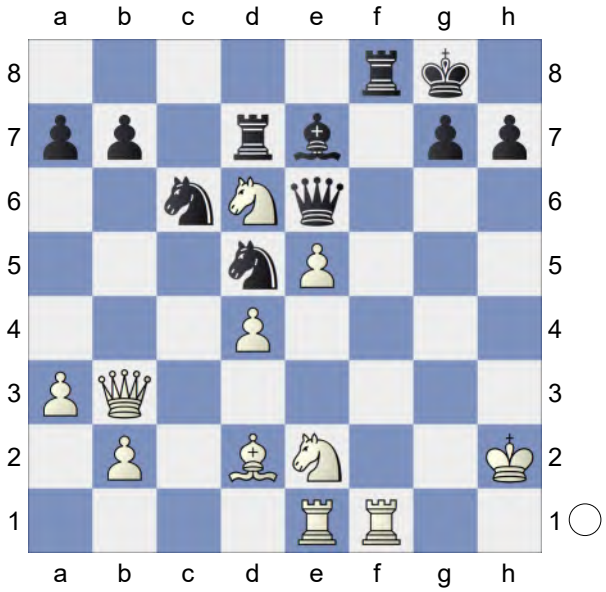
22...Qg4 23.Nxf7

[23.Qxg3]

23...Rf8

[23...Nxd4 24.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 25.Kh1 g2+]

24.Nd6 73 **24...gxh2+** 20 **25.Kxh2 Qe6**



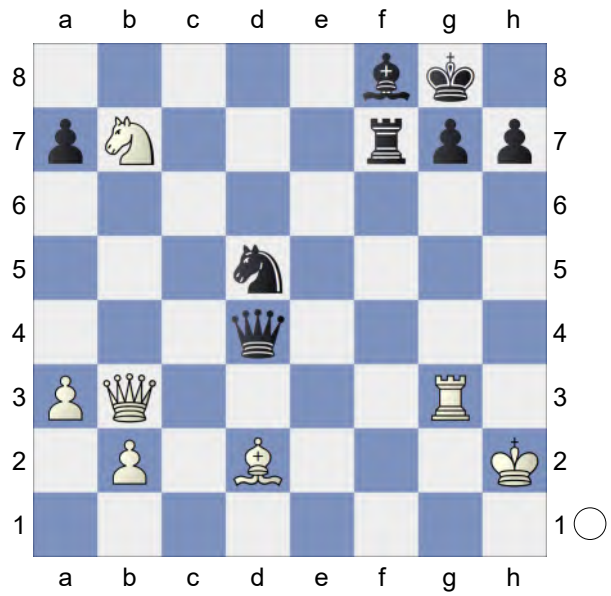
Il est souvent recommandé de jouer activement en finale de ♖ mais les Noirs n'auront pas forcément assez de compensations. **26.Rxf8+ Bxf8 27.Nxb7** 66 **27...Rf7** 12 **28.Rg1!**

[28.Nc5 Bxc5 29.dxc5 Qxe5+ 30.Nf4]

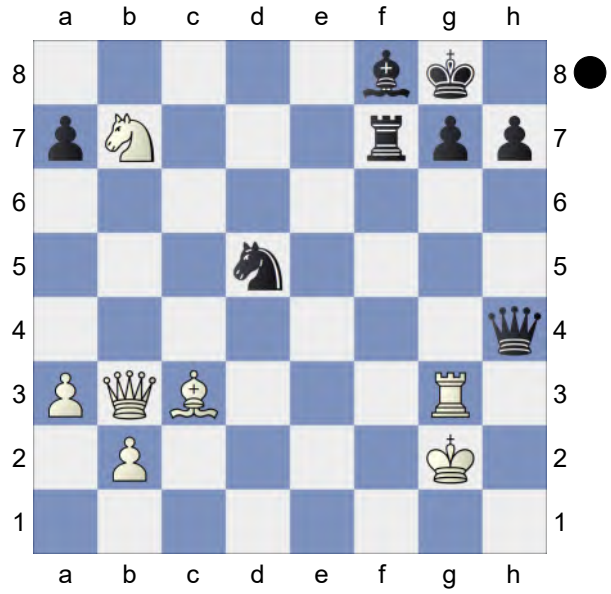
28...Nxd4 29.Nxd4 62

Une heure d'avance ! **29...Qxe5+?!** 02 **30.Rg3 Qxd4?⊕**

(Diagram)



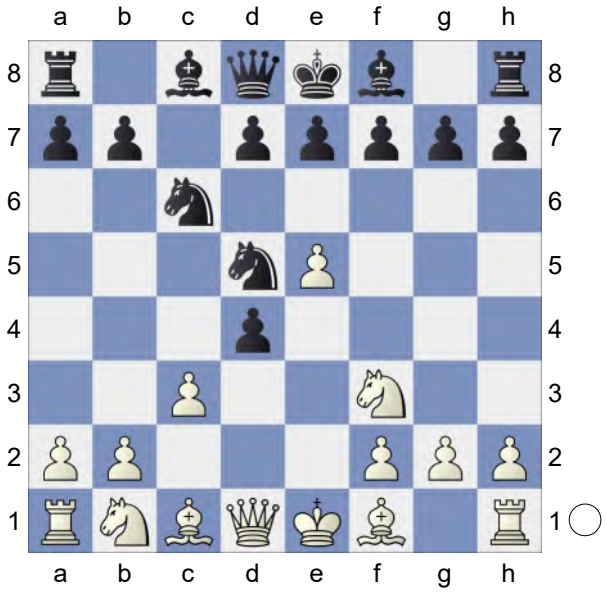
31.Bc3! Qh4+ 32.Kg2



1-0

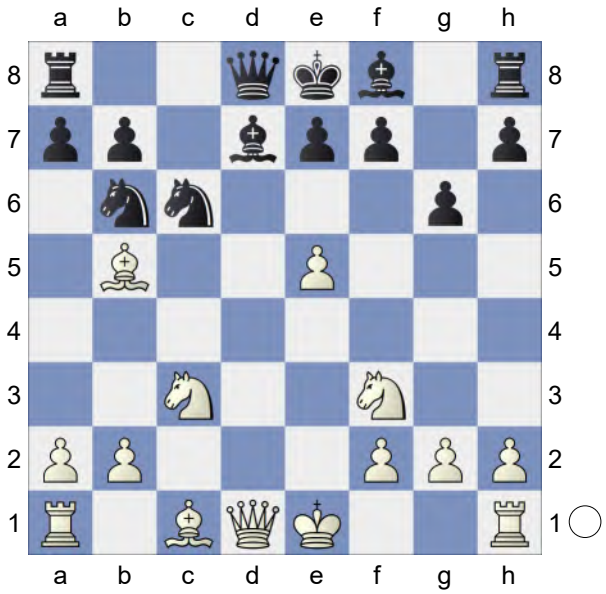
109 **B22**
□ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2704**
■ **Levin,Felix** **2459**
World-chT Rapid (2.2) 26.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7
9.Nc3!? An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
[9.exd6 is interesting. e6 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bd2]
9...dxe5 10.dxe5 g6N

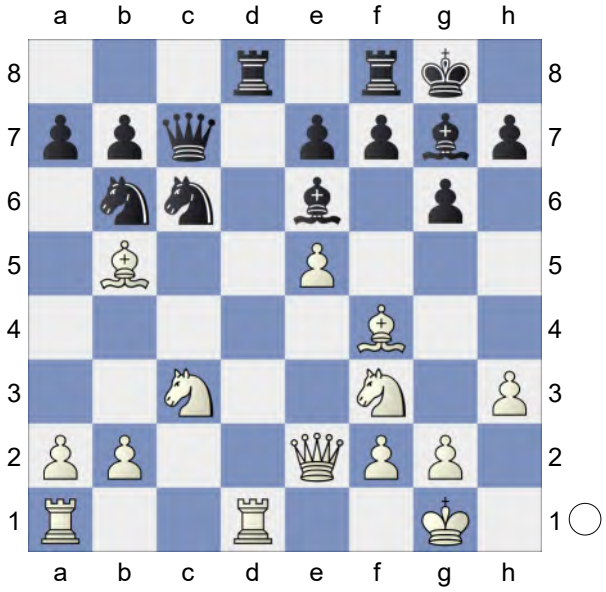
(Diagram)



11.0-0 Bg7 White is slightly better.
12.Qe2
[12.Bf4 0-0 13.Re1 Be6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qc1 Bg4 16.Ng5 h6 17.Nge4 g5 18.Bg3 Nc4 19.Nxg5 hxg5 20.Qxg5 Be6 21.b3 Nb6 22.Bf4 Nd5 23.Rad1 f6 24.exf6 exf6 25.Qg3 Bf5 26.Ne2 Re8 0-1 (45) Giulian Jackson,R (1922)-Kochavi,D (2009) Olympiad Women-45 2024 (5.24)]
12...0-0 13.h3 Be6N
[13...Qc7 14.Bf4 Rad8 15.Bg3 e6! would now be deadly. Be6 16.Rac1 Qb8 0.79/20 *(16...a6=* -0.12/19 keeps the balance. *17.Bxc6 Qxc6)* 17.Bxc6!± Bc4 Prevents Bb5 18.Qe4 -0.10/20 *(18.Qe3!±* 0.91/20 Hoping for e6! *Bxf1 19.e6)* 18...Bxf1= 19.e6 -0.99/23 *(19.Qh4=* -0.10/20 remains equal. *Bc4 20.e6)* 19...Bd3 0.30/22 *(19...f5∓* -0.99/23 *20.Qb4 f4)*]
[13...a6 14.Bd3 Be6 15.a3 Nd7 16.Bf4 Ndxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxa6 Qd4 19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Qxe5 Bxe5 21.Bxb7 Rab8 22.Bf3 Rxb2 23.Nd5 Rb3 24.Nxe7+ Kg7

25.Rad1 Rxa3 26.Nc6 Bc3 27.Bd5 Bc8 28.f4 1-0 (53) Kobernat,A (2357)-5.d5 ♗a6 6. ♕c2 exd5 7.cxd5 (2561) Netherlands corr 1968 (9)]

14.Rd1 Prevents Nd4. **14...Qc7 15.Bf4 Rad8**



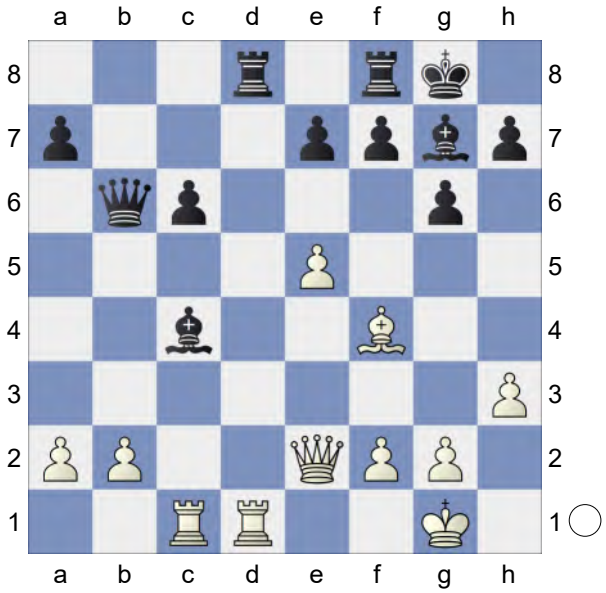
16.Rac1 -0.15/21

[16.Bg3 0.21/18 might be stronger.]

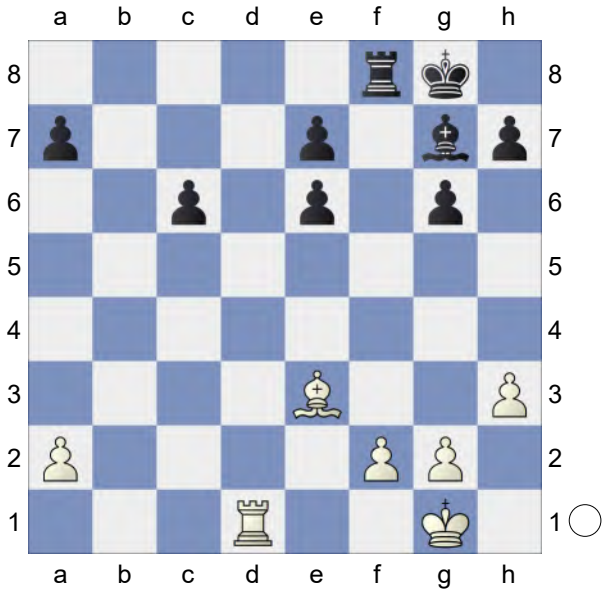
16...Nd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Nd4 Qb6 19.Nxc6 -0.37/23

[19.Bxc6= 0.06/20 deserves consideration. bxc6 20.Be3]

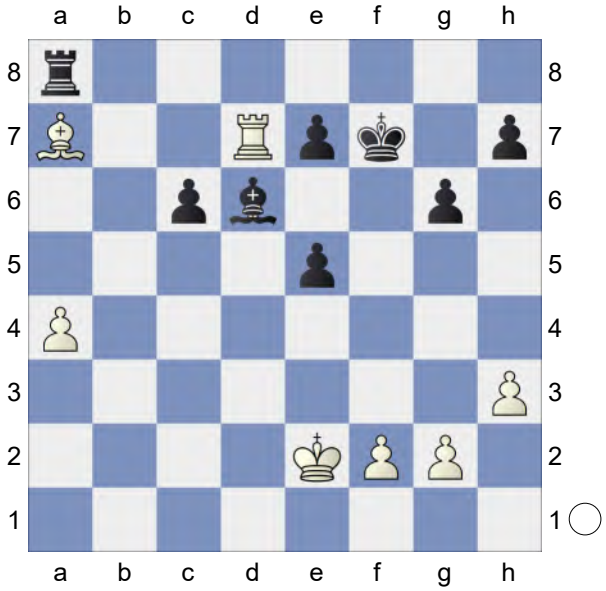
19...bxc6∓ 20.Bc4 Bxc4



21.Qxc4 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qxb2 23.e6 Qf6 24.Be3 Qxe6 25.Qxe6 fxe6



26.Bxa7 Endgame. KRB-KRB **26...Ra8 27.Rd7 Kf7 28.a4 Be5 29.Kf1 Bd6 30.Ke2 e5!**

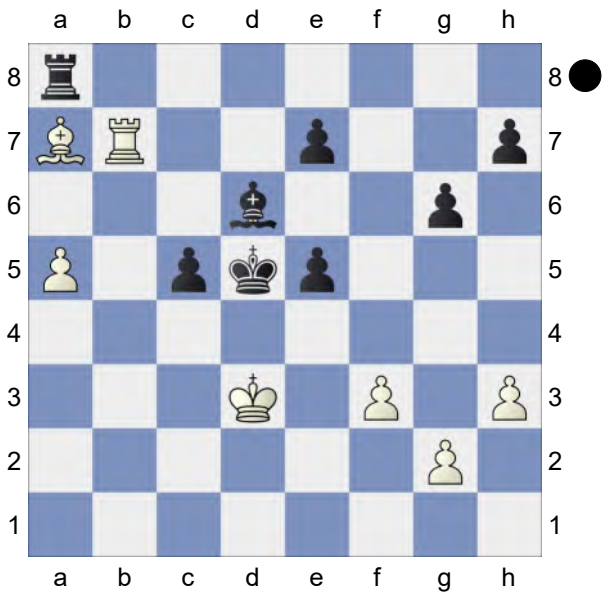


31.Kd3 Ke6 32.Rb7 Kd5 33.f3 -1.20/26

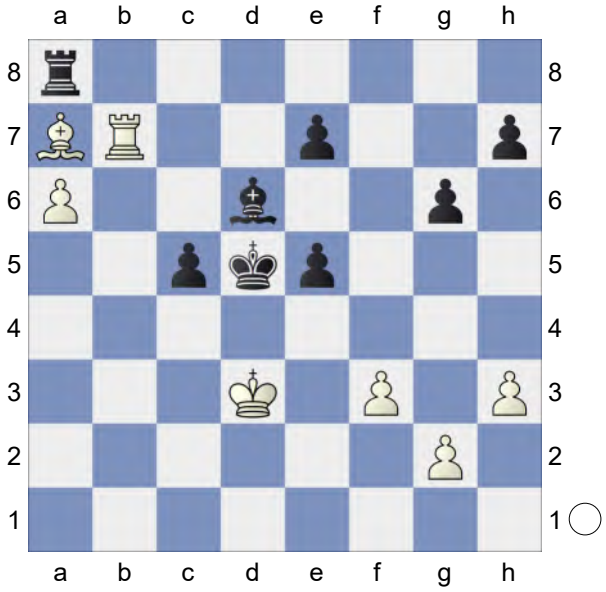
[⌓33.a5 -0.78/22]

33...c5 34.a5

(Diagram)

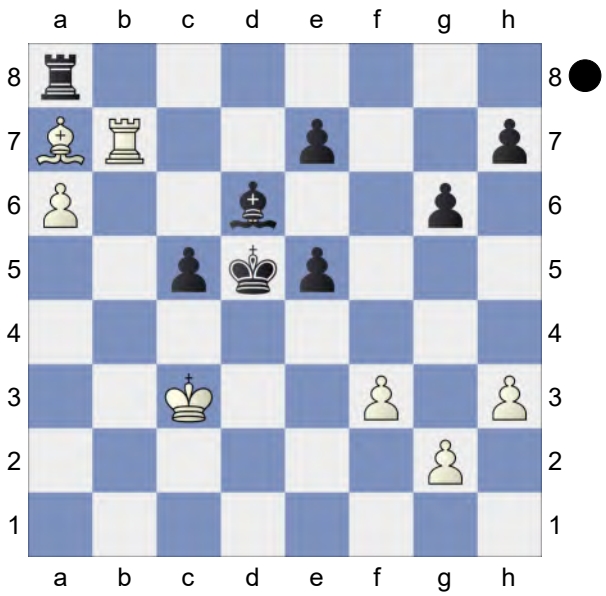


Rf8 -0.14/23
[34...g5!∓ -1.19/23]
35.a6 -0.94/25
[35.Rb1= -0.14/23]
35...Ra8

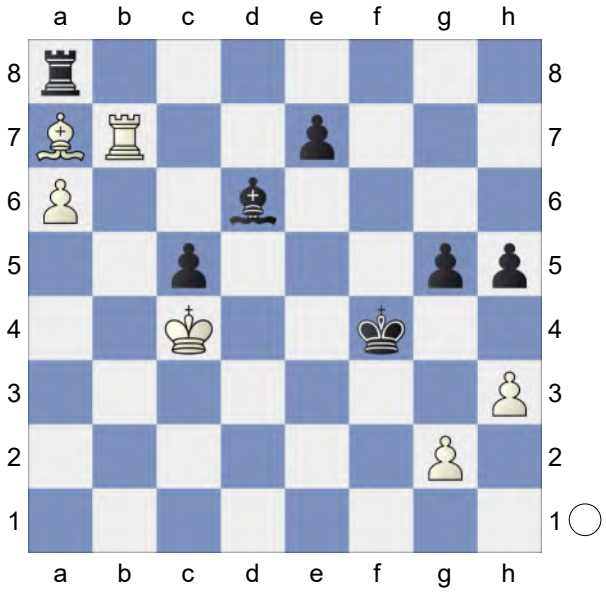


36.Kc3

(Diagram)

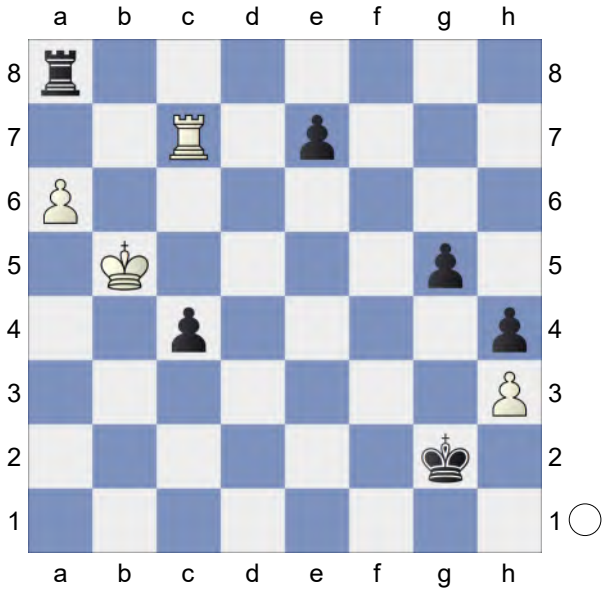


g5! 37.Kd3 h5 38.Kc3 -1.72/25
[38.g3∓ -0.85/22 was worth a try.]
38...e4-+ ...exf3 is the strong threat.
39.fxe4+ -2.23/26
[39.Kd2∓ -1.26/27 was called for.]
39...Kxe4 40.Kc4 Kf4
[40...g4 41.Bxc5 Rxa6 *(41...Rc8 42.Rb5±)* 42.Bxd6 exd6 43.Rb4∓]



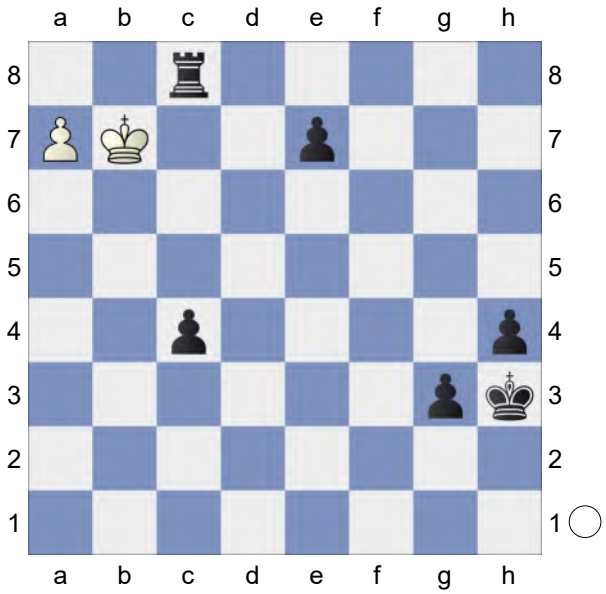
41.Kb5 h4 Strongly threatening ...Kg3.
42.Rd7 -2.64/23
[42.Bxc5? Bxc5 43.Kxc5 Rxa6 44.Rb4+ Kf5]

[42.Bb6∓ -1.42/24]
42...Kg3 43.Bb6 c4 -2.08/19
[43...Kxg2 44.Ra7 Rc8 *(44...Rxa7 45.Bxa7 e5 46.Bxc5=)* 45.Rd7 Kxh3 46.Rd8 Rxd8 47.Bxd8=]
[⌓43...Rxa6 -4.19/24 44.Kxa6 Kxg2]
44.Bc7 -4.85/23
[44.Ba5 -2.08/19]
44...Bxc7
[44...Kxg2? 45.Bxd6 exd6 46.Rg7-+]
45.Rxc7 Kxg2

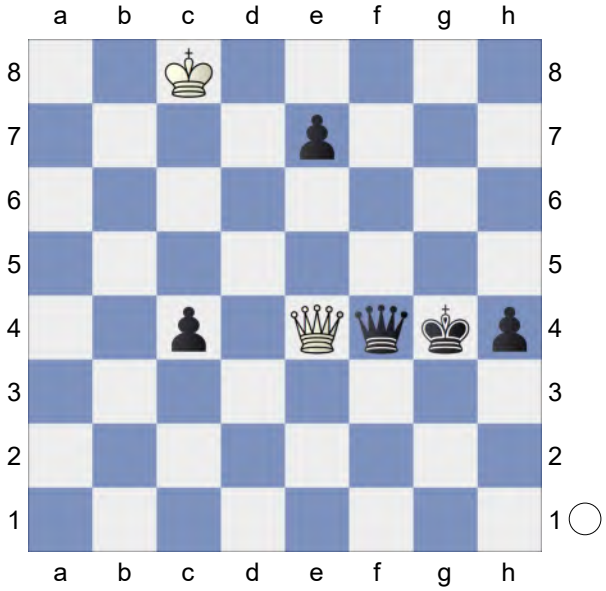


KR-KR **46.Rc5 Rg8**
[46...Kxh3 47.Rxg5 e6 *(47...c3 48.Rc5=)* 48.Kb6=]
47.a7 Kxh3 And now ...g4 would win.
48.Ka6 g4 49.Kb7 g3 50.Rc8 Rxc8

(Diagram)



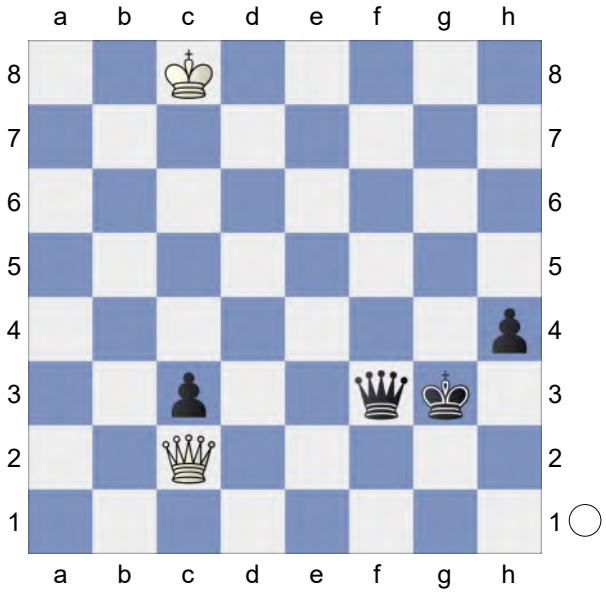
51.Kxc8 KP-KP **51...g2 52.a8Q g1Q** KQ-KQ
[52...g1R 53.Qf3+ Rg3 54.Qh1+ Kg4 55.Qe4+ Kh3 56.Kd8+- *(56.Qxc4 Rg4+-; 56.Qxe7 Rf3+-)*]
53.Qf3+ Qg3 54.Qh1+ Kg4 55.Qe4+ Qf4



56.Qe2+ -7.32/24
[⌓56.Qxe7 -4.53/19 Qf3 57.Qg7+ Kh3 58.Qb2]
56...Kh3 57.Qxe7 c3 (-> ...c2) **58.Qe1 Qf3** -13.24/25
[⌓58...Qc4+ -#19/23 59.Kd8 c2

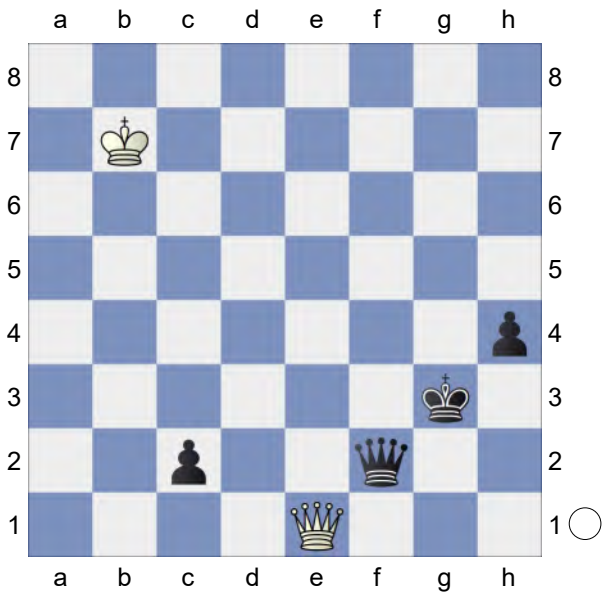
60.Qc1 Kg4 61.Ke8 Qc5 62.Kf7 h3 63.Ke8 Qc6+ 64.Kd8 h2 65.Qd2 c1Q *(65...h1B* gets mated. *66.Qd4+ Be4 67.Qg1+ Kh5 68.Qh2+ Kg6 69.Qg1+ Kf7 70.Qa7+ Qb7 71.Qg1 Qe7+ 72.Kc8)* 66.Qe2+ Qf3 67.Qe6+ Qf5 68.Qg8+ Kf4 69.Qe6 Qf8+ 70.Qe8 Qd6+ *(70...h1Q* leads to mate. *71.Qxf8+ Kg4 72.Qg8+ Qg5+ 73.Qxg5+ Kxg5 74.Kd7 Qd5+ 75.Kc8 Kf5 76.Kc7 Ke5 77.Kb8 Kd6 78.Ka7 Kc6 79.Kb8 Qb3+ 80.Kc8 Qg8#)* 71.Qd7 Qcc7+ 72.Ke8 Qcxd7#]

59.Qc1 Kh2 60.Qc2+ Vorgänger: **60...Kg3**

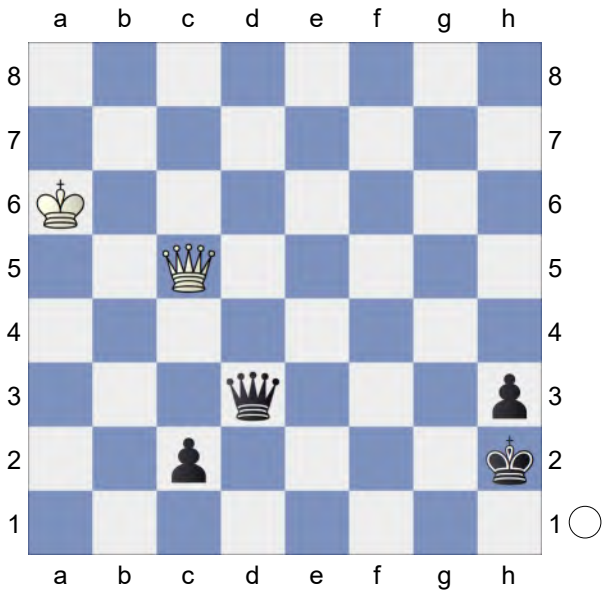


Threatens to win with ...h3. **61.Qc1 Qc6+ 62.Kb8 Qd6+ 63.Kc8 Qc5+ 64.Kb7 c2** Black mates. **65.Qe1+ Qf2**

(Diagram)



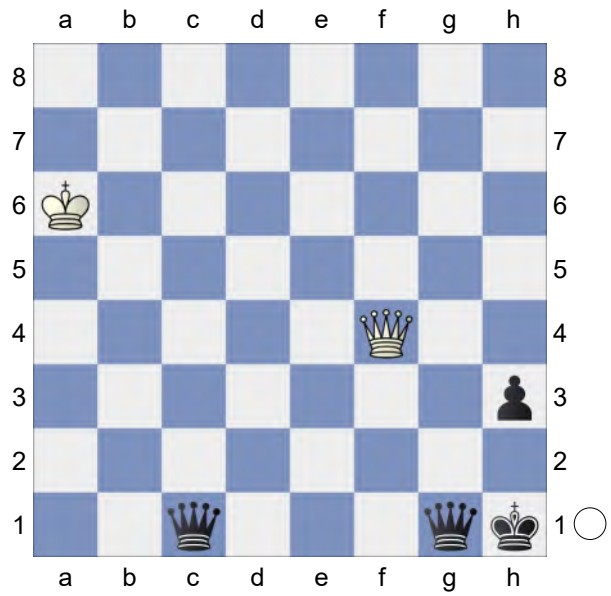
66.Qe5+ Kh3 67.Qe6+ ½-½ Joseph,M-Motamedi,M Northwest Chess December op 1985 **67...Kh2 68.Qe5+ Qg3 69.Qc5 h3 70.Ka6 Qd3+**



71.Ka7 Qd2 72.Qe5+ Kh1 73.Qe4+ Qg2 74.Qf4 Qg1+ 75.Ka6 c1Q

[Weaker is 75...c1B 76.Qe4+ Kh2 77.Qc2+ Kg3 78.Qg6+ Kf2 79.Qc2+ Kf3 80.Qf5+ Ke2 81.Qh5+ Kd2 82.Qxh3∓]

(Diagram)

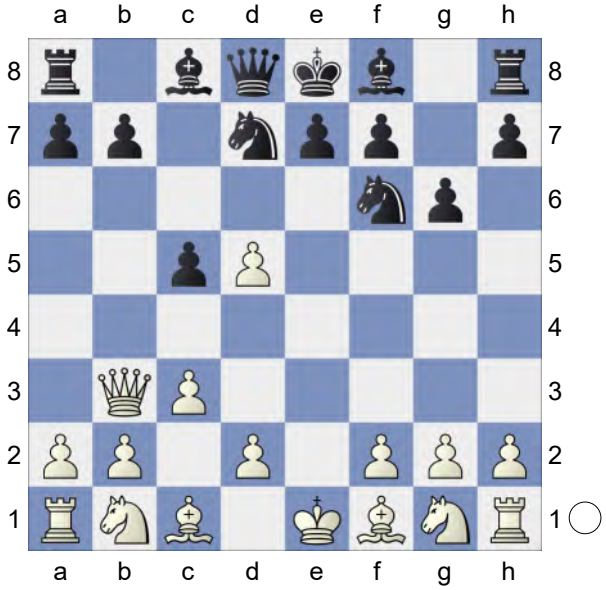


Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.15 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

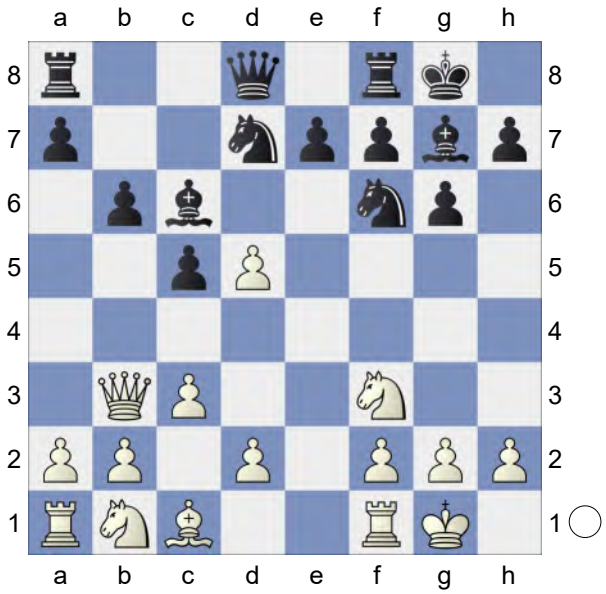
110 **B22**
□ **Artemiev,Vladislav** **2701**
■ **Zemlyanskii,Ivan** **2543**
Qatar Masters Open 2024 (9.4) 12.12.24
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Qa4+ Nbd7 5.Qb3 g6

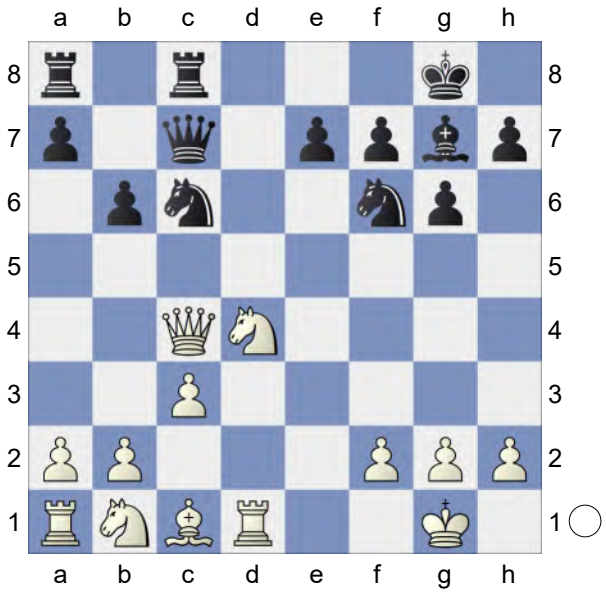


6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 White is slightly better. **8...b6N**
[8...Nb6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nbxd5 11.Rd1 Qd6 12.Bf3 Bg4 13.Nd2 Rad8 14.Nc4 Qb8 15.Re1 h6 16.Ne5 Bxf3 17.Ndxf3 e6 18.c4 Ne7 19.Bd2 Nd7 20.Bc3 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxe5 Nc6 ½-½ Andersen,M (2604)-Pechac,J (2633) Deutschland 156/42 2023]
9.Bb5 -0.36/22
[White should play 9.a4± 0.49/22]
9...Bb7!∓ 10.Bc6 Bxc6

(Diagram)

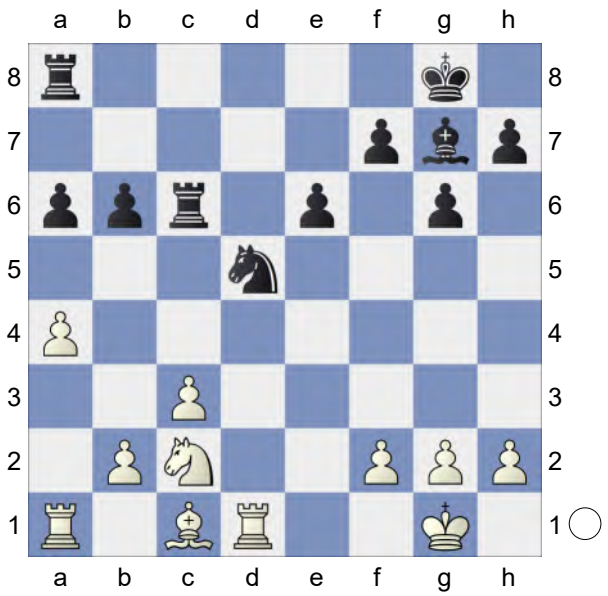


11.dxc6 Nb8 12.d4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Qc7 Prevents Bf4 **14.Qc4** The position is equal. **14...Rc8 15.Rd1 Nxc6**
[15...h6 is interesting. 16.Nd2 a6 17.Nf1 e5]

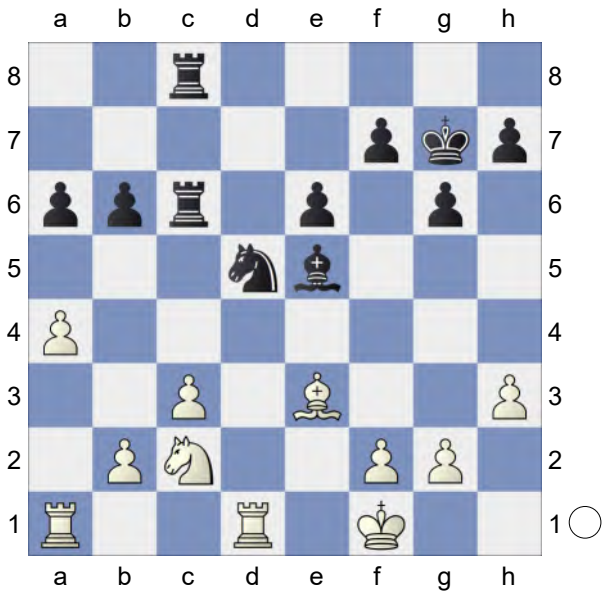


16.Qxc6 Qxc6 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.a4 e6 19.Na3 Nd5 20.Nc2 a6

(Diagram)

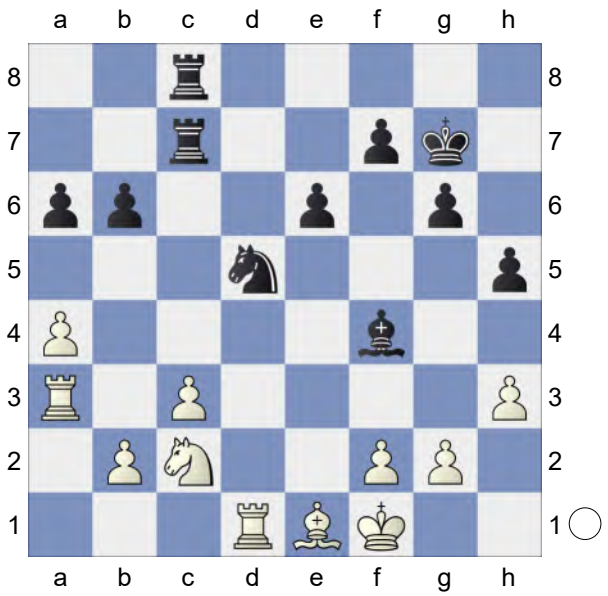


21.Ne3 Nc7 22.Nc2 Nd5 23.Be3 Rac8 24.Kf1 Be5 25.h3 Kg7

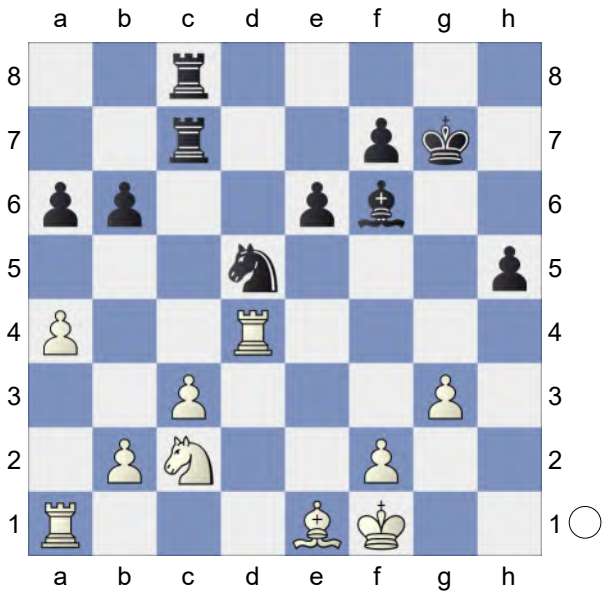


26.Bd2 h5 27.Ne3 Ne7 28.Be1 R6c7 29.Ra3 Bf4 30.Nc2 Nd5

(Diagram)

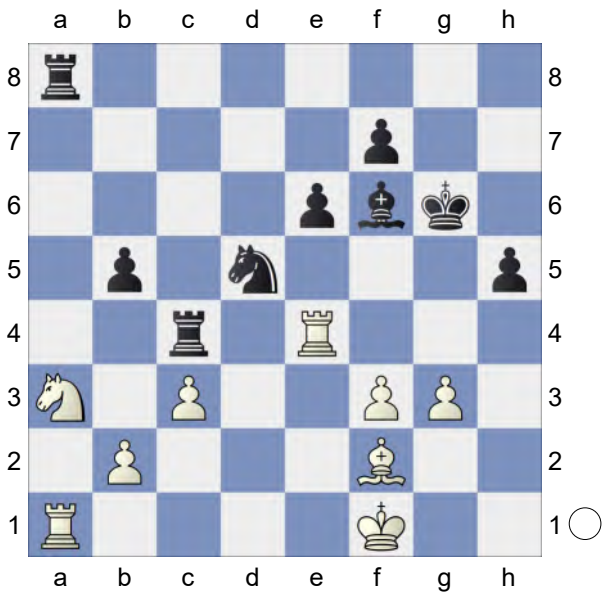


31.h4 Bd6 32.Raa1 Be7 33.g3 g5 34.hxg5 Bxg5 35.Rd4 Bf6

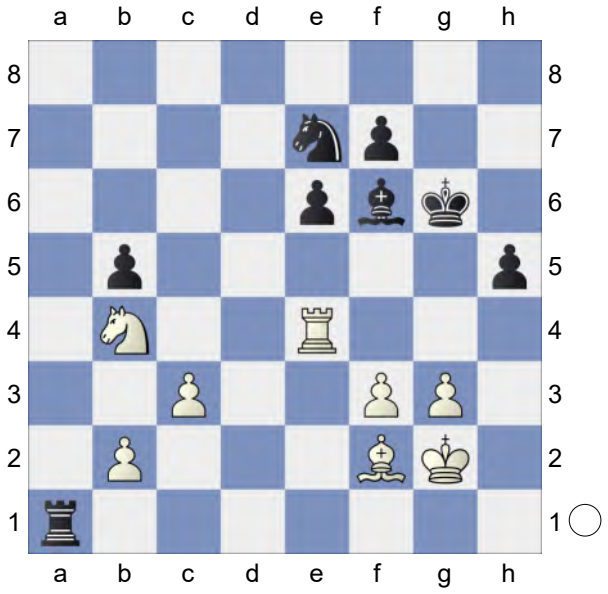


36.Re4 Rc4 37.f3 Kg6 38.Bf2 b5 39.axb5 axb5 40.Na3 Ra8

(Diagram)

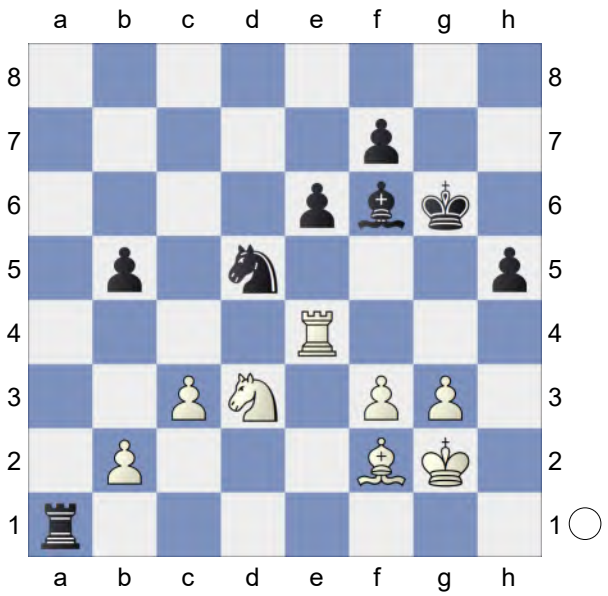


Hoping for ...Rxe4. **41.Nc2 Rxa1+ 42.Nxa1 Rc8 43.Nc2 Ra8 44.Nb4 Ra1+ 45.Kg2 Ne7**



46.Nd3 Nd5

(Diagram)



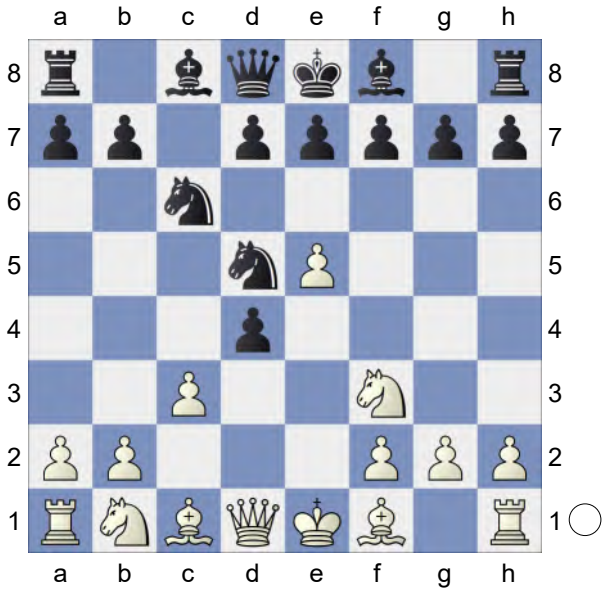
Repels Rb4.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

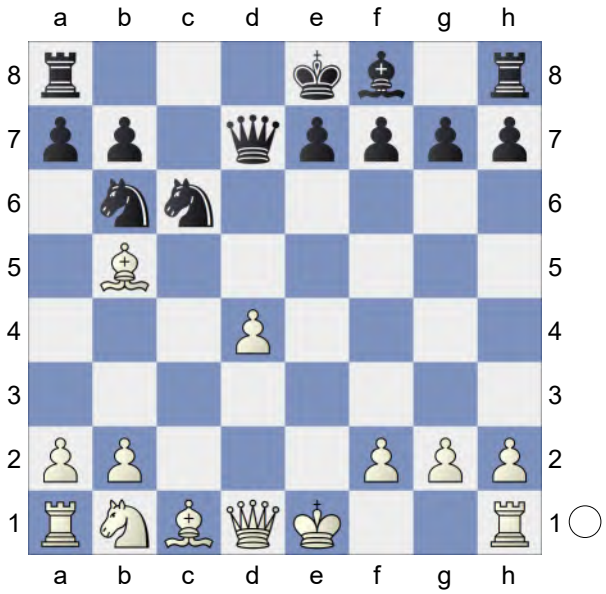
111 **B22**
□ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter** **2690**
■ **Fedorov,Alexei** **2617**
EU-Cup 22nd Fuegen (3.1) 10.10.2006
[Rogozenco,Dorian]

Fedorov,Alex: 'Inf 98/83' **1.e4** Rogozenco,D Fedorov,Alexei Fedorov, Alexei Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' **1...c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6**



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Rd8 Black would like to avoid slightly worse positions arising after 12...♗e7 13.♕g4. Black would like to avoid slightly worse positions arising after 12...♗e7 13.♕g4. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'Black would like to avoid slightly worse positions arising after 12...♗e7 13.♕g4.'' **13.a4** The idea of Russian GM V.Potkin, designed to weaken Black's queenside. The idea of Russian GM V.Potkin, designed to weaken Black's queenside. Fedorov, Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'The idea of Russian GM V.Potkin, designed to weaken Black's queenside."

[13.Bxc6 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' Qxc6 *(13...bxc6=)* 14.Bg5 f6 *(14...Rc8 15.Rc1↑; 14...Be7 15.Bxe7 Kxe7 16.Qg4↑)* 15.Be3 Be7 16.Qh5+ g6∞ 17.Qh6 Bf8 18.Qh3 Bg7± /=]

[13.Be3 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' Be7 14.Qg4 0-0=]

[13.Qg4 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' Together with 13.a4 the queen sortie has the potential to set some problems for Black in this variation. h5 *(13...Qxd4 14.Qf3 Nd5 15.Bg5!⩱)*

14.Qe2!? *(14.Qg3 h4 15.Qf3 a6 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Qxc6+ bxc6=* 1-0 Bluvshtein,M (2367)-Charbonneau, P (2422)/Montreal 2002 (45)*)* △14...Qxd4 15.Bg5≅]

13...Be7

[13...a6 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' 14.Bxc6 Qxc6 15.Bg5 f6 *(15...Be7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Qg4↑)* 16.Be3 Be7 *(16...Bb4 17.d5! Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Rxd5 19.Qg4 Bf8 20.Rac1±* 1-0 Potkin,V (2493)-Atakisi,U (2358)/ Batumi 2002 (29)*; 16...Nd5 17.Rc1 Nxc3 18.Rxc3 Qd5 19.Qg4↑* 1-0 Vajda,L (2539)-Kulaots,K (2593)/ Budapest 2004 (68)*)* 17.Rc1 *(17.Qh5+ g6 18.Qh6 Kf7∞)* 17...Kf7 18.Qb3 Rc8 19.Ne2 *(19.Rfe1 Rhd8 20.Ne2 Qd6 21.Nf4 Nd5 22.Nxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 exd5=)* 19...Qd6= ½-½ Delgado,N (2526)-Dominguez,L (2602)/Cuba (ch) 2003 (30)]

[13...Qxd4? Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' 14.Qxd4 Rxd4 15.a5 Nc8

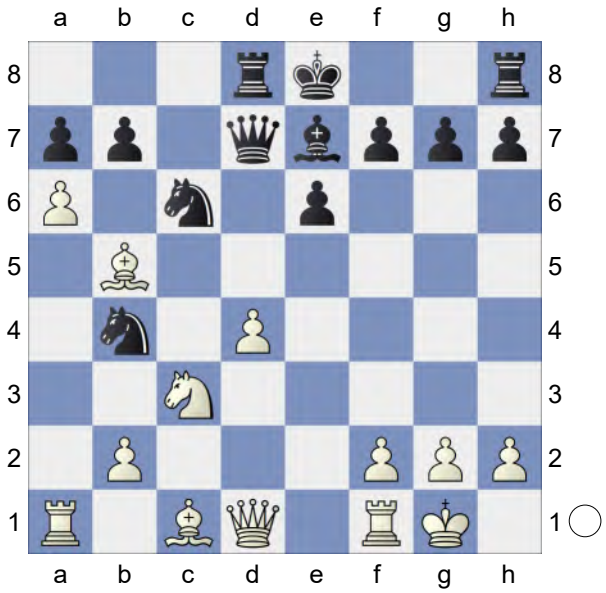
A) 16.a6 Nd6 17.axb7 *(17.Ba4!)* 17...Nxb5 18.Nxb5 Rb4 19.Nxa7 Nd8= 0-1 Vysochin,S (2599)-Grebionkin,V (2423)/Internet blitz 2004 (72);

B) 16.Be3! Rb4 17.a6 Nd6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Bxa7+-]

14.a5 Nd5 15.a6 Ndb4!N This strong new move was suggested by Fedorov himself in comments to the game versus Godena. This strong new move was suggested by Fedorov himself in comments to the game versus Godena. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'This strong new move was suggested by Fedorov himself in comments to the game versus Godena."

[15...Nc7 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Ü 90/97' Fedorov,Alexei: 'Ü 90/97' Fedorov, Alex: '— 90/97' Fedorov,Alex: '— 90/97 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Ü 90/97" 16.Ba4 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' *(16.Bxc6* Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' *bxc6=)* 16...Nxa6 17.Qg4 g6 18.d5 *(*Critical is *18.Bh6 Nab4 19.Rfd1≅)* 18...exd5 19.Qxd7+ Kxd7 20.Nxd5 Nab4 21.Nxb4 Bxb4 22.Bg5 Rc8! 23.Rfd1+ Kc7 24.Bxc6 Kxc6 25.Rxa7 Kb6 ½-½ Godena,M (2515)-Fedorov,A (2600)/Moscow 2004]

[15...0-0 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' 16.axb7 Qxb7 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Rxa7 Bf6 19.Qa4 Qxa4 20.Rxa4 Nb6 21.Rb4 Bxd4 22.Ne2 Bc5 23.Rb5 Nd7 24.b4 Bd6 25.Bf4 ½-½ Congiu,M (2115)-Verot,M (2111)/ Besancon BRA 2006/D-TWIC 616-623]



Fedorov,Alexei: 'N' 'N' Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'N!" Fedorov,Alex: 'N' 'N'

16.axb7

[The attempt 16.Qg4 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko'can lead to interesting play: 0-0 17.Rd1 bxa6 18.Ba4 Qb7

19.Bh6 Bf6 20.Ne4 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 f5 22.Rxd8 fxg4? 23.Nf6+! Kf7 24.Rd7+ Qxd7 25.Nxd7 Rd8 26.Bd2+- However, all this is not forced. Black can deviate several times, the last one being 22...♘xd8 (instead of 22...fxg4), with approximate equality.]

16...Qxb7 In order to use the bishop pair White needs to develop a quick initiative. Otherwise Black will easily keep equality due to opponent's inferior pawn structure. In order to use the bishop pair White needs to develop a quick initiative. Otherwise Black will easily keep equality due to opponent's inferior pawn structure. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'In order to use the bishop pair White needs to develop a quick initiative. Otherwise Black will easily keep equality due to opponent's inferior pawn structure.''

17.Qb3

[17.Qg4 0-0 18.Rd1 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' *(⩲18.Bh6? Fedorov,Alexei Bf6∓)* 18...Bf6 is also about equal, but here at least White keeps more pieces on the board.]

[17.Qf3!? Fedorov,Alexei 0-0 18.Be3 Bf6 19.Rfd1 Rb8 20.Qe4∞]

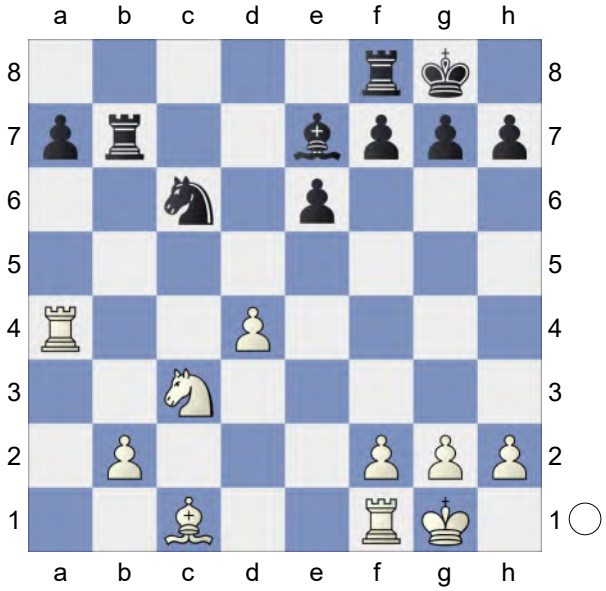
17...Rd7 A safe move, enough to hold the balance. A safe move, enough to hold the balance. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'A safe move, enough to hold the balance."

[17...Rxd4 Fedorov,Alexei: '!?' Fedorov,Alex: '!?' '!?'looks risky, although there is no direct refutation. For instance: looks risky, although there is no direct refutation. For instance: Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'looks risky, although there is no direct refutation. For instance:"

A) 18.Be3 Rd7 19.Bxa7 Fedorov,Alexei 0-0 *(19...Nxa7 20.Rxa7 Qxa7 21.Rd1 0-0 22.Rxd7 Qc5=)* 20.Be3 Nd4 21.Bxd4 Rxd4∓;

B) 18.Bxc6+ Qxc6 19.Be3 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' *(19.Rxa7* Fedorov,Alexei *Bc5)* 19...Rg4 20.f3 Rc4 21.Rxa7 Bc5 and Black is perfectly fine.]

18.Ra4 0-0 19.Bxc6 White failed to achieve even a slightest advantage and Dieter starts massive exchanges, which lead to complete equality. White failed to achieve even a slightest advantage and Dieter starts massive exchanges, which lead to complete equality. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'White failed to achieve even a slightest advantage and Dieter starts massive exchanges, which lead to complete equality." **19...Nxc6 20.Qxb7 Rxb7**



21.d5 Nb4!? Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: '!?"

[21...exd5 Fedorov,Alexei: '!?' '!?' Fedorov,Alex: '!?' '!?' 22.Nxd5 Bd6 Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko' *(22...Rd8* Fedorov,Alexei *23.Nxe7+*

Nxe7 24.Re1 f6=) 23.Rd1 Bb8=]

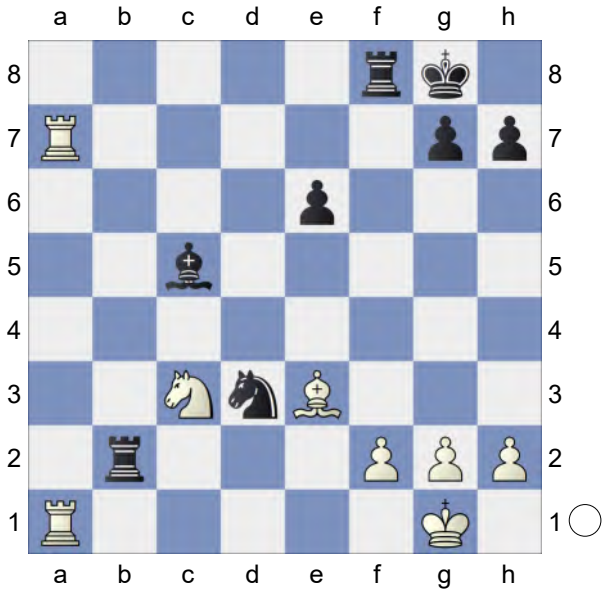
22.dxe6 fxe6 23.Be3

[23.Rd1 Fedorov,Alexei Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8 25.Be3 Bf6=]

23...Nd3 24.Rfa1 Rxb2 25.Rxa7

The inevitable happened and in spite of few more attempts from White to create some threats, the draw is unavoidable. The inevitable happened and in spite of few more attempts from White to create some threats, the draw is unavoidable. Fedorov,Alexei: 'Rogozenko: 'The inevitable happened and in spite of few more attempts from White to create some threats, the draw is unavoidable.''

25...Bc5

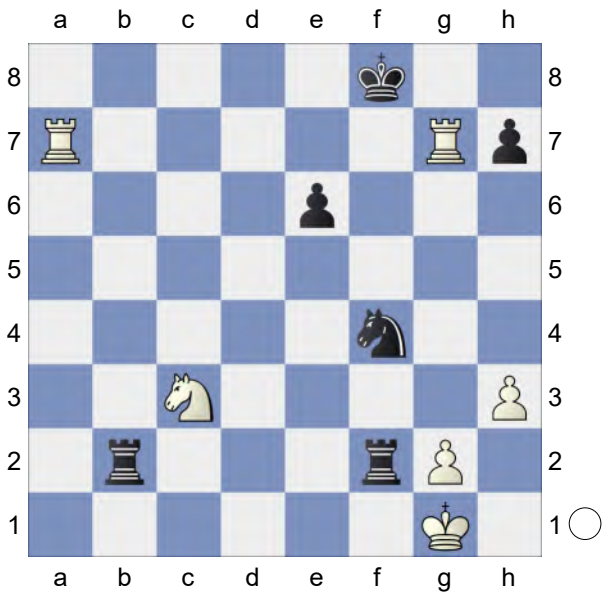


26.Bxc5 Nxc5 27.Rc7

[27.f3 Fedorov,Alexei Rf7=]

27...Nd3 28.Raa7 Rfxf2 29.Rxg7+ Kf8 30.h3 Nf4

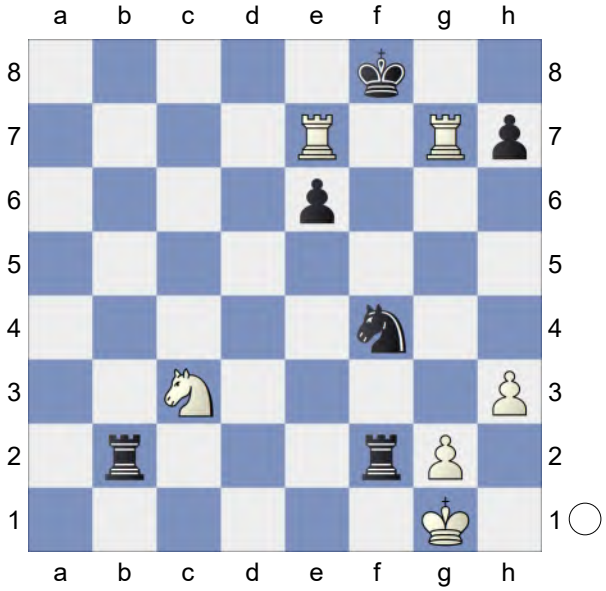
(Diagram)



Fedorov,Alexei: '=!' '=!' Fedorov,Alex: '=!' '=!' **31.Raf7+ Ke8 32.Re7+ Kf8 33.Rgf7+ Kg8 34.Rg7+**

[34.Nd1 Fedorov,Alexei Rxg2+ 35.Kf1 Rb1 36.Rxf4 Rd2=]

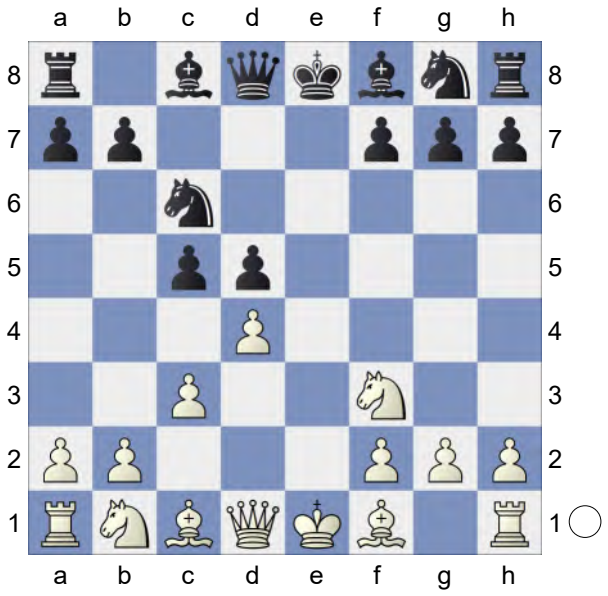
34...Kf8



½-½

112 **C09**
□ **Adhiban,Baskaran** **2683**
■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2673**
12th World Teams 2019 (2.2) 06.03.2019
[Adhiban,Baskaran]

C09: French Tarrasch: 3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 Nc6
Our team got double White in the first two matches which was lucky for me and I was looking forward to this game as I liked Parham's uncompromising style. **1.e4** Sam Collins Sam Collins Sam Collins Adhiban, Baskaran Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' **1...c5** I didn't really prepare for this much and hence decided to bail out with **2.c3!?** One of the boring lines ever to be invented... **2...e6** He had played this once before in the only ever game where he faced Alapin. **3.Nf3** I gave one last chance to Parham to transpose with ...Nf6! **3...Nc6** **4.d4** **d5** **5.exd5** Again this was the very last time I was indirectly requesting to transpose back to Alapin. **5...exd5**



As Naka would say "It is what it is!" **6.Bb5** Now we are in some French Tarrasch type structures. **6...Bd6** **7.dxc5** **Bxc5** **8.0-0** **Nge7** **9.Nbd2** Sam Collins: 'Of course this position could arise from a French Tarrasch (1. e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5. Ngf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Ne7) if White chose the non-critical 9.c3. That said, c3 is a useful move and the character of the position (an IQP where Black has reasonable chances to equalise with precise play) is the same in both cases.' Sam Collins: 'Of course this position could arise from a French Tarrasch (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4. exd5 exd5 5.Ngf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Ne7) if White chose the non-critical 9.c3. That said, c3 is a useful move and the character of the position (an IQP where Black has reasonable chances to equalise with precise play) is the same in both cases.' **9...0-0N**

[9...a6!? Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran'

A) 10.Be2 0-0 11.Nb3 Bb6 But now I wasn't sure how to prepare Be3.;

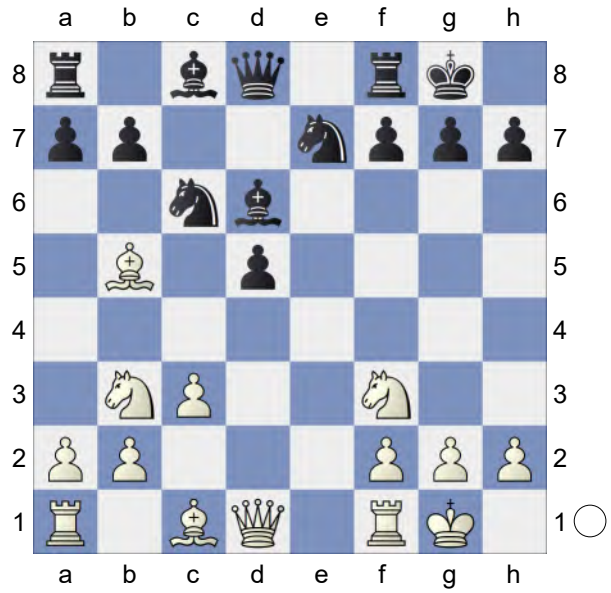
B) 10.Bd3 Ba7 *(10...Bg4 11.Nb3 Bd6 12.Re1 Qc7 13.h3 Bh5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Nbd4 Ne5 16.Be2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Kb8 18.b3 Nb6 19.Be3 Rhe8 20.Rc1 Bf4 21.Bxf4 Qxf4 22.a4 Nbc8 23.b4 Nd6 24.b5 a5 25.Qb3* 1-0 (65) Emms,J-Rossiter,P (Game 33) London 1999*)* 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Be3 Bb8 14.Nbd4 0-0 15.Be2 Re8 16.Qa4 Bh5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.g3 Ba7 19.Kg2 Bg6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Bxa7 Rxa7 22.Bd3 Rb8 23.Bxg6 Nxg6 24.Re2 Qd7 ½-½ (43) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Berkes,F (2596) 4NCL 2005-6 Birmingham ENG (1);

C) 10.Nb3 Bxf2+ 11.Rxf2 axb5 12.Qd3 with an interesting middlegame.]

[9...Bg4 10.Qa4 Bh5 11.Qh4 Bg6 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Nfd4 0-0 14.Be3 a6 15.Be2 Ne5 16.Rad1 B 22/11 2000]

10.Nb3 Bd6

[Sam Collins: 'We've discussed' A different tact would be 10...Bb6 Sam Collins: 'a couple of times in the Archives. 'Here White can continue with 11.Re1 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' followed by Be3 and a top level clash continued Bg4 *(11...Ng6)* 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Rxe3 Nf5 14.Re1 Nh4 15.Be2 Re8 16.Nxh4 Bxe2 17.Rxe2 Qxh4 18.Rd2 White was clearly in the drivers seat in Vitiugov-Rapport Prague CZE 2019, which also sealed the tournament victory.]



11.Bg5

[11.Bd3 (Sam Collins) was White's choice in the battle of the chess sisters: N.Kosintseva - A. Muzychuk, Kasan FIDE GP (Women) 2012 (0-1 in 33), covered in the Archives. Sam Collins: 'was White's choice in the battle of the chess sisters: N. Kosintseva - A.Muzychuk, Kasan FIDE GP (Women) 2012 (0-1 in 33), covered in the Archives.']

11...Qc7 12.Re1 h6

[AFter 12...Bg4 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' I intended to continue with 13.h3 Bh5 14.Be2 followed by Nh4 or Nd4 depending on the situation. *(*Another option was *14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Be2* playing for light square domination and pressure against d5-pawn where the d6-bishop would feel out of place... *)*]

13.Bh4

[13.Bxe7 Sam Collins Nxe7 was defended a couple of times by the great Korchnoi. Sam Collins: 'was defended a couple of times by the great Korchnoi.' 14.Nbd4 *(14.h3 a6 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.Nfd4 g6 17.Qf3 Kg7=* A.Rocha - V.Korchnoi, Sao Paulo 1979 (0-1 in 74).*)* 14...a6 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.h3± R.Huebner - V. Korchnoi, Johannesburg 1981 (1-0 in 40).]

[13.Be3 Sam Collins Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Bc5 S.Hansen - S. Krivoshey, Ubeda 1997 (1-0 in 51) Sam Collins: 'S.Hansen - S.Krivoshey, Ubeda 1997 (1-0 in 51)' Rae8!?]

13...Nf5

[13...Bg4 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Be2 followed by Nd4-b5 idea. a6 17.Nh4! and White will be better after the exchange of the bishops.]

14.Bg3

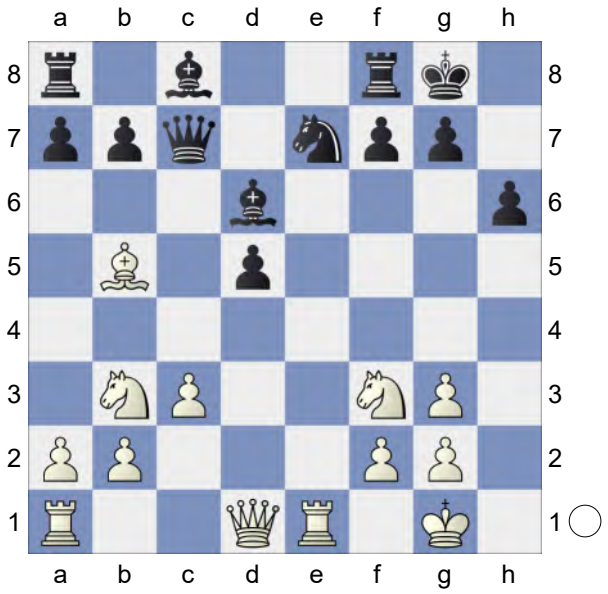
[14.Qxd5 seems wilder. Nxh4 15.Nxh4 Bxh2+ 16.Kh1]

14...Nxg3 The position is equal. **15.hxg3** Sam Collins: 'Black is, of course, very comfortable here.' Sam Collins: 'Black is,

of course, very comfortable here.' A nice transformation and also now Black is clearly behind in development.

15...Ne7

[15...Bg4 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' 16.Qxd5 is just an extra pawn.]

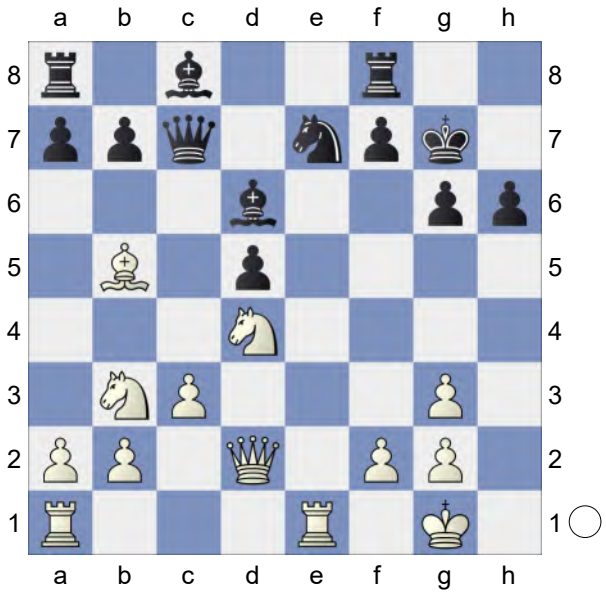


16.Nfd4 g6

[Possibly Black's best bet was 16...a6 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' 17.Bd3 *(17.Be2 Bd7 18.Bf3 Rad8)* 17...g6 with a better version of the game. *(17...Bd7 18.Qh5!* followed by g4-g5. *)*]

17.Qd2 Kg7

(Diagram)



18.c4!? 0.06/23 I was quite happy to play the manoeuvring game but...at the same time I wanted to exploit my lead in development hence decided to open up the position! **18...dxc4**

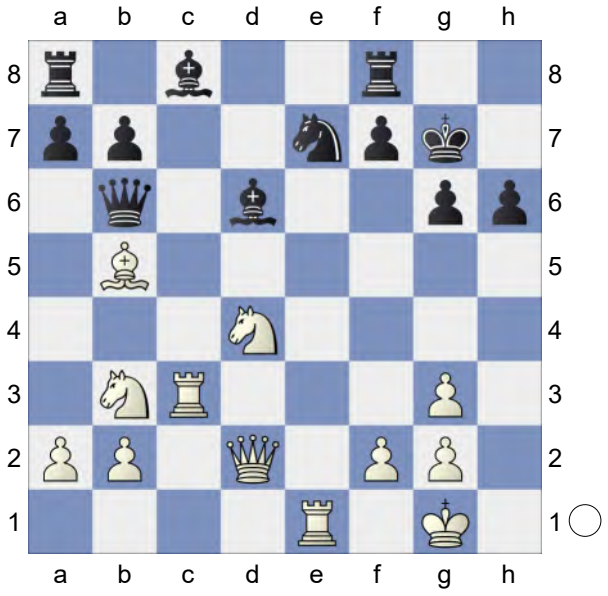
[Possibly Black's best chance was Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran: 'Possibly Black's best chance was'' 18...a6! Sam Collins: 'leads to complicated and balanced play after Adhiban,Baskaran: '!'' Sam Collins: 'leads to complicated and balanced play after'

A) 19.Qc3 Ne6+ would kill now. Kh7 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' *(19...Kg8* Sam Collins *20.c5 Be5* Hoping for ...Bxd4! *21.Be2* followed by Bf3. Sam Collins: 'followed by Bf3.'*)* 20.c5 Be5 also looks nice for Black.;

B) 19.c5 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' 19...Be5 I have to be careful not to be worse.]

19.Rac1 Sam Collins: 'Now Black must play precisely to neutralise White's lead in development.' Sam Collins: 'Now Black must play precisely to neutralise White's lead in development.'Bring all

your pieces to the party! **19...c3** 0.69/20 **20.Rxc3± Qb6**



21.Rd3!? White is much more active. **21...a6** Sam Collins: '?!' '?!' '?!'. Inhibits a4. A huge error missing my next move...

[Sam Collins: 'White keeps some initiative after' Sam Collins: 'White keeps some initiative after' 21...Bf5! Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran: '!'' was my mainline. Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran: 'was my mainline. ''

A) 22.Rxe7!? 0.14/22 22.Nxf5+ 0.71 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' Bxe7 23.Nxf5+ gxf5

A1) 24.Bd7 -0.38/22 24.Nd4 -0.01 Bg5! 0.01/20 *(24...Qb4∓ -0.38/22 is superior. 25.Nd4 Qxd2 26.Nxf5+ Kh7 27.Rxd2 Bc5)*;

A2) 24.Nd4 was quite tempting but it was quite complex at the same time. 24...Bg5! as my coordination is bit off.;

B) 22.Nxf5+ Nxf5

B1) 23.g4 -0.78/21 23.a4 0.30 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' Qxb5 24.gxf5 -1.94/20 *(24.Rd1!∓ -0.68/21)* 24...Bb4 and I didn't see a good follow-up.;

B2) 23.a4 Sam Collins: ', but this seems to be the way to go for Black, for example' Sam Collins: ', but this seems to be the way to go for Black, for example'. g4 would now be deadly.

B2a) 23...a6 1.40/20 23...Rad8 0.29 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' 24.g4! now works. axb5 25.gxf5 bxa4? 7.57/23 *(25...Rad8± 0.77/20)* 26.f6+! mating.;

B2b) 23...Rad8 Sam Collins 24.g4 Ne7 25.Rd1 Nc8 and a draw is very likely.;

B2c) 23...h5! Sam Collins: 'is also okay Adhiban,Baskaran: '!'' Nice geometry, I felt Black was probably doing fine here. Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran: 'Nice geometry, I felt Black was probably doing fine here.'']

22.Nc2! Bb8 1.63/24 Sam Collins: '?' '?' '?'

[22...Qxb5 2.10/23 22...Rd8 0.79 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' 23.Rxd6 is also bad.]

[22...Nf5 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' 23.g4±]

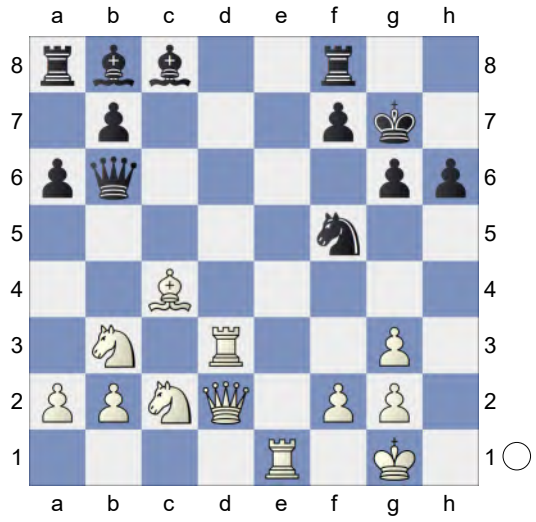
[22...Rd8 Sam Collins 23.Bc4! Qc7 24.Qc3+ f6 25.Nbd4± looks unpleasant but this should have been tried.]

[Black should play 22...Nf5± 0.61/24]

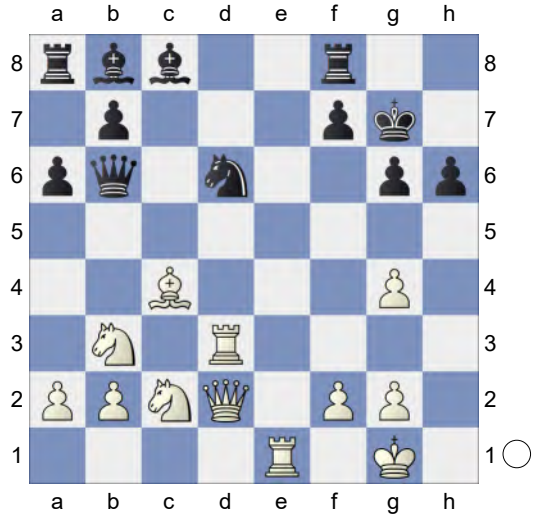
23.Rxe7+- At first I wasn't happy to allow the rook to get back into the game but then saw that the idea of Ne3-d5 was very strong.

[An alternative was 23.Bc4

Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' Nf5 1.77/21 *(23...Nc6± 1.21/20)*



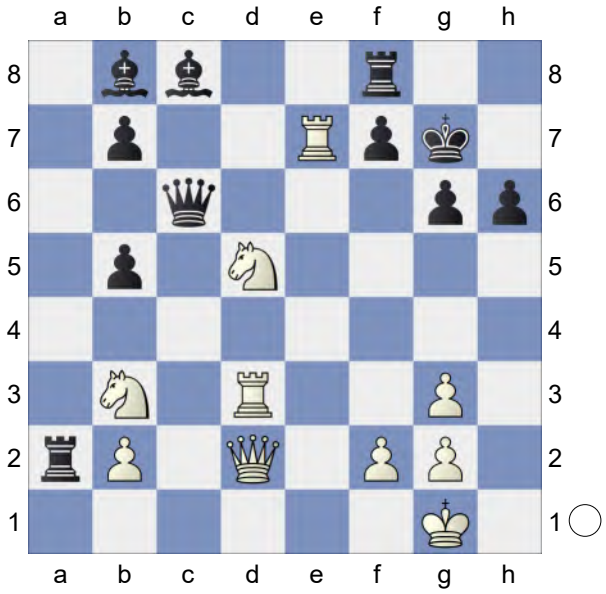
24.g4 1.27/21 *(24.Nb4!+- 1.77/21)*
24...Nd6? 2.82/20 *(24...Qc7± 1.27/21)*



25.Qc3+? 0.08/19 with attack. *(Only move: 25.Rh3!+- 2.82/20 g5 26.Qc3+ f6 27.Re7+ Nf7 28.Ne3)*]
[23.Bd7± (Sam Collins) is also good but I like Adhiban's choice.]

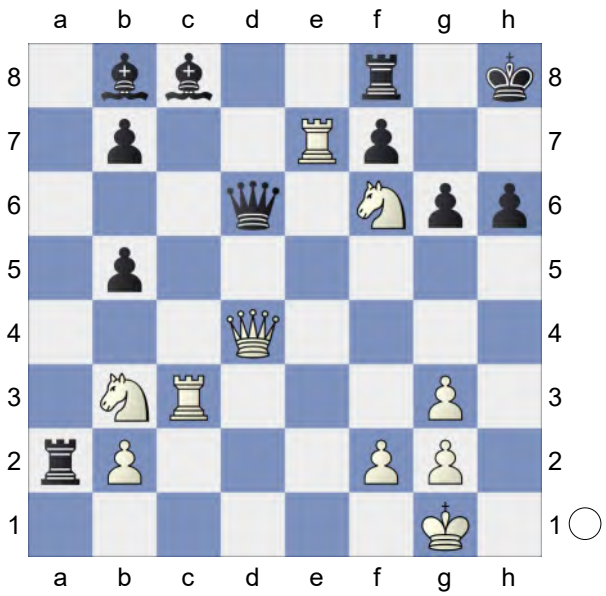
23...axb5 24.Ne3 Sam Collins: '+-' '+-' '+-' Sam Collins: 'The attacking ratio on the kingside is intimidating. The Iranian talent grabs a pawn so as to have something to suffer for.' Sam Collins: 'The attacking ratio on the kingside is intimidating. The Iranian talent grabs a pawn so as to have something to suffer for.' **24...Rxa2?** 6.82/21 This move loses the game for Black.
[24...b4 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban, Baskaran' 25.Nd5 Qb5? 5.92/22 *(25...Qd6± 1.54/20* is more resistant.*)* 26.Qe3? 1.81/21 *(26.Rf3 5.92/22 Qc4 27.Nb6)*]
[24...Ba7? 7.39/23 24...b4 1.70 Sam Collins: 'Adhiban,Baskaran' 25.Rd6 would be a funny puzzle rush problem.]
[24...b4± 1.57/23 25.a3 *(25.Nd5 Qd6±)* 25...Qb5]

25.Nd5 White is clearly winning.
25...Qc6

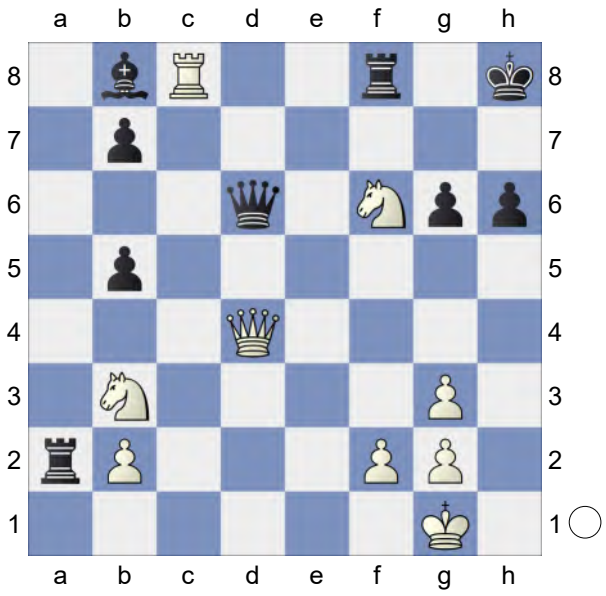


26.Rc3 Qd6 27.Qd4+ Kg8 Sam Collins **28.Nf6+** 1-0 (31) Adhiban,B (2683)-Maghsoodloo,P (2673) Astana 2019 [Sam Collins]. Excellent horsemanship. **28...Kh8**

(Diagram)

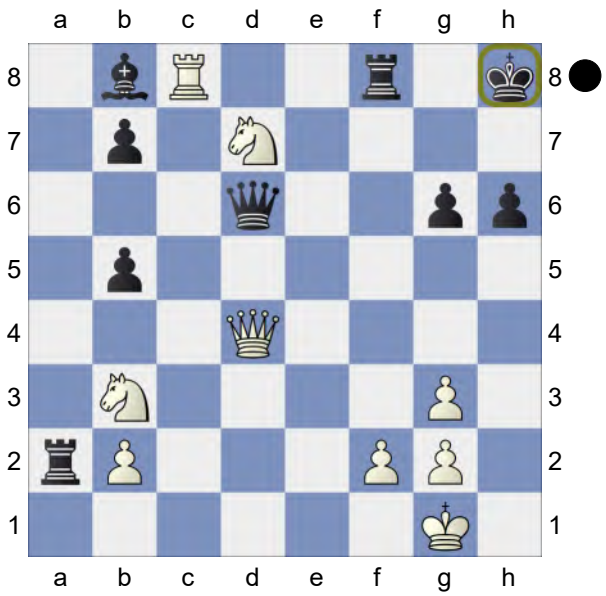


29.Rxf7!! Sam Collins: '!' '!' Sam Collins: 'A lovely finish.'. DeflectionThis looked cleanest. **29...Rxf7 30.Rxc8+ Rf8**



31.Nd7+

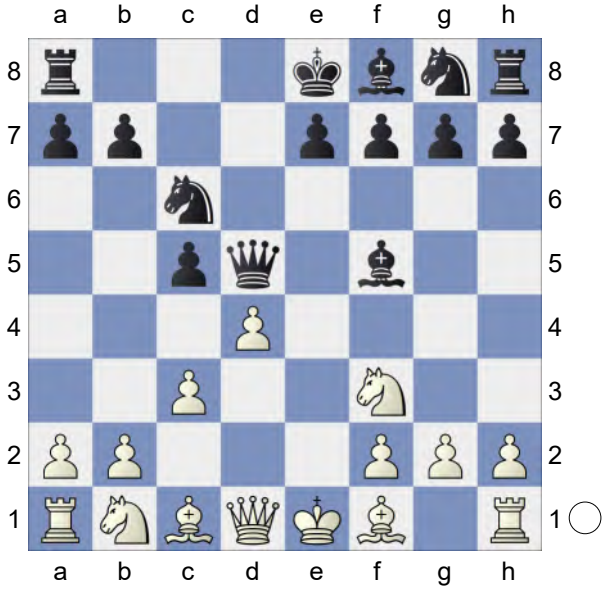
(Diagram)



Sam Collins: '!' '!'. Pin, Discovered Attack (Check).
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.56Generally a blow at the top is enough for match victory but it wasn't one of those days...
1-0

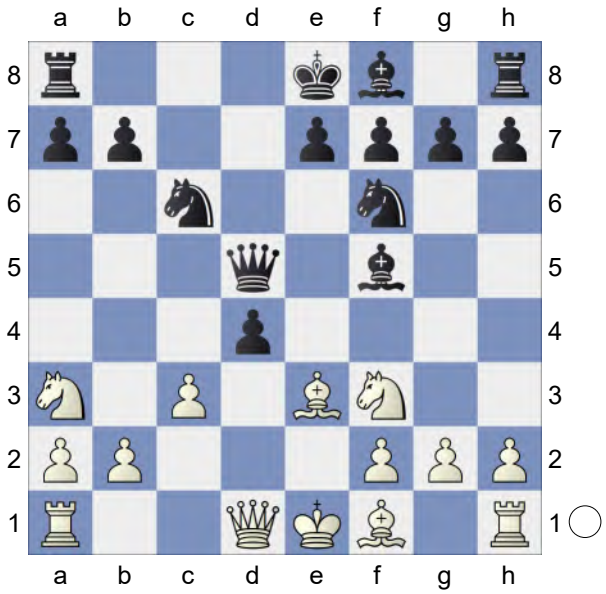
113 **B22**
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2678**
■ **Maurizzi,Marc Andria** **2433**
Online Olym Div Top-B rapid (8.1)
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5



6.Be3
[6.dxc5 simplifies Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Nf6 8.Nbd2]
6...Nf6 7.Na3 next Bc4 is good for White. **7...cxd4**

(Diagram)



8.Nb5! 0-0-0 Prevents Nc7. The position is equal. The position is equal. **9.Nfxd4** Black must now prevent Qa4.
[9.Nbxd4 feels hotter. Ng4! 10.Bd2 Nge5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 12.Be2]
9...Nxd4N 1.25/25
[9...Ng4! is critical, as Dave Smerdon and I have discussed several times in the Archives. If Van Foreest has an idea here (perhaps left over from his c3-Sicilian prep for Wijk aan Zee) I'd love to see it!
A) 10.Bd2 Qe4+ 11.Qe2 e5 12.Nxf5 -0.67/22 *(12.Qxe4!=* 0.19/23 *Bxe4 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nxa7+ Kb7 15.f3)* 12...Qxf5∓ 13.f3 Nf6 14.g4 Qd7 15.h4 -0.76/20 *(15.g5∓* -0.33/21 feels stronger. *Nh5 16.Be3)* 15...Nd5 -0.02/22 *(15...Kb8∓* -0.76/20 Black wants to play ...a6. *16.Bh3 Qe8)* 16.g5 f5 17.gxf6 gxf6 0.41/22 *(17...Kb8!=* 0.01/23 *)* 18.Bh3± f5 19.Qd3 *(19.0-0-0!? Be7 20.c4±)* 19...Nde7 20.Qxd7+ Rxd7 21.0-0-0 a6 22.Na3 b5 Dodges Nc4 23.Nc2 Kb7 1.28/23 *(Black should play 23...Kc7*

0.90/23) 24.Ne3± Bh6 0-1 (46) Gledura,B (2644)-Jones,G (2669) Chess.com RCC Wk13 Swiss 2022 (6) 25.Nxf5 Nxf5 26.Bxf5 Rxd2 27.Rxd2 Rf8 28.Be4 Kc7 29.Rhd1 Ne7 30.h5 Nf5 31.Kb1 Bxd2 32.Rxd2 Ng3 33.Rd5 Nxh5 34.Rxe5 Nf6 35.Re7+ Kd6 36.Ra7 h5 37.Bf5 Ke5 38.Bh3 Nd5 39.Rxa6 Rxf3 0-1 (46) Gledura,B (2644)-Jones,G (2669) Chess.com RCC Wk13 Swiss 2022 (6);

B) 10.Bd2= -0.01/24;

C) 10.Be2 -0.55/23 10...Qxg2 11.Bf3 Nxe3 12.fxe3 Qg5 13.Qe2 -1.13/22 *(13.Bxc6=* -0.29/24 was the only way to keep the balance. *Qxe3+ 14.Qe2 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2 bxc6 16.Nxa7+ Kb7 17.Naxc6 Bg4+ 18.Kd2)* 13...Qh4+∓ 14.Kf1 -2.53/23 *(14.Qf2∓* -1.26/23 was called for. *Qxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Nxd4 16.Nxd4)* 14...Bh3+-+ 15.Kg1 e5 16.Nxa7+? -6.44/23 *(16.Nxc6∓* -1.60/24 *bxc6 17.Nxa7+ Kc7 18.Nxc6)* 16...Nxa7-+ 17.Qc4+ Nc6 18.Bxc6 exd4 19.Bxb7+ Kxb7 20.Qb5+ Kc7! 21.cxd4 Qg4+ 0-1 Novikov,S (2154)-Perez Bartolome,A (2674) 7/403 Sarajevo 1969 (2.2)]

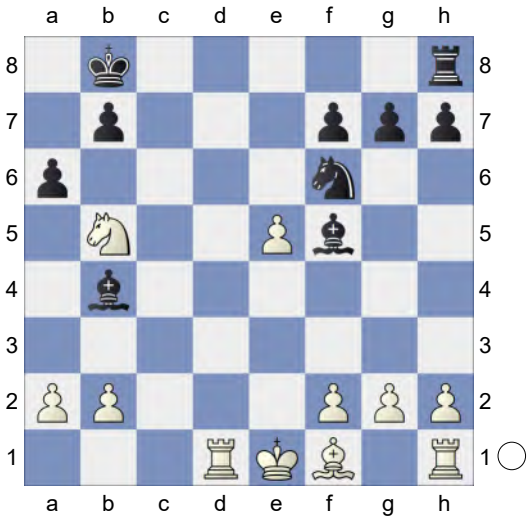
[9...Ng4!= 0.09/23 remains equal.]

[9...Ng4!= -0.01/24]

10.Qxd4 0.38/21 Although this was recently chosen by Van Foreest and Mamedov in online blitz/rapid events, it's not the best move.

[10.cxd4! is dreadful for Black, who is facing threats of Rc1+ and Bf4+.

A) 10...a6± 1.23/20 might work better. 11.Rc1+ Kb8 12.Bf4+ e5 1.74/24 *(12...Rd6±* 1.25/24) 13.Bxe5++- Qxe5+ 14.dxe5 Discovered Attack Rxd1+ 1.21/24 *(Black should try 14...Bb4++-* 1.72/26 *15.Nc3 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1 Ne4)* 15.Rxd1± Bb4+



16.Nc3! Re8;

B) 10...e5? 3.82/19 11.Qc1++- Kd7 Strongly threatening ...Bb4+. *(11...Kb8?* 5.02/23 11...Kd7 1.35 11...Kd7 1.36 *12.Qc7+ Ka8 13.Qa5+-* Dodges Bb4+*)* 12.Qc7+ Ke8 13.Bc4 Bb4+ Now White retreated his knight to c3 in both S. Kathmale - S.Arun Prasad, Chennai 2012 (1/ 2-1/2 in 30) and M.Nikhil - P.Konguvel, Mumbai 2019 (0-1 in 48), but if you ever get this over the board, 14.Ke2! leaves Black in a lot of trouble after Qd7 15.Qxd7+ Nxd7 16.Rhd1± with a huge initiative in the endgame.]

[10.Nxa7+? -1.10/24 10.cxd4 1.04 perishes. Kb8 11.Bxd4 e5-+]

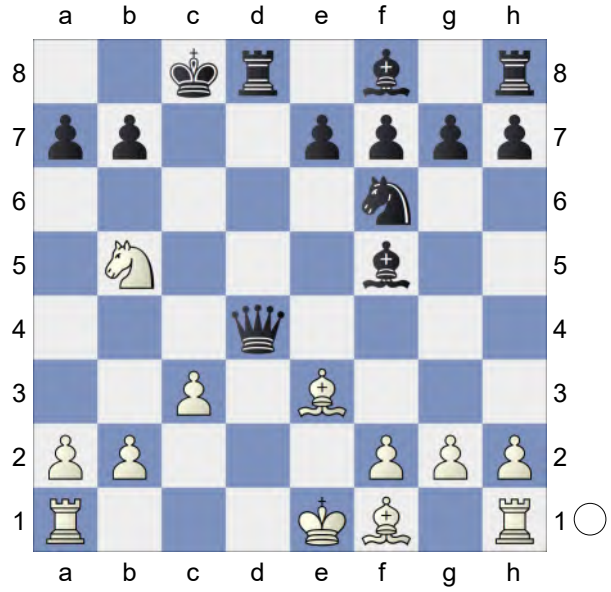
[10.cxd4± 1.10/23 e5 11.Qc1+ *(11.Nxa7+?* -1.37/21 11.Qc1+ 1.35 loses. *Kb8-+)* 11...Kd7 12.a3 Inhibits Bb4+.]

[10.Nxa7+? too greedy. Kb8 11.Bxd4 e5-+]

[10.cxd4± 1.25/25 e5 11.Qc1+

(11.Nxa7+? loses. Kb8-+) 11...Kd7 12.Qc7+ Ke8 13.Bc4 *(13.Nxa7? Bb4+ 14.Kd1 exd4-+; 13.Qxe5+ Qxe5 14.dxe5 Bb4+ 15.Ke2 Ng4±)* 13...Bb4+ 14.Kf1]

10...Qxd4±



11.Nxd4 Be4 12.f3 Black has no problems in this endgame. **12...Bd5** 0.65/20

[12...Bg6 13.0-0-0 e5 14.Nb3 Rxd1+ 15.Kxd1 a6= R.Mamedov - T. Migot, Europe Chess INT 2020 (1/2-1/2 in 85).]

[12...Bg6= 0.01/21]

[12...Bg6= -0.02/22]

13.c4↑ White has some pressure. **13...e5! 14.Nb5** 0.22/23

[14.Nc2± 0.52/20 feels stronger. Bc6 15.Bxa7]

[14.Nc2± 0.61/22 was preferrable. Be6 15.Bxa7]

14...Bb4+

[The super-precise 14...a6! is better, when White doesn't have much after 15. cxd5, 15.0-0-0 or 15. Nc3. The tactical point is 15.Na7+? -0.45/24 *(15.cxd5= 0.12/23 axb5 16.Bxb5)* 15...Kb8∓ 16.cxd5 Threatens to win with Bc4. Nxd5 and Black will regain the sacrificed piece with advantage, for example 17.Bg1 -1.30/22 *(17.0-0-0* Bc4 is the strong threat. Strongly threatening Bc4. *Be7!∓* and the tactics continue to favour Black*; 17.0-0-0∓* -0.50/23 Bc4 is the strong threat. *Be7! 18.Nc6+ bxc6 19.Bd2; 17.0-0-0=* -0.22/23 keeps the balance. *Be7 18.Nc6+ bxc6 19.Bd2)* 17...Bb4+∓ 18.Kd1 *(18.Ke2* -2.20/20 18.Kd1 -1.04 *Nf4+-+)* 18...Nb6+ -0.64/23 *(18...Ne3+∓* -1.14/21 *19.Ke2 Nc2)* 19.Kc2∓ Kxa7]

[14...a6!?]

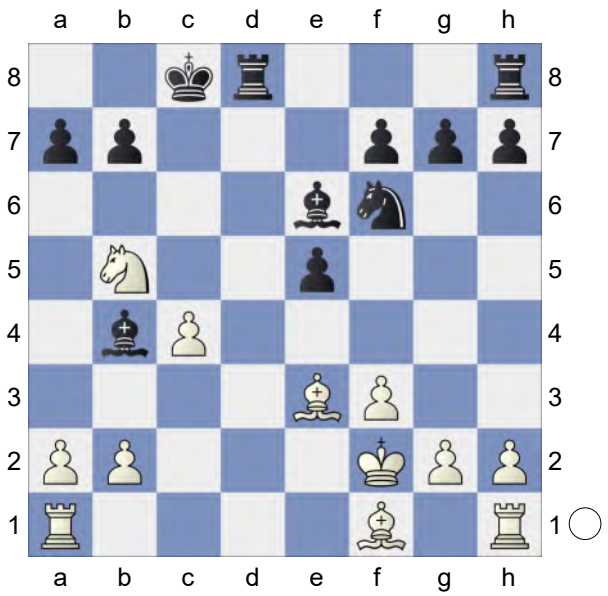
15.Kf2 Be6 0.87/20

[Again 15...a6! is the move. This time White retains an edge by taking on d5, while 16.Na7+?! -0.37/22 is again wrong: *(⌓16.cxd5* 0.25/23 Hoping for a3! *axb5 17.a3;* Better is *16.cxd5=* 0.21/21 *axb5 17.a3)* 16...Kc7∓ 17.cxd5 Nxd5= and White will have to return the piece.]

[Black should try 15...a6!± 0.38/24]

[15...a6!± 0.34/24]

(Diagram)



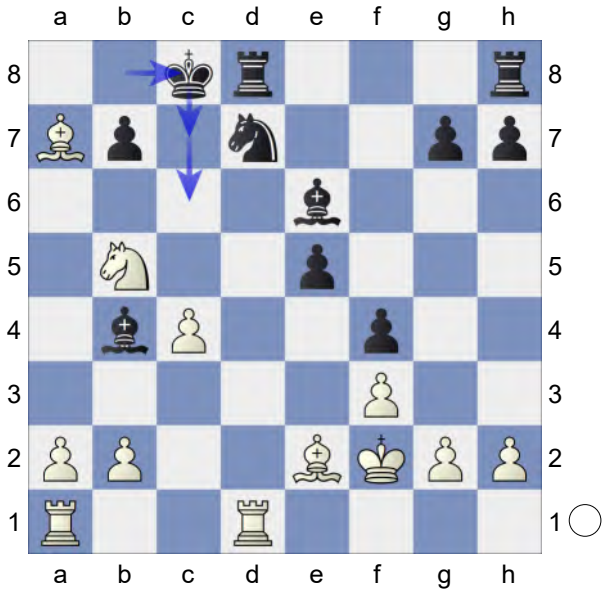
16.Nxa7+± Kb8 17.Nb5 White is a pawn up with a better position. **17...Nd7 18.Be2↑** White is in control. **18...f5 19.Rhd1** aiming for Ba7+. White is more active. **19...f4** 2.54/24

[19...Rc8± 1.32/19 is a better defense. 20.g3 Be7]

[19...Rc8± 1.43/18 20.f4 Be7 21.fxe5 Nxe5]

20.Ba7++- Kc8? 4.47/24

[20...Ka8 2.77/24 is a better defense. 21.Nc7+ Kxa7]

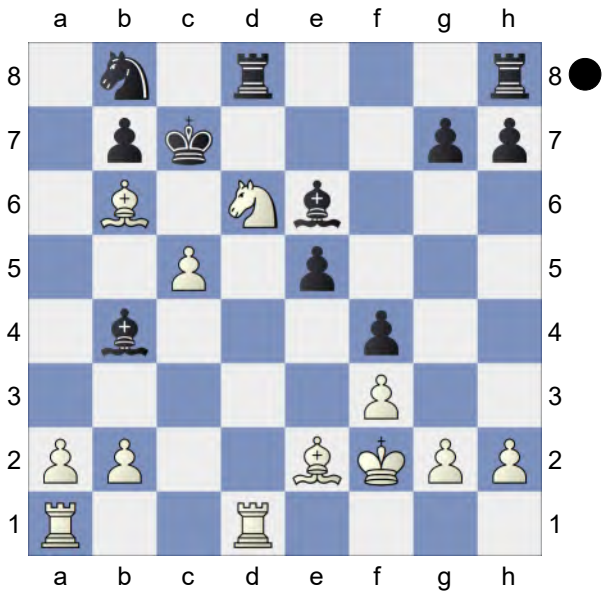


21.c5! Black is busted, but the finish is nice. **21...Nb8?** 6.31/23

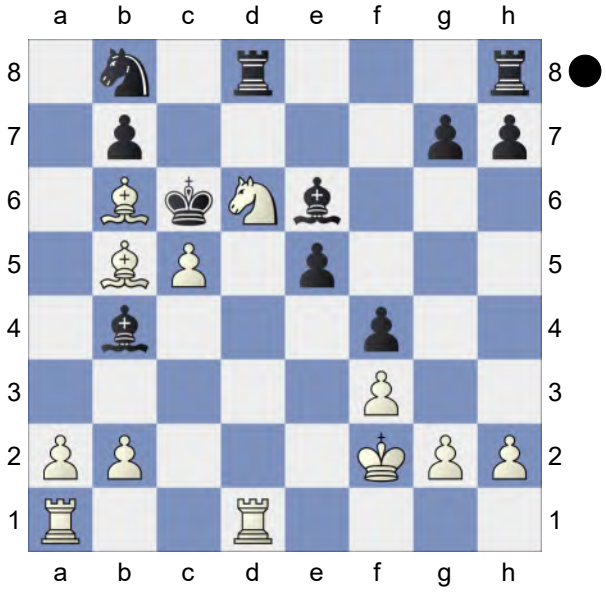
[21...Ba5 2.89/20 22.Rac1 e4]

[⌓21...e4 4.48/22 22.fxe4 Nxc5]

22.Nd6+ Kc7 23.Bb6+



Skewer **23...Kc6 24.Bb5#**



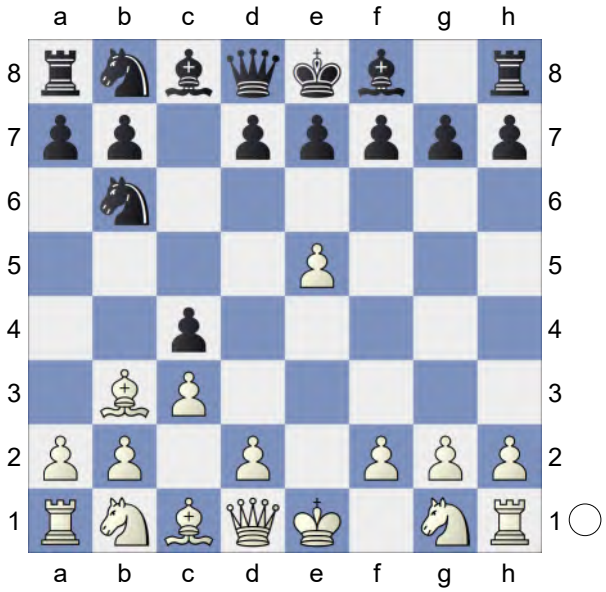
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.85.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.87

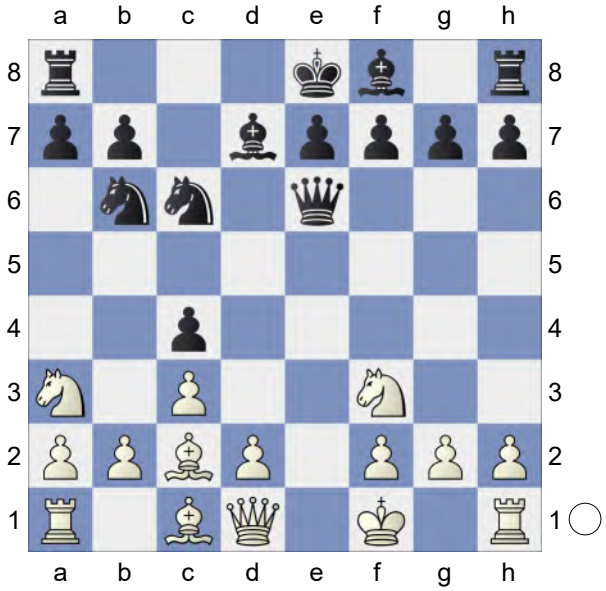
1-0

114 **B22**
□ **Grandelius,Nils** **2669**
■ **Saric,Ivan** **2665**
EU-chT 23rd Terme Catez (8.1) 20.11.21
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 A rare move order which leads to interesting play. **4...Nb6 5.Bb3 c4**



6.Bc2 d6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 Nc6
[Giri recommends 8...a6 in his Chessable Najdorf course.]
[8...g6 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Bg7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.d4 Qc7 16.Re1 b5 17.Bg5 e6 18.Be4 Bb7 19.Qd3 f5 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.h4 a5 22.c4 bxc4 23.bxc4 ½-½ (30) Giri,A (2764)-Gelfand,B (2676) Legends of Chess Prelim rapid 2020 (5.1)]
9.Nf3 Transposing to a line which could arise after 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 c4 8.Bc2 Qxd6 9.Na3.
[9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 g6 11.Ne2 Bg7 12.d4 0-0 13.0-0 Rd8 was fine for Black in A.Polivanov - K.Shevchenko, Seville 2020 (0-1 in 50).]
9...Qe6+ 10.Kf1
[10.Qe2 was tested in P.Wolff - A. Shabalov, USA Senior Championship 2020 (1-0 in 51), analysed in the Archives.]
10...Bd7N
[10...f6 11.b3 Qf7= looks more harmonious: J.Leisner - S.Aykent, ICCF email 2014 (1/2-1/2 in 68).]
[10...g6 11.h4 h6 12.b3 Bg7 13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Qe2 a6 15.Na3 cxb3 16.axb3 Qc7 17.Nc4 Bg4 18.Nxb6 Qxb6 19.Ra4 h5 20.Qe3 Qc7 21.Ng5 Bh6 22.Ba3 0-0-0 23.Bc5 Rd7 24.Bb6 Qd6 25.Ne4 0-1 (49) Rogoznikov,A (2356)-13. ♕c2 ♘e5 14.♗e5 (2601) 50/207 Groningen 1990 (5)]

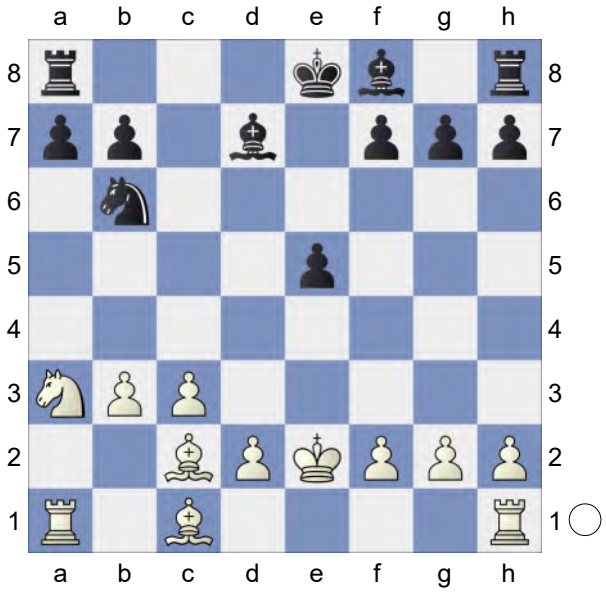


11.b3! The typical break in these structures, undermining the c4-pawn and creating possibilities for the dark-squared bishop to come into play via a3 in some lines. **11...Ne5 12.Nxe5** And now Qe2 would win.
[I prefer 12.bxc4 Nxf3 13.Qxf3±]
12...cxb3

[12...Qxe5 13.Qe2 Qxe2+ 14.Kxe2 Rc8 is tougher, though this remains a marginally more pleasant endgame for White.]

13.axb3 Nxd7 would now be deadly. **13...Qxe5 14.Qe2 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2** These endgames can often be deceptively difficult for Black. **15...e5**

[Stockfish prefers 15...e6 and 16... Nd5, but White retains an advantage.]



16.Be4 0-0-0 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.bxc4 a6 19.Rb1 White is more active. **19...b5 20.Ra1?!** 0.01/23

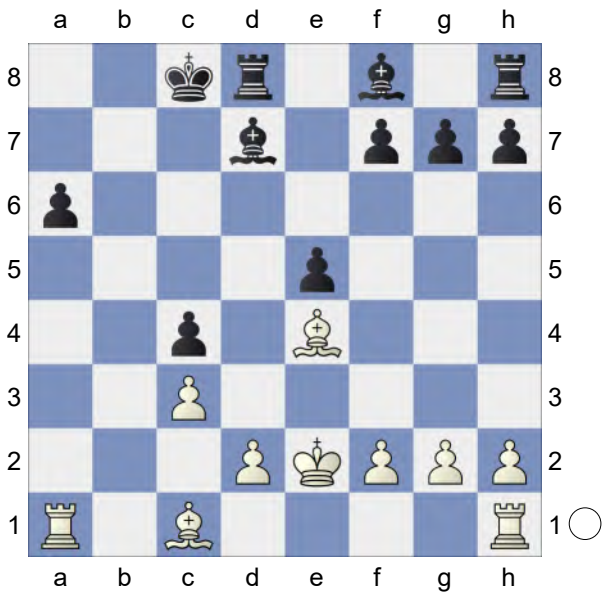
[20.Bd5!± wins a pawn since f6? 21.d3 followed by Ba3 and Ra1 leads to a decisive attack, showcasing the deceptive nature of White's advantage as described before.]

[20.Bd5± 0.80/21]

20...bxc4=

[Stronger than 20...f5 21.Bd5±]

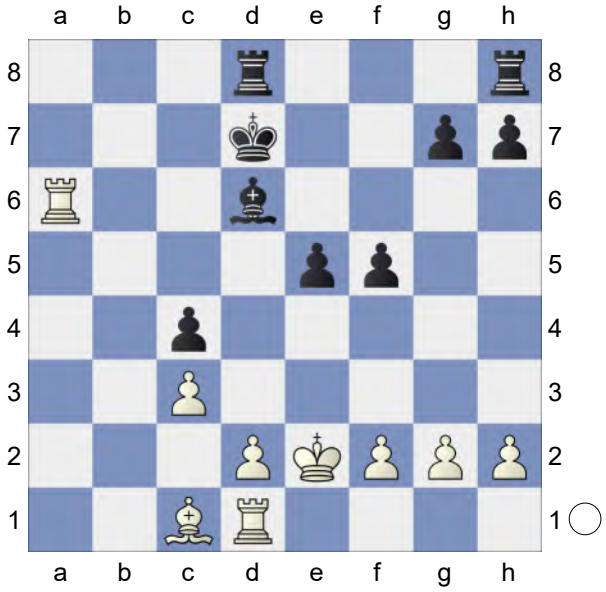
(Diagram)



21.Rxa6 f5!? 22.Bc6 Kc7 23.Bxd7 Kxd7 24.Rd1 aiming for d4. **24...Bd6?** 0.99/21

[24...Bc5±]

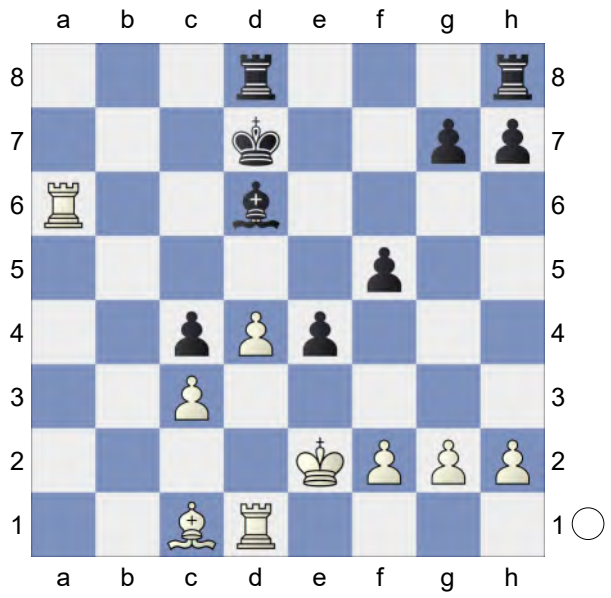
[24...e4± 0.54/20 is more appropriate.]



25.d4!± Opening the centre with decisive effect. **25...e4** 1.42/21

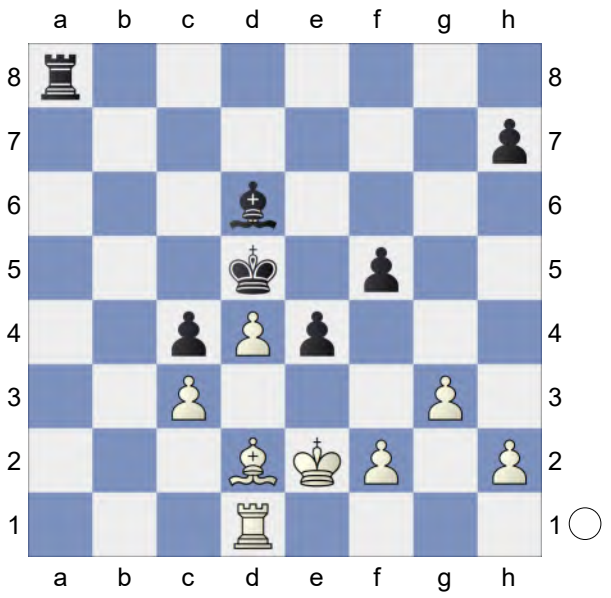
[⌓25...Kc7 0.85/21]

(Diagram)

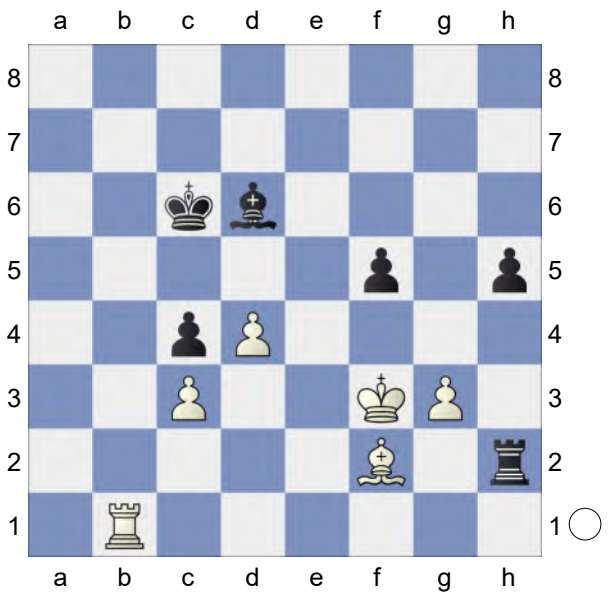


26.Ra7+ Skewer **26...Ke6?** 4.11/23
[26...Kc8± 1.44/21 27.f3 *(27.Rxg7 Rhg8+-; 27.Bg5 Rd7+-)* 27...Bxh2]
27.Rxg7? 0.65/22
[27.Bg5! won on the spot, for example. Strongly threatening d5+. Rb8 *(27...Bb8 28.Re7+ Kd5 29.Re5+ Bxe5 30.dxe5+ Kxe5 31.Rxd8+-)* 28.d5+ Ke5 29.f4+ exf3+ 30.Kxf3+- and 31.Bf4+ will win a piece.]
[27.Bg5+- 4.11/23]
27...Rhg8 28.Rxg8 Rxg8 Endgame. White has won a pawn but given up his initiative and, with the pawns on one side of the board, Black has excellent drawing chances. KRB-KRB **29.g3 Kd5 30.Bd2 Ra8**

(Diagram)

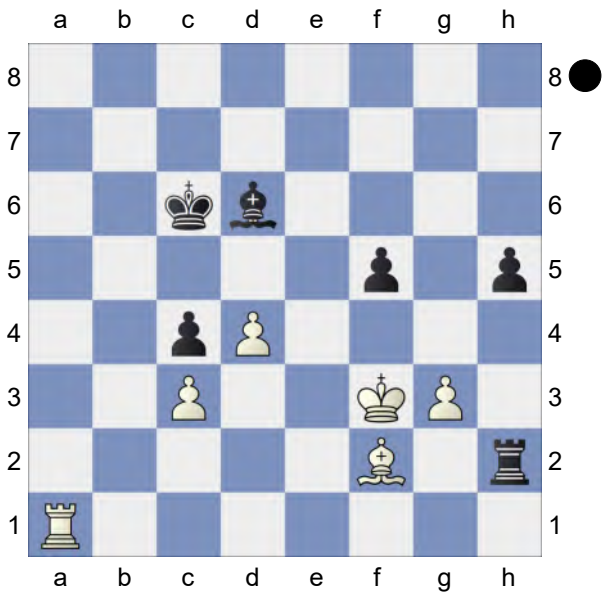


Prevents Ra1. **31.Rb1 Kc6!** Dodges Rb5 **32.f3 exf3+ 33.Kxf3 Ra2 34.Be1 Rxh2** The position is equal. **35.Bf2 h5**



36.Ra1

(Diagram)

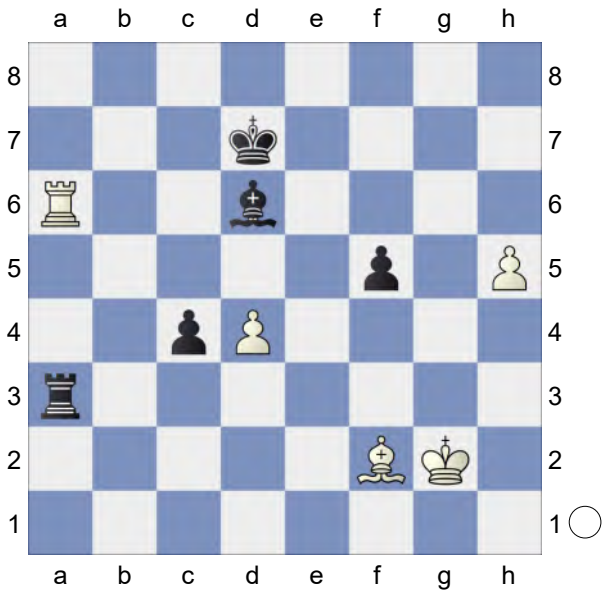


h4! 37.Ra6+

[37.gxh4 Rh3+]

37...Kd7 38.gxh4 Hoping for Rxd6+!

38...Rh3+ 39.Kg2 Rxc3 40.h5 Ra3!

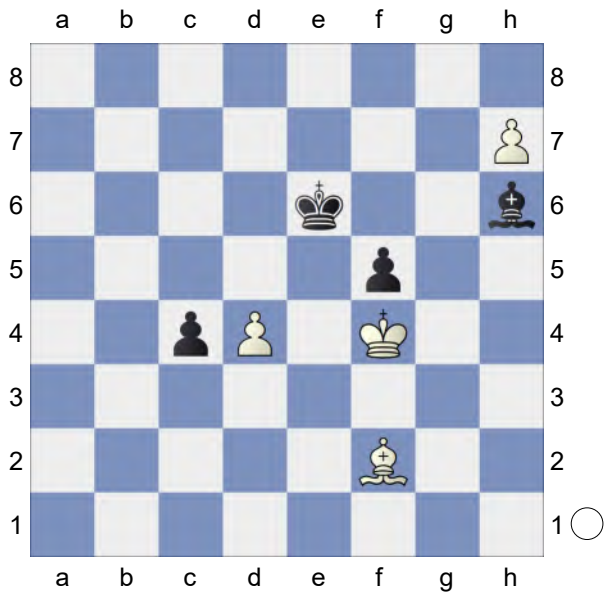


41.Rxa3 Bxa3= KB-KB **42.h6**

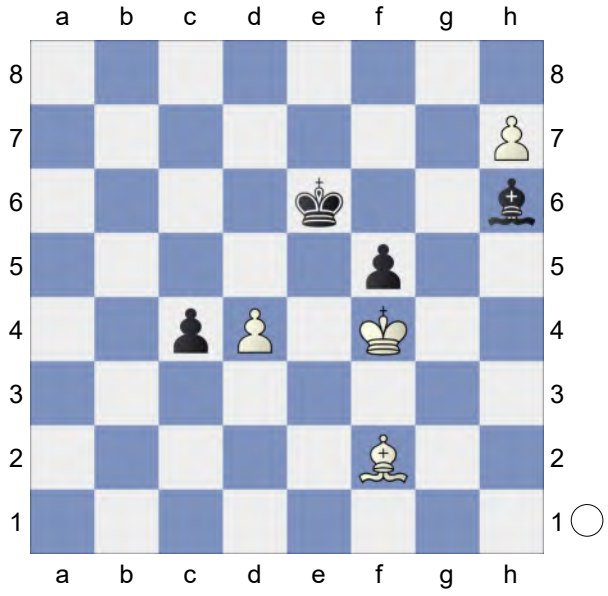
Black must now prevent h7. **42...Bf8**

43.h7 Bg7 44.Kf3 Ke6 45.Kf4 Bh6+

(Diagram)



46.Kf3 Bg7 47.Kf4 Bh6+

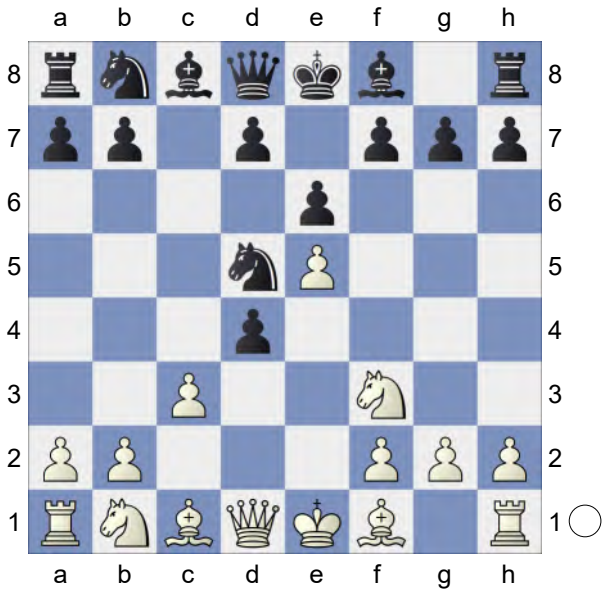


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

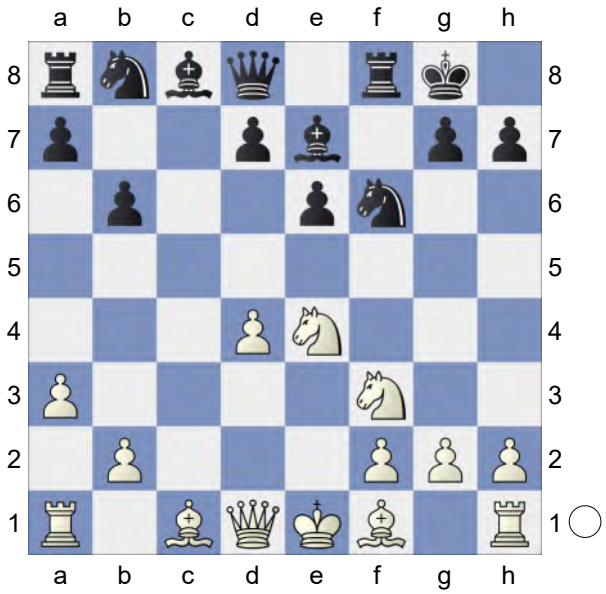
½-½

115 **B22**
□ **Almasi,Zoltan** **2663**
■ **Socko,Bartosz** **2543**
EU-chT (Men) 12th (6.3) 04.12.1999
[Huzman,Alexander]

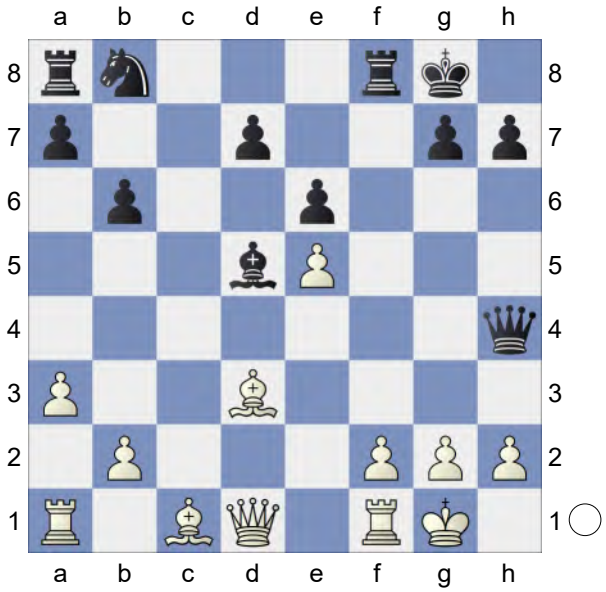
1.e4 Huzman Huzman **1...c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4**



6.cxd4 b6 7.a3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Ne4 f5 10.exf6 Nxf6

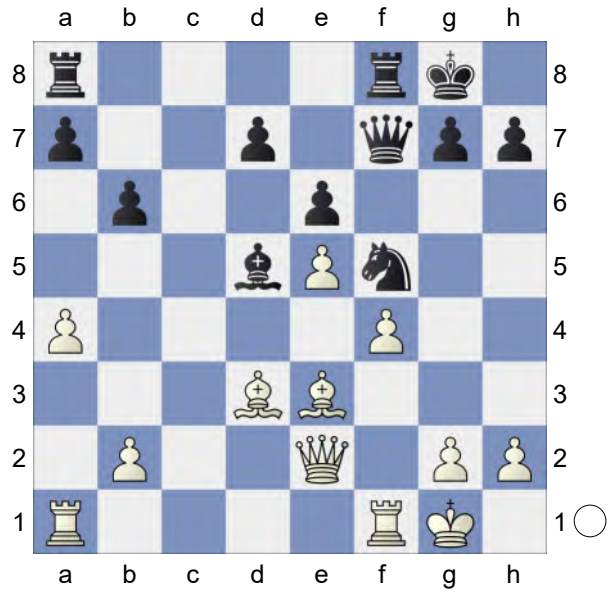


11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Nxf6+
[12.Nfg5]
[12.Nc3 Nd5 *(12...Na6)* 13.Qc2]
12...Bxf6 13.0-0 Bd5
[13...Nc6 14.Be4]
14.Ne5 Bxe5 15.dxe5
[15.Qh5 Bxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Qc7+
A) 17.f4 h6 *(17...g6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Kg3)* 18.Qg6 Rf6± 1-0 Jelen,I-Moser,E/Baden 1999/CBM 71 (37) 19.Qh7+ Kf7 20.Be3 Nc6;
B) 17.Kg1 g6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Bh6 Rg8 21.Qf6+ Kh7= 22.Qf7+ Kh8;
C) 17.g3 g6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qxg6+↑ 1-0 Lipinsky,F-Trisic,A/Germany 1998/EXT 99 (70) Kh8 20.Bh6 Rg8 21.Qh5 d6]
15...Qh4? It is wrong strategical decision. In the appeared position Black cannot stop initiative of White on the Queen side.And Black has noreal counterplay on the king side.
[15...Nc6 16.Qh5]



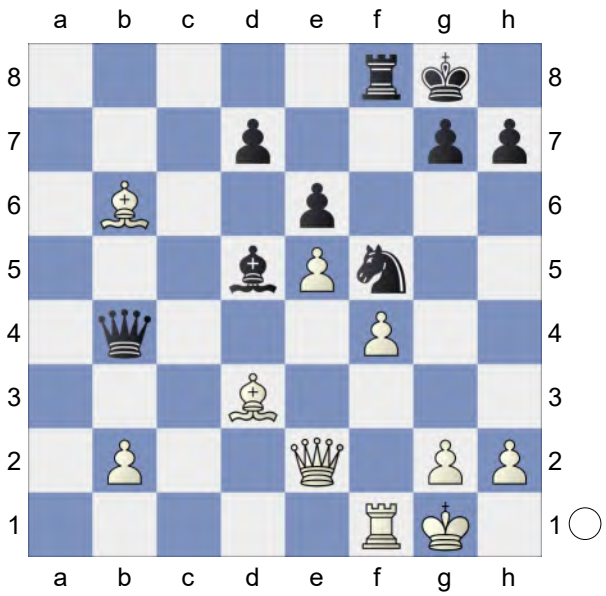
16.f4 Nc6 17.Be3
[17.a4 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Qd4+ 19.Kh1 Rxf1+ 20.Qxf1 Rf8!± 1-0 Hansen,L-Danielsen,H/Copenhagen op 1994/

EXT 94op (36) 21.Qd1 Be4
(21...Qf2 22.Qg1) 22.Ra3 Rf2]
17...Ne7
[17...g5]
18.Qe1 Qh5 19.Qe2 Qf7
[19...Qh4]
20.a4
[20.Qg4]
20...Nf5

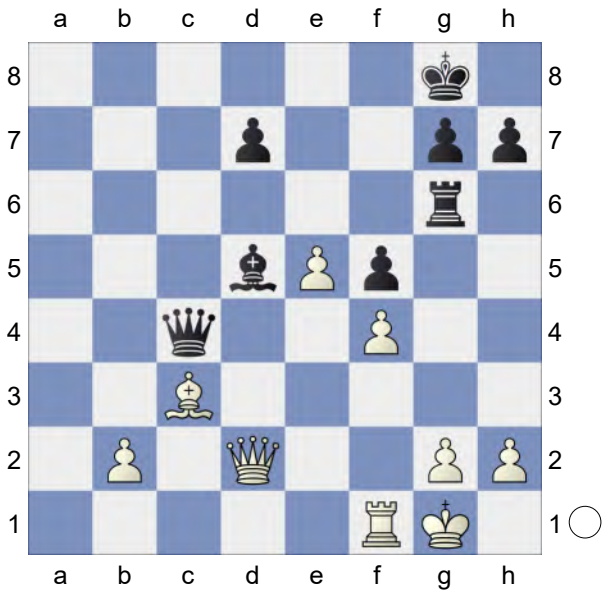


21.a5 Rab8
[21...Nxe3± 22.Qxe3 Rab8]
22.axb6! axb6
[22...Nxe3 23.bxa7]
23.Ra6± Qe7
[23...b5+- ⌓24.Bc5 Rfc8 25.b4]
24.Rxb6 Rxb6 25.Bxb6 Qb4

(Diagram)

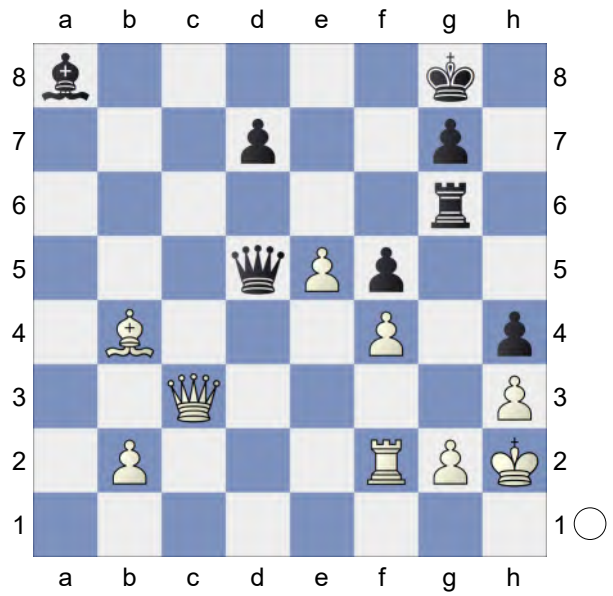


26.Qf2! Rc8
[26...Rb8+- 27.Ba7]
27.Bxf5 exf5 28.Bd4 Rc6 29.Bc3 Qc4 30.Qd2! Rg6

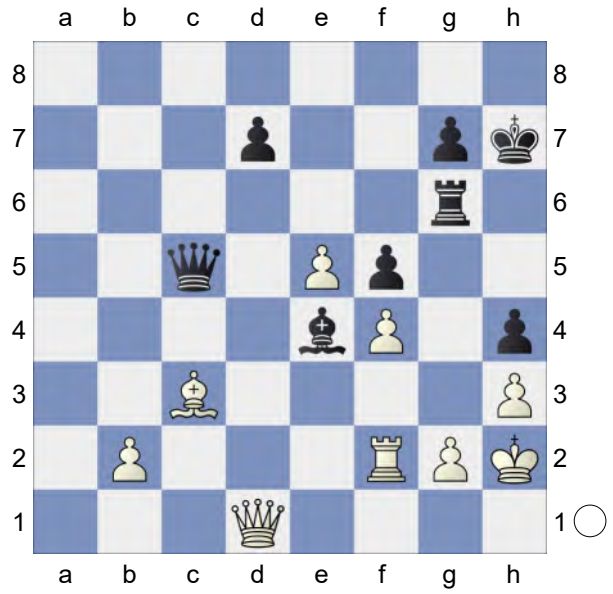


31.Rf2 h5
[31...h6]
32.h3 h4 33.Kh2! Ba8 34.Bb4 Qb3 35.Qc3+- Qd5

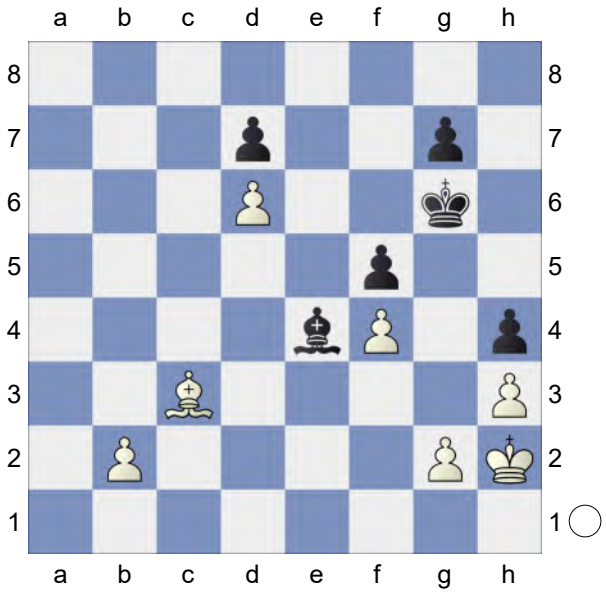
(Diagram)



36.Qc8+ Kh7 37.Qc2 Qf7 38.Be1
[38.Ba5]
38...Be4 39.Qd1? Qc4!G 40.Bc3
[40.Qxd7 Qf1 41.Qd2 Rxg2+ 42.Rxg2+- Bxg2 43.Qxg2! Qxe1]
[40.Qh5+ Rh6 41.Qg5 Qd4]
40...Qc5

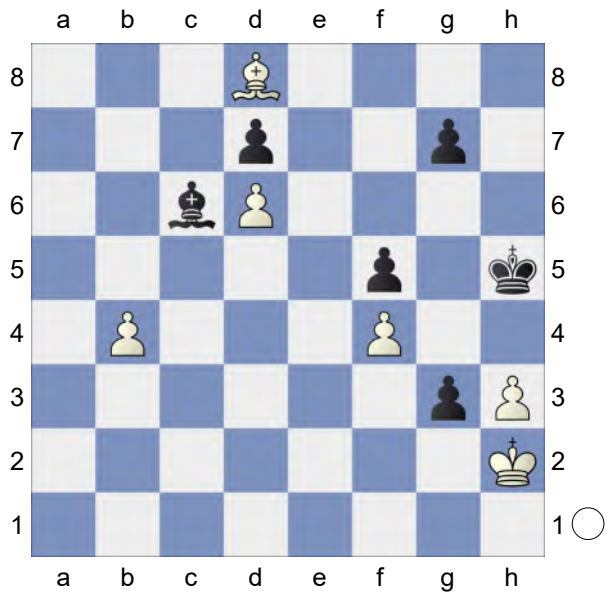


41.Re2 Qc6 42.Rd2
[42.Qg1 Bd3]
42...Kh6
[42...Bxg2 43.Qh5+± Kg8! 44.e6]
[42...Rxg2++- 43.Rxg2 Bxg2 44.Qh5+ Kg8 45.Qg5±]
[42...Kg8! 43.Qh5]
43.Rd6
[43.Qf1]
43...Qxd6
[43...Rxd6!? 44.exd6 Qd5± 45.Qe1!" Kh5 46.Bxg7 Qxd6+- 47.Be5]
44.Qxd6 Rxd6 45.exd6 Kg6

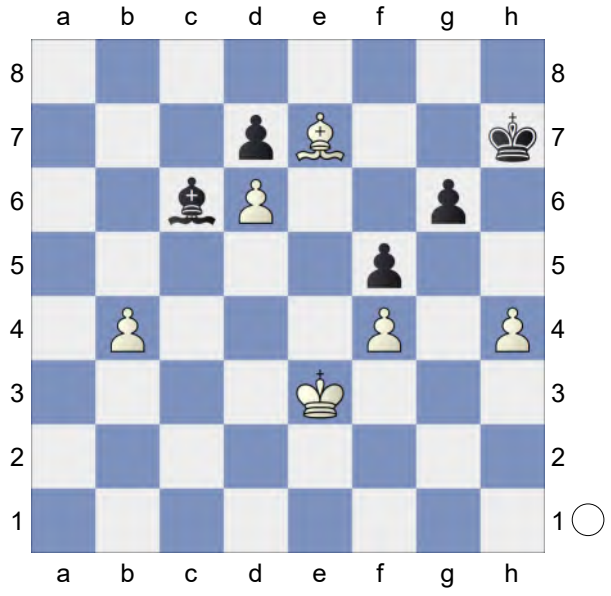


46.Be1!
[46.Ba5]
46...Kh5 47.Ba5 Bc6
[47...g5!+- 48.fxg5 f4]
48.Bd8 Bd5 49.b4 Bc6 50.g3+- hxg3+

(Diagram)

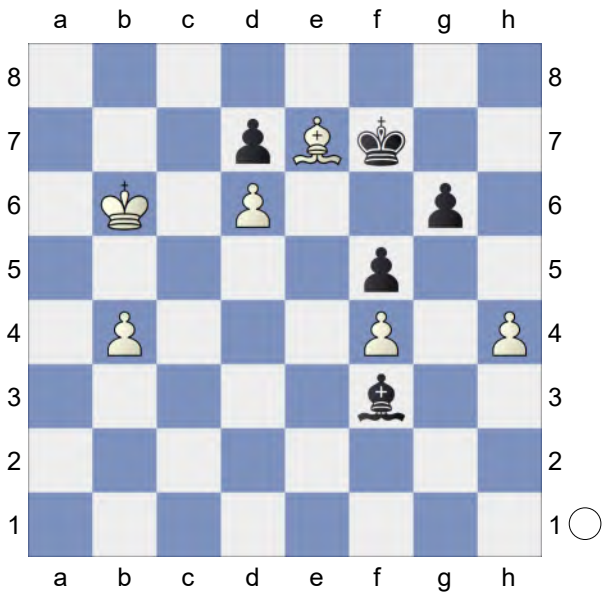


51.Kxg3 Kg6 52.h4 Ba4
[52...Kh7]
53.Be7
[53.Bg5 Kh7 54.h5!]
53...Bc6 54.Kf2
[54.Bg5]
54...Kh7
[54...Kf7 55.h5]
55.Ke3 g6

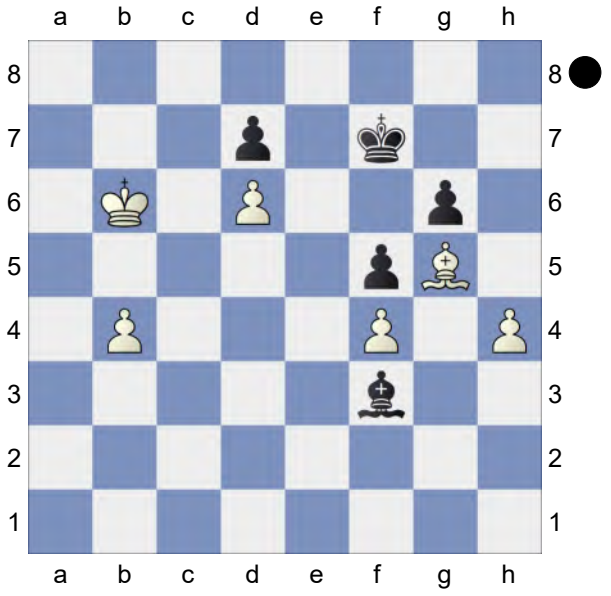


56.Kd4 Kg7 57.Kc5 Be4 58.Kb6 Kf7 59.Kc7 Bc6 60.Kb6 Bf3

(Diagram)



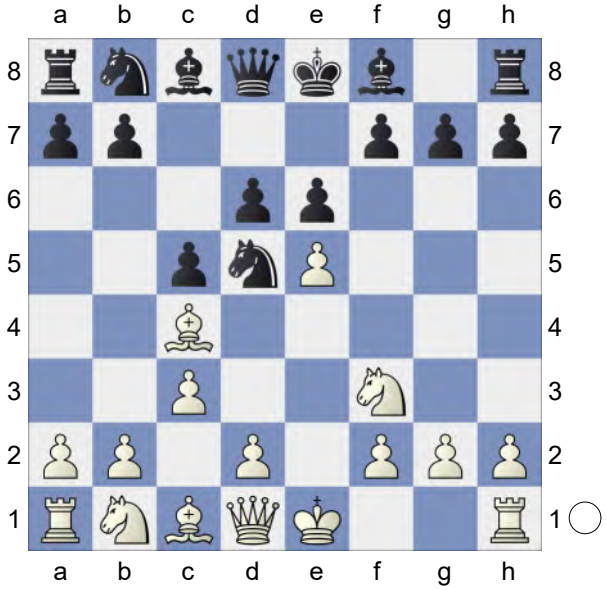
61.Bg5



1-0

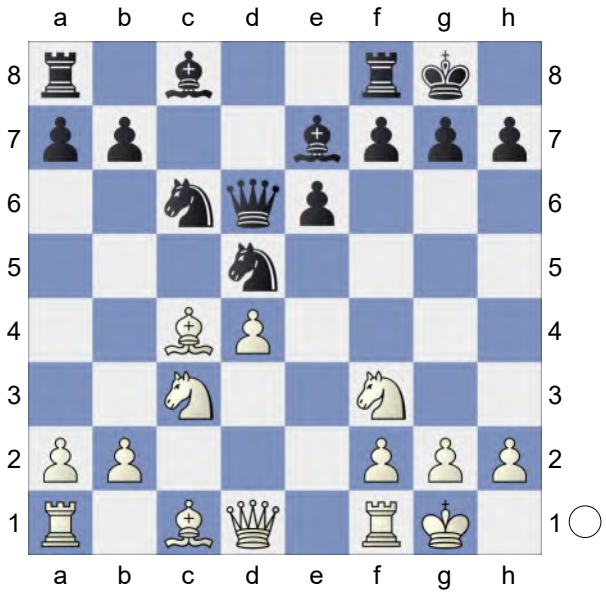
116 **B22**
□ **Zvjaginsev,Vadim** **2660**
■ **Svidler,Peter** **2734**
RUS-chT rapid (4.5) 08.05.2015
[Dave Smerdon]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 d6



6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.exd6 Not my favourite way to handle the white side of the very popular ...e6/d6 system, but many GMs disagree! There is some appealing simplicity to White's approach, resolving the tension by simply accepting to play with the isolated pawn. **9...Qxd6 10.Nc3 0-0**

(Diagram)



11.Re1 Nf6 The voluntary retreat is rare, but it seems very solid. Svidler is usually very well prepared so it's worth paying attention to this idea Black takes all "xd5" ideas out of the equation, but there are some new Bg5 and d4-d5 possibilities now. Still, I haven't managed to find any way to get an advantage for White after this move.

[11...b6!? is quite interesting. See my notes to: Mamedov, R (2660)-Wojtaszek, R (2716) Shamkir 2014]

[11...Rd8 is Rogozenko's recommendation, and incidentally his book on handling anti-Sicilians probably led to the recent resurgence in popularity of this variation. 12.Bb3 *(12.a3 a6 13.Be3 Nxe3 14.fxe3 b6 15.Rc1 Bb7 16.Ba2 Rac8 17.Ne4 Qd7 18.Nfg5 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 h6 20.Nf3 Qd6 21.Rf1 Rc7 22.Qe2 Rdc8 23.Rcd1 Na5 24.Bb1 Nc4 25.Bd3 b5 26.Rf2 f5* ½-½ (34) Luehrig,W (2640)-Woerdemann,M (2768) corr 3/539 1967 (7.7)*)* 12...Nf6 and now 13.Nb5 Qd7 *(13...Qb4 14.a4 Bf8 15.Bd2 Qe7 16.Bf4 Qb4 17.Rc1 a6 18.Rc4 Qe7 19.Nc7 Ra7*

20.h3 Na5 21.Rc3 Nxb3 22.Qxb3 Qb4 23.Rec1 Bd7 24.Qxb4 Bxb4 25.Rc4 Bf8 26.a5 Bc6 27.Ne5 Bd5 28.R4c2 ½-½ (35) Stevic,H (2588)-David,A (2563) FRA-chT Top 12 2018 (5) *)* 14.Bf4!? was an interesting idea for White that I looked at in Givon, A (2415)-Solodovnichenko, Y (2565) Albena 2013]

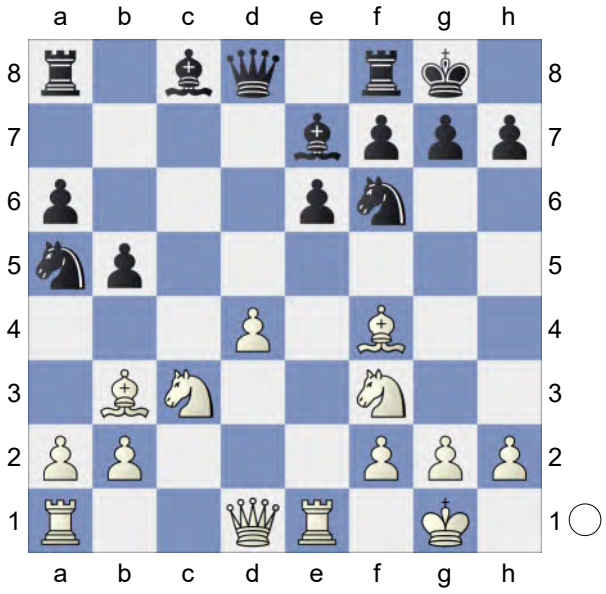
12.Nb5N

[12.Bg5 h6 *(12...Rd8 13.Nb5 Qb4 14.Qe2 a6 15.Nc7 Rb8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.d5 Na5 18.Bd3 Qxb2 19.Qe4* B 22/52 2000*)* 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ne4 Qd8=]

12...Qd8 13.Bf4 a6! The critical moment. If White has to retreat, Black can count his opening a success. But can the knight go forward? **14.Nc3** The position is equal.

[Spoiler alert: No. 14.Nc7?! -0.51/21 14.Nc3 -0.07 Nh5! 15.Be5 *(15.Nxa8 Nxf4∓)* 15...Ra7!∓]

14...b5 15.Bb3 Na5



16.Bc2

[16.d5?! And now d6 would win. Nxb3∓]

[White could have considered bailing out with 16.Ne5! Nxb3 *(16...Bb7* 0.13/19 16...Qb6 -0.25 *17.Nxf7!? Rxf7 18.Bxe6v)* 17.Nc6 Qe8 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Qxb3= as White will soon be able to liquidate by pushing d4-d5.]

16...Bb7 17.Ne5 Rc8 Black's position is much more comfortable.

[17...Nc6 simplifies 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.a3 Qb6]

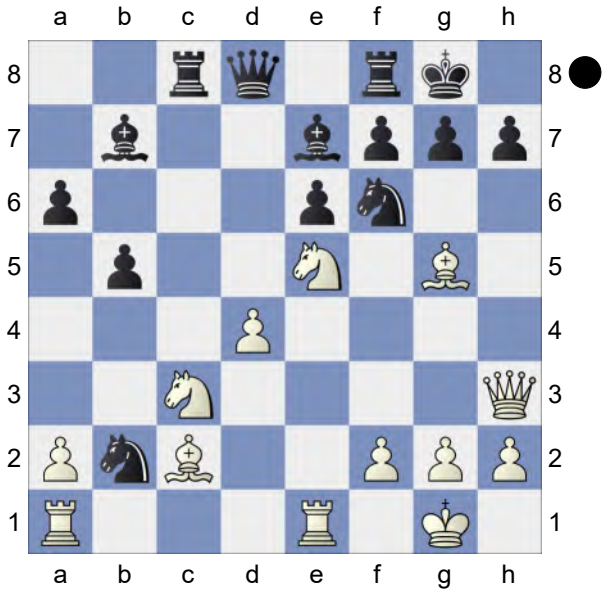
18.Bg5? -0.75/18

[18.Qd3= -0.27/18]

18...Nc4!∓ 19.Qd3 -2.14/19

[19.Bc1∓ -0.75/18]

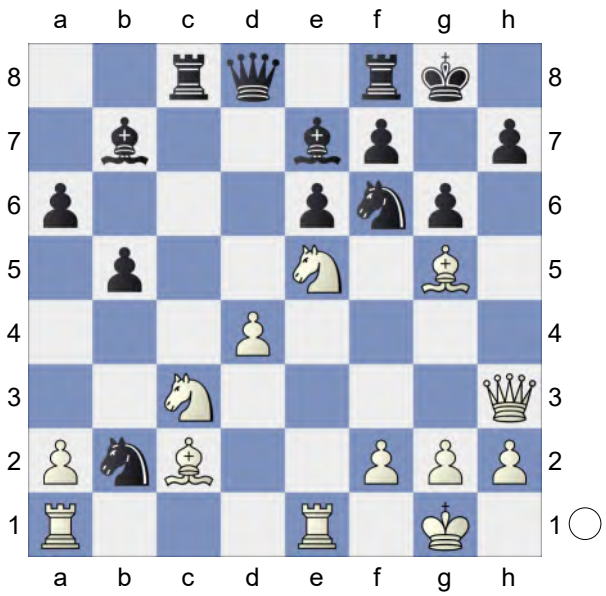
19...Nxb2-+ 20.Qh3



Bxf6 is the strong threat. **20...g6**

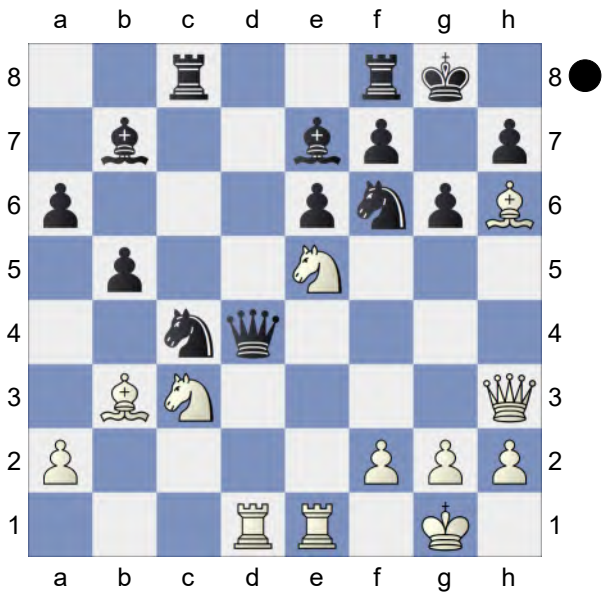
[20...Qxd4? 21.Nc6+- *(21.Bxf6 h6+-; 21.Bxf6 h6+-)*]

(Diagram)



21.Bb3 -2.41/21
[⌓21.Bc1 -1.70/18]
21...Nc4? -0.84/19
[21...Qxd4! was simply winning. 22.Nxf7 Rxf7 23.Bxe6 Rcf8-+]
[21...Qxd4-+ -2.41/21 and Black stays clearly on top. 22.Nxf7 Nd3 *(22...Rxc3 23.Qxe6 Rc7 24.Nd6+ Kh8 25.Nf7+ Kg8 26.Ne5+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Kg8=; 22...Rxf7? 23.Bxe6* Pin *Rcf8 24.Qe3-+)* 23.Rxe6 Qxf2+ *(23...Qxc3?* loses. *24.Rd1+-; 23...Rxf7?* is the wrong capture. *24.Rxe7* Pin, Discovered Attack *Qxf2+ 25.Kh1+-)* 24.Kh1 Qb2 *(24...Kxf7 25.Qxh7+ Nxh7 26.Rxe7#; 24...Rxf7? 25.Rxe7* Pin *Qc5 26.Bxf7++-)*]
22.Bh6 Qxd4 23.Rad1∓

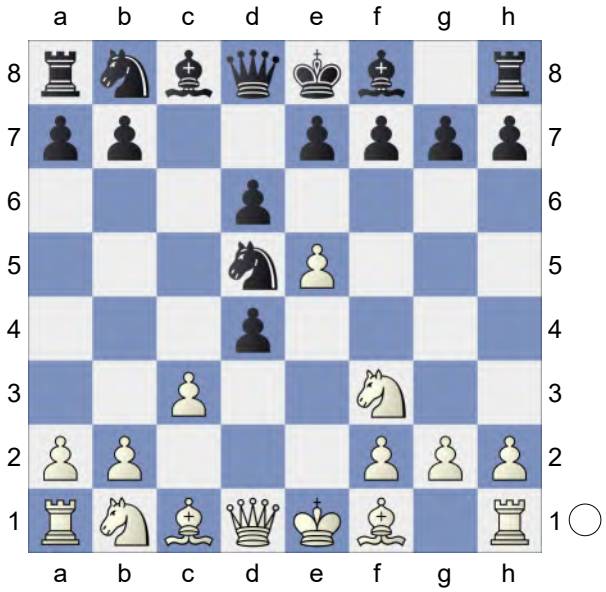
(Diagram)



A strange time to agree a draw, as Black is clearly better after ...Qb6 or ...Qc5. Perhaps team considerations played a role.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/Black=0.15 (very precise)
½-½

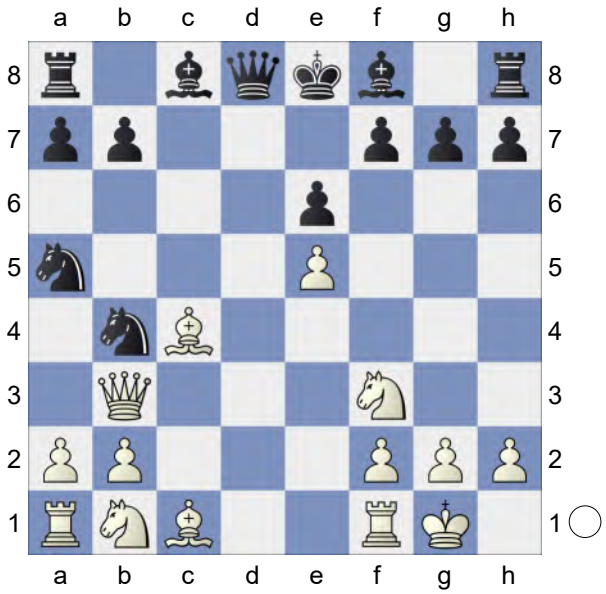
117 **B22**
□ **Mamedov,Rauf** **2659**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2635**
Tata Steel-B 82nd (12) 25.01.2020
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4

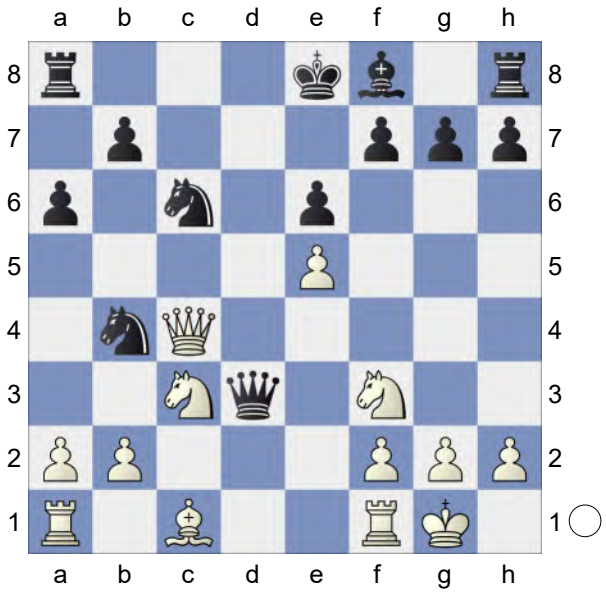


6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 dxe5 8.dxe5 Ndb4 9.Qb3
[9.Qxd8+ simplifies Nxd8 10.Na3 Ndc6 11.0-0]
9...e6 10.0-0 Na5

(Diagram)



11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Qa4 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ Nac6 14.Nc3 a6 15.Qc4 Rd1 would now be deadly.
[15.Qxb7? loses. Rb8 16.Bg5 Qa5-+ *(16...Rxb7? 17.Bxd8 Nxd8 18.Rfd1-+; 16...Rxb7? 17.Bxd8 Nxd8 18.Rfd1-+)*]
15...Qd3G



Black is not keeping still **16.Qg4**
We've covered all this in A.Skripchenko - V. Cmilyte, Women's World Championship 2010 (1/2 - 1/2 in 43). Black isn't at all worse in the endgame,

an assessment which certainly isn't disturbed by the present game.

[16.Qh4 Be7 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 0-0 19.a3 Nc2 20.Rad1 Qf5 21.Nf3 Rad8 22.Qa4 h6 23.h3 Kh8 24.Ne2 b5 25.Qb3 Qe4 26.Ng3 N6d4 27.Nxe4 Nxb3 28.Nd6 f6 29.Nf7+ Rxf7 30.Rxd8+ Kh7 0-1 (41) Acs,P (2542)-Oral,T (2540) Capablanca mem Elite 35th 2000 (13)]

16...Qg6 17.Qxg6

[17.Qf4 Nd3 18.Qc4 Be7 19.Rd1 Rd8 20.Ne4 Na5 21.Qa4+ Nc6 22.Qc4 Na5 23.Qc7 Qxe4 24.Qxa5 0-0 25.Be3 Nxb2 26.Rxd8 Bxd8 27.Qc3 Nc4 28.Bc5 Ba5 29.Bb4 Bxb4 30.Qxb4 Qd5 31.Rc1 b5 0-1 (46) Fodre,S (2003)-Teo,H (1871) Budapest FS05 Nadassy 2023 (3.4)]

17...hxg6 18.Rd1 Prevents Nd3

18...Be7N

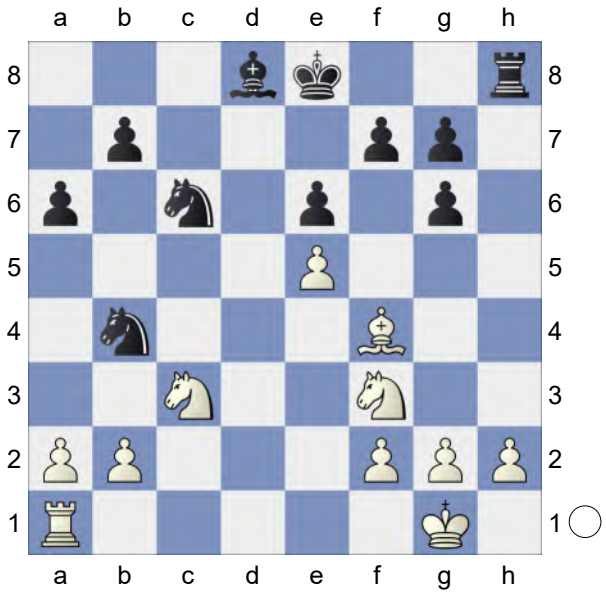
[18...Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Bg5 Be7 21.Rd1 f6= P.Potapov - A. Demchenko, St Petersburg 2018 (0-1 in 49).]

19.Bf4

[19.a3 might look like a better attempt at an advantage, but the knight gets out via d4. Nc2 20.Ra2 Rd8! 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 22.b4 *(22.Ne2* Threatens to win with b3. *Bb6! 23.b4 N2d4=* N.Looshnikov - D.Kokarev, Voronezh 2018 (1/2-1/2 in 32).*)* 22...N2d4 23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.Ne4 Be7! 25.Be3 Nc6= A.Puranik - P. Smirnov, Olongapo City 2015 (1/2-1/2 in 31).]

19...Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Bxd8

(Diagram)



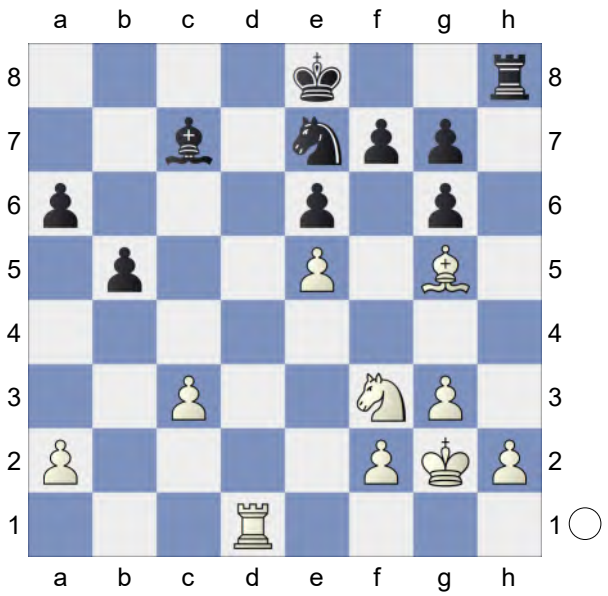
21.Rd1 Inhibits Nd3. **21...Ne7 22.Bg5** Black is weak on the dark squares **22...Bc7 23.g3** The first new move, which retains equality.

[23.h3 Ned5 24.Nxd5 Nxd5 25.Kf1 Kd7 26.Ke2 b5 27.Bd2 Rb8 28.Rc1 Rb7= M.Godena - D. Kuljasevic, Balatonszarszo 2017 (1/2-1/2 in 60).]

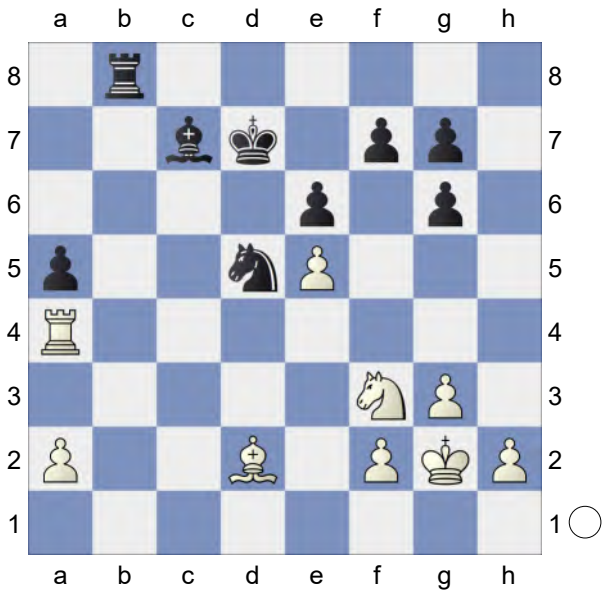
[23.Ne4?! And now Nd6+ would win. Ned5 24.Nc5 b6 25.Nd3! Nxd3 26.Rxd3 Kd7 27.Kf1 Rc8∓ P.Potapov - D.Kokarev, Khanty-Mansiysk 2014 (0-1 in 49).]

23...Nbd5 24.Kg2 Nxc3 25.bxc3 b5

(Diagram)



26.c4! bxc4 ...Nd5 is the strong threat. **27.Rc1 Nd5** Hoping for ...c3. **28.Rxc4 Kd7** Prevents Rc6. **29.Ra4 a5 30.Bd2 Rb8**

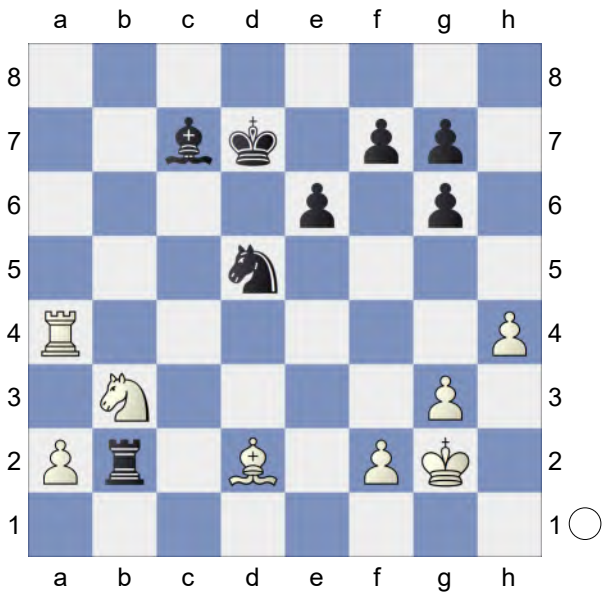


31.h4

[31.Bxa5? perishes. Ra8 32.Bxc7 Rxa4-+]

31...Rb5 32.Nd4 Rb2 33.Bxa5 Bxe5 34.Nb3 Repeating moves with **34...Bd6** is also decent. **35.Bd2 Bc7**

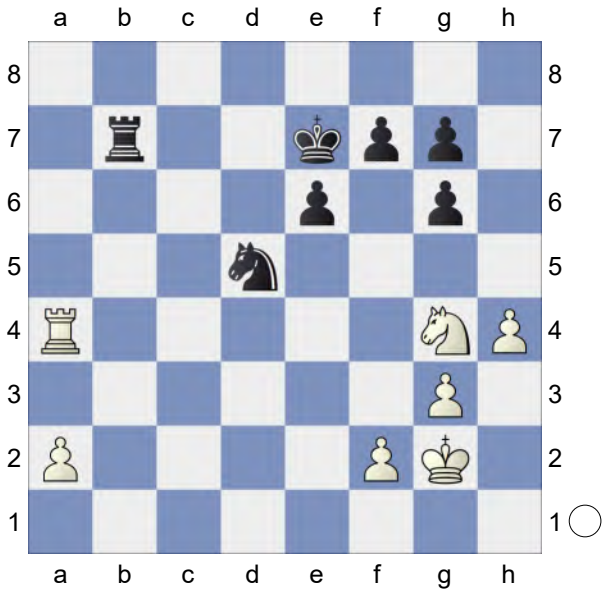
(Diagram)



36.Ba5 Bxa5 37.Nxa5= Endgame. KRN-KRN **37...Ke7**

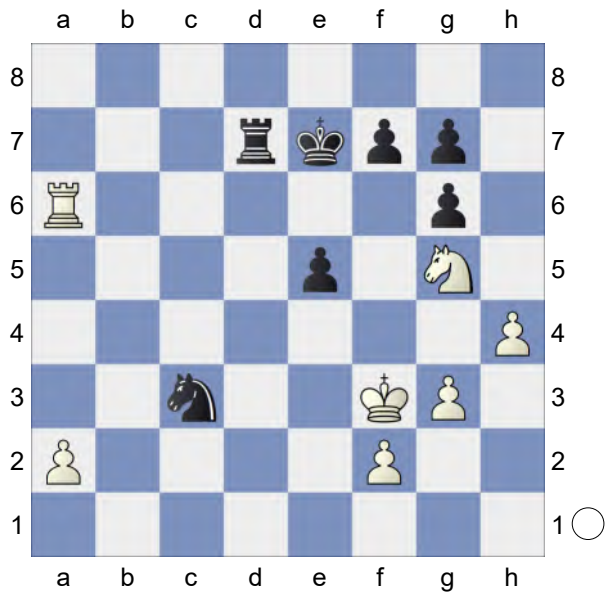
[37...Nc3 38.Rd4+ Nd5=]

38.Nc4 Rb7 Against Ra7 **39.Ne5** The position is equal. **39...Kf6 40.Ng4+ Ke7**

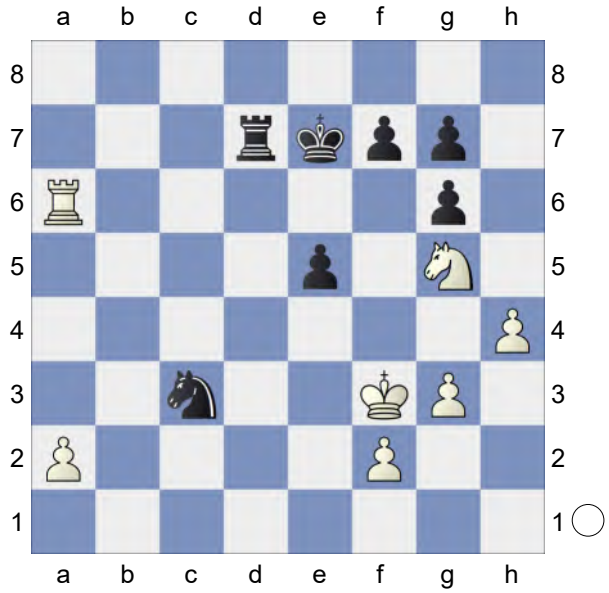


41.Ne5 Kf6 42.Nf3 Ke7 43.Ng5 Nc3 44.Ra6 e5 45.Kf3 Rd7

(Diagram)



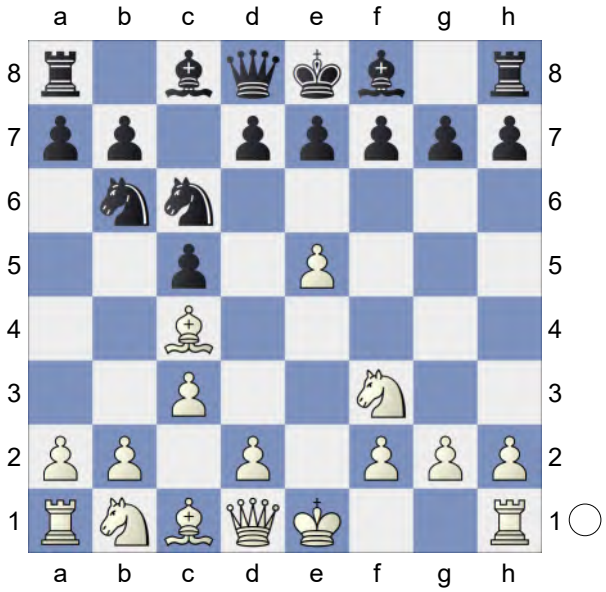
46.Ra3 Nb1 47.Ra8 Nc3 48.Ra3 Nb1 49.Ra6 Nc3



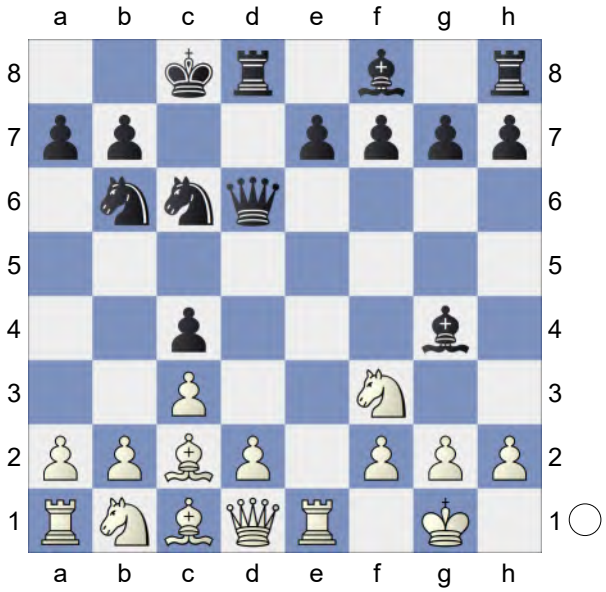
An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

118 **B22**
□ **Ganguly,Surya Shekhar** **2658**
■ **Saduakassova,Dinara** **2481**
FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss (2.50)
[David Cummings]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



Black has 3 sensible ways of parrying the check, and this has been the most popular overall, although the alternatives remain very relevant: **6.Bb3 c4** One of Black's two main replies here, other being: **7.Bc2** Black's idea is to play ...b7-b6 and ...Bc8-b7 as quickly as possible in order to neutralize the "Catalan" g2-bishop. White's move aims to slow down that plan and has scored well in recent years. Several games in the PGN Archives have examined other ideas, for example: **7...d6** A necessary precursor to ...b7-b6, since with White's queen off the c4-square, Black cannot go for this immediately: **8.exd6** Move orders around this point are flexible, but White usually goes for a setup involving d2-d3 and a2-a4. In this game, Ganguly introduces an interesting new idea by skipping the a2-a4 thrust and developing the knight with Nb1-a3-c4 more quickly. Instead the mainline position arises after the sequence: **8...Qxd6** Black prepares the fianchetto anyway, but White argues that 7 Qb3 is a more useful move than 7... Rb8. Instead: **9.0-0 Bg4 10.Re1!?** The first new move. Here:. Wards off Ne5 **10...0-0-0**



11.Qe2
[11.b3 Qf6 12.Na3 Nd5 13.Bb2 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3 cxb3 16.axb3 e6 17.Nc4 Kb8 18.Ba3 Rd7 19.Be4 Bxa3 20.Rxa3 Rhd8 21.Kf1 a6 22.Ne3 Nxe3+ 23.dxe3 Na7 24.Raa1 f5 25.Bc2 Rc7 0-1 (57) Parligras,M (2601)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2721) Schachbundesliga 2010-11 (4)]
11...e5N White is slightly better.
[11...h5 12.Na3 Qf6 13.Nxc4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qxf3 16.Be4 Qg4+ 17.Kh1 Rd6 18.f3 Qd7 19.Qxf7 Rf6 20.Qc4 e5 21.d3 Be7 22.Rg1 Bd8 23.Be3 Kb8 24.b4 h4

25.a4 Rhf8 26.Rgf1 ½-½ (81) Sherman,R (2304)-Stalmach,R (2427) EU-ch U18 31st 2023 (8)]

12.Na3 The central break is White's best try for an advantage. **12...g6** 0.83/20 Sensibly taking the king to safety.

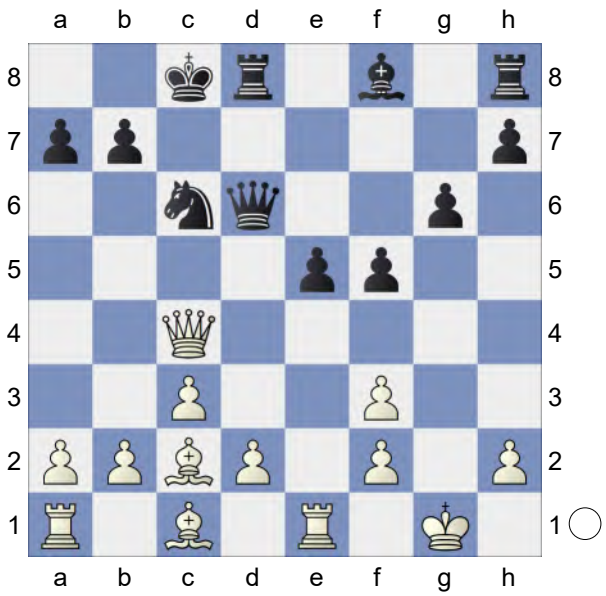
[12...Kb8 0.58/21 12...Qe6 0.06 when the knight needs to move and the b8-rook will be captured 13.b3 0.15/19 keeps Black in the game *(13.Nxc4± 0.58/21 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Bxf3 15.gxf3)* 13...Qf6 0.89/19 when White needs to demonstrate a constructive plan. *(13...f5=* 0.15/19 keeps the balance. *14.h3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 g6)* 14.Nxc4± Nxc4 15.bxc4 preparing to double rooks on the d-file Bc5 is not great because of 16.Rb1 Rhe8 17.Be4 Re7 1.42/19 *(*Black should play *17...Bf5* 0.77/19 *)* 18.Bxc6! -0.74/19 with a strong lead in development *(18.d3±* 1.42/19 *)* 18...Qxc6∓ 19.Nxe5 -1.81/23 *(19.Rb3∓* -0.73/20 *)*]

[12...Qe6!= -0.01/19 remains equal.]

13.Nxc4± Nxc4 Taking the queen off the d-file firing line, but this allows White to seize the initiative. An improvement is: **14.Qxc4 Bxf3 15.gxf3** White creates a potential outpost on the d6-square, but a simpler approach was: **15...f5** 1.84/21

[15...Rd7± 0.74/17]

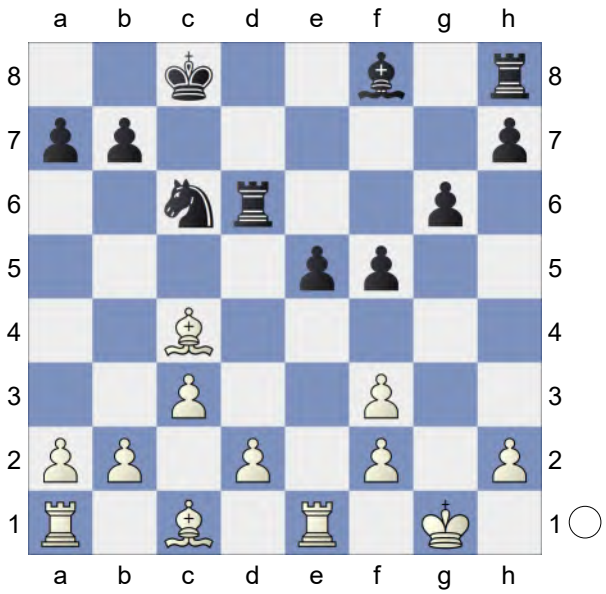
(Diagram)



16.Ba4 1.44/20

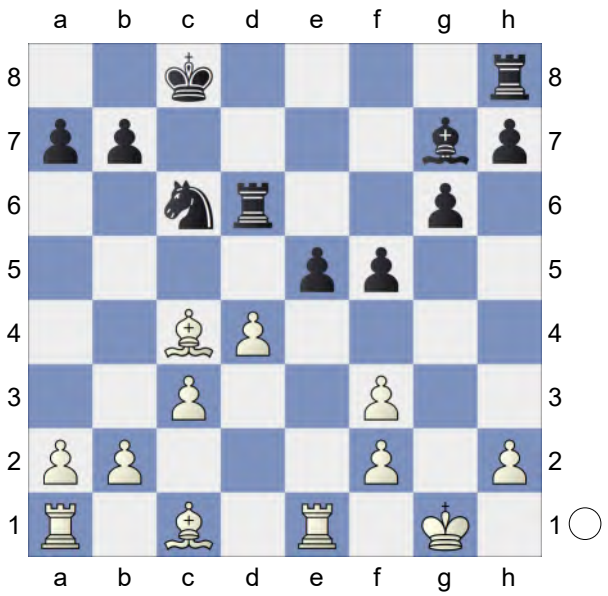
[16.d4+- 1.84/21]

16...Qd5 17.Qxd5 Rxd5 Here: **18.Bb3 Rd3 19.Bc4 Rd6**

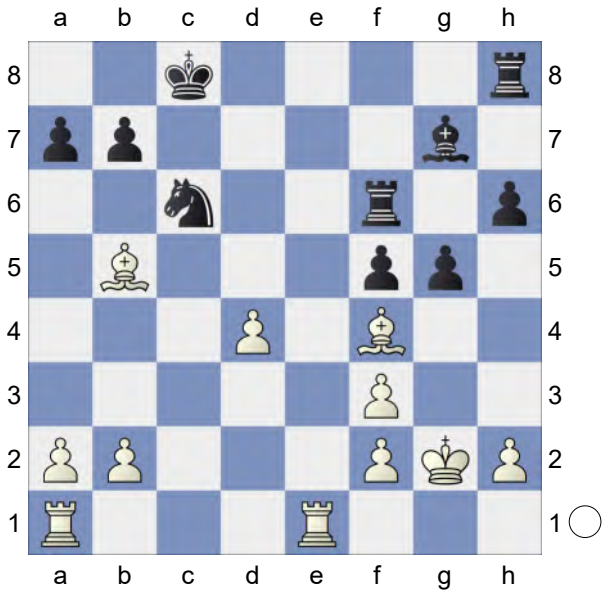


Black is a little cramped, but objectively is not worse here. **20.d4! Bg7**

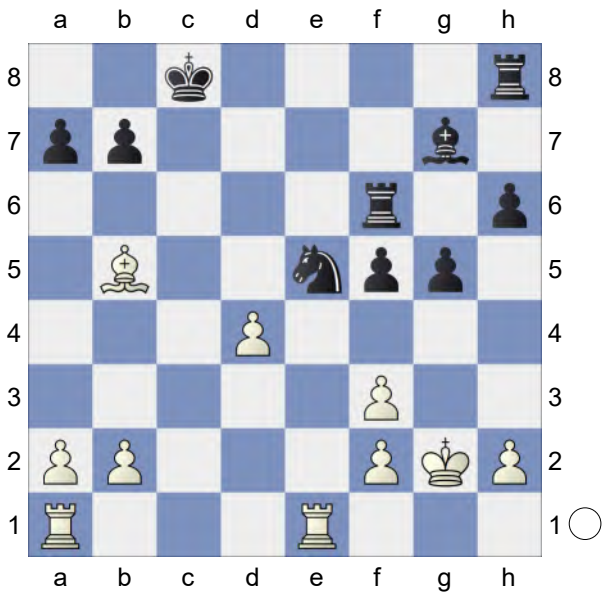
(Diagram)



21.Kg2 h6 1.83/20
[21...f4± 1.15/20 is a better defense.]
22.Bb5 1.00/22
[22.b4+- 1.83/20]
22...exd4 Instead of marking time, Black could improve her position with, for example: **23.Bf4↑** White is really pushing. **23...Rf6** 2.17/23
[23...Rd7± 1.12/21]
24.cxd4+- Hoping for Rac1. **24...g5**

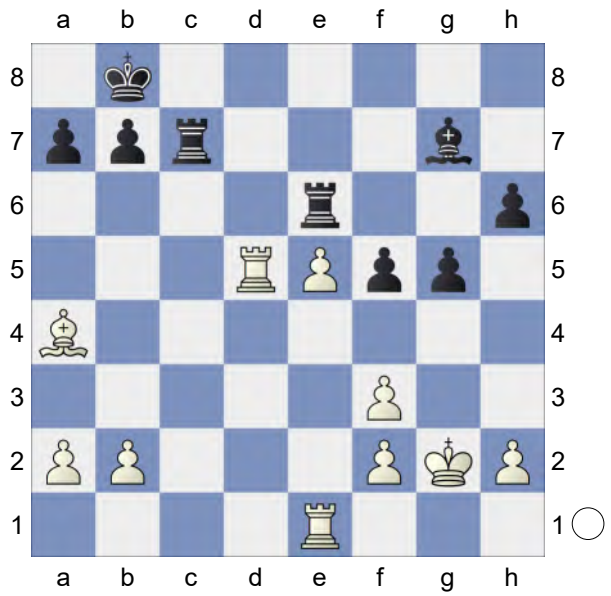


Black could continue to sit tight with:
25.Be5 Nxe5?
(Diagram)

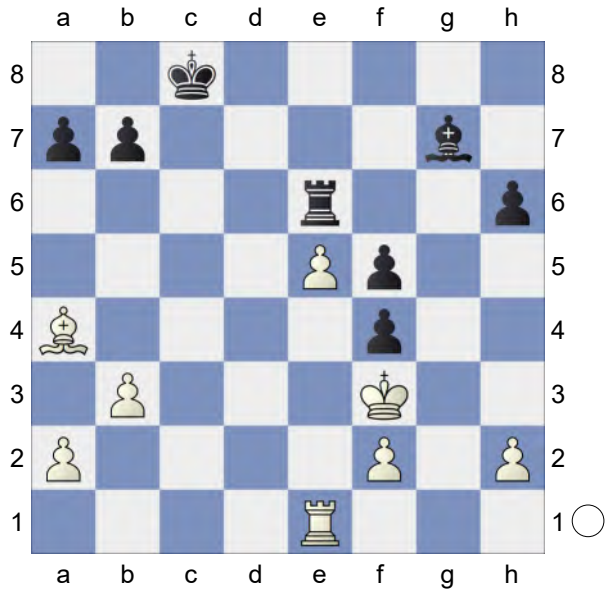


The wrong follow up to trading on the d6-square. **26.dxe5** Now, all of a sudden, White's forces stream into newly opened lines. **26...Re6** Instead: **27.Rac1+ Kb8 28.Rc5** This wins, but had to be calculated when White played 26 d7, otherwise White's play wouldn't make sense, for example **28...Rc8** 2.36/24 Or:
[⌓28...Rd8 1.84/22 29.Bc4 Re7]
29.Rd5 White now finishes the game with a fine display of attacking chess. Black must now prevent Bd7. **29...Rc2**
30.Ba4
[Don't take 30.Bd7?! Re7 31.Bxf5 Rxb2 32.Rd8+ Kc7 33.Rc1+ Kb6+-]
30...Rc7

(Diagram)

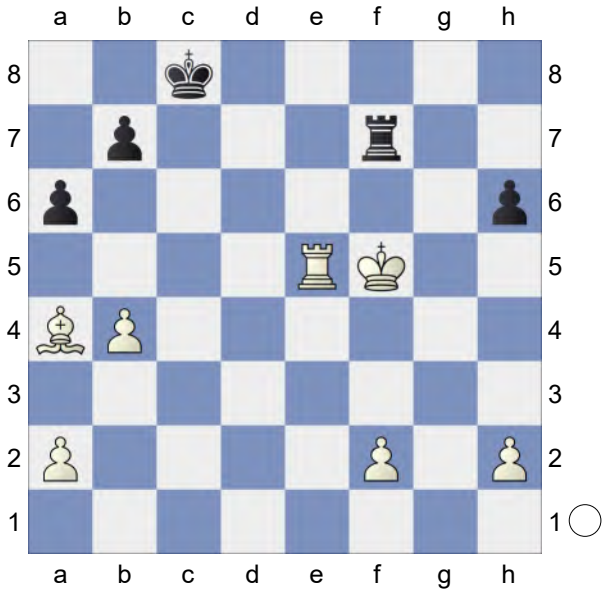


31.f4! gxf4
[31...Ree7 32.Bb3]
32.Kf3 Rc4 4.03/23
[32...a6 2.79/19 keeps fighting. 33.Re2 *(33.Kxf4 Bxe5+ 34.Kxf5 Rf6+ 35.Kxe5 Rxf2+-)* 33...Rc1]
33.b3 Rc2 34.Rd8+ Rc8 35.Rxc8+ Kxc8



36.Kxf4 White is clearly winning. **36...a6 37.Kxf5 Re7 38.b4** yields White a winning attack
[38.f4 b5 39.Bxb5 *(39.Rc1+ Kb7+-)* 39...axb5=]

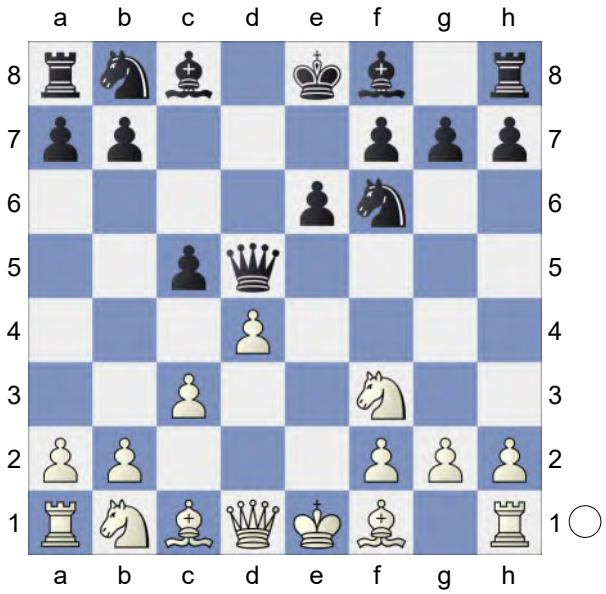
38...Bxe5? 39.Rxe5 and Black picks up the exchange **39...Rf7+**



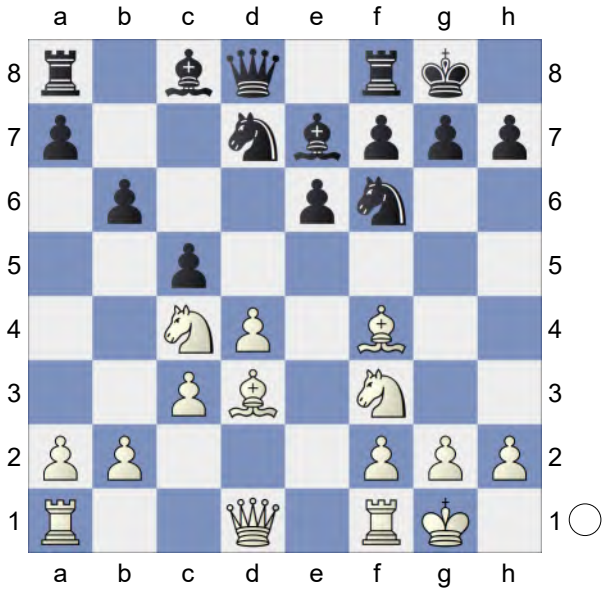
is met by.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.43
1-0

119 **B22**
□ **Adhiban,Baskaran** **2655**
■ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2787**
Tata Steel-A 80th (13) 28.01.2018
[Fernandez,D]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 0 Fernandez,Daniel Howard Fernandez,Daniel Howard Fernandez,Daniel Howard Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Fernandez,D' **1...c5** 5 **2.c3** 0 **d5** 7 **3.exd5** 0 **Qxd5** 16 **4.d4** 0 **e6** 40 **5.Nf3** 0 **Nf6** 2:34

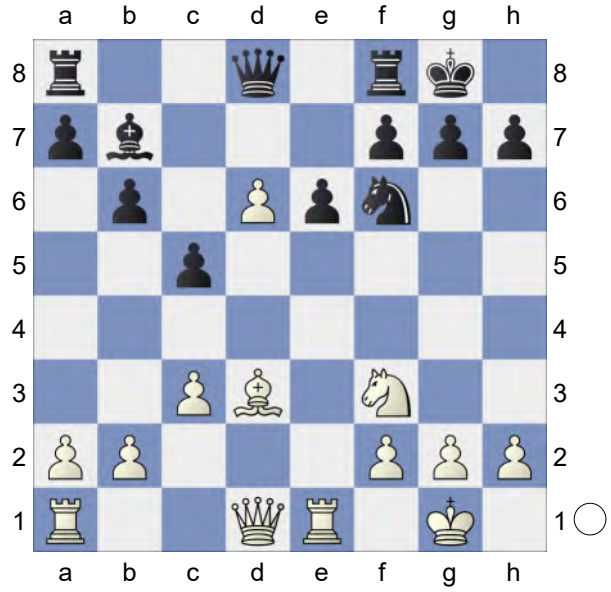


6.Na3 0.3 **Qd8** 6 **7.Nc4** 4 **Be7** 6
[7...Nc6]
8.Bd3 5 **Nbd7** 2:57
[8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Re1]
[8...0-0 9.dxc5 *(9.Bg5 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qd5; 9.0-0)* 9...Bxc5 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Qc2 h6]
9.0-0N 12
[9.Bf4 0-0 10.a4 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Re1 Nh5 13.Be3 Nhf6 14.Bf4 Nh5 15.Be3 Nhf6 16.Bf4 ½-½ Vidit,S (2716)-Nakamura,H (2780) FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (8)]
9...0-0 12 **10.Bf4** 7 A standard-looking move, unleashing some kind of pressure against the d5-pawn, but here the pawn is free to advance, which was what White should have tried to avoid.
10...b6 1:13 Perceptively played.
[10...Nd5 11.Bg3 N7f6 0.61/17 *(11...b5 12.Ne3 c4; 11...b5=* 0.25/19 *12.Ne3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Nf6)* 12.dxc5± Bxc5 13.Qc2 h6 14.Rad1 b5 15.Nce5]

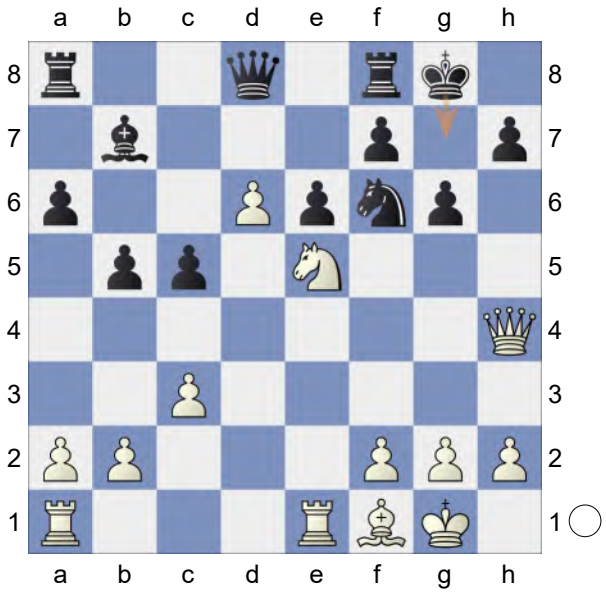


11.Nd6 1:05 On this move and indeed the next few Adhiban plays extremely well. **11...Nh5** 4:58 **12.Be5** 11:04 The position is equal.
[12.Nxc8 Nxf4 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Bc2]
[12.Nxc8 simplifies Nxf4 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Bb5]
12...Nxe5 2:30
[12...cxd4 13.Nxc8 *(13.cxd4 Nxe5! 14.dxe5 Bxd6)* 13...Rxc8 14.Bxd4 Bc5 15.Re1 Nhf6]
13.dxe5 6:14 **Bxd6** 5:18 **14.exd6** 10:58 **Bb7!** 7 Against Be4 **15.Re1!** 17
[15.Ne5? -1.07/21 15.Re1 0.56 Nf4]
15...Nf6 0.92/19 15:38

[15...Rc8 16.Ne5 Nf4 17.Be4 Bxe4 18.Rxe4]
[15...Bd5 16.c4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nf6 18.Rad1]
[15...g6 16.Be4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4]
[15...g6± 0.51/20]



16.Ne5↑ 11:14 Black is under strong pressure. **16...g6** 6:08
[16...Nd7 17.f4]
17.Bb5 0.47/21 12:13
[17.Bc2! b5 18.b3 Nd7 19.f4]
[17.Bc2± 0.97/20]
17...Qc8 1.09/19 6:33
[17...Ne4⩲ White has full compensation for the missing material. 18.Nd7= is just a repetition *(18.Nc6 -0.34/22 18.d7 0.52 Qxd6 19.Rxe4 Qc7)*
A) 18...Re8 19.Ba4 f3 would now be deadly. *(19.f3!? a6□ 20.fxe4 axb5 21.Ne5=)* 19...a6 20.Ne5! Rf8 21.f3 Nxd6 22.Nd7;
B) 18...a6 19.Ba4
B1) 19...b5 0.71/22 19...Re8 0.27 20.Nxf8 bxa4 1.16/19 *(20...Qxf8± 0.58/19 21.Bc2 Nxd6)* 21.Nxe6!± fxe6 22.Qg4;
B2) 19...Qg5 20.Qf3 Rfd8!
B2a) 21.Rxe4 0.01/22 21.h4 0.57 b5! 22.Nf6+ Kg7 23.Nxh7 Qf5!;
B2b) 21.h4!? Qxh4 22.Rxe4 Remove Defender, Decoy *(22.Nxb6 Rab8∓)* 22...Bxe4 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Nxe4∓;
B2c) 21.Nxb6 Rab8! is just a standard King's Indian Attack 22.Qe3 -0.38/20 *(22.d7= 0.01/22)* 22...Qxe3∓ 23.Rxe3 Nxd6 24.Nd7 Rbc8!]
[17...Ne4!⩲ 0.47/21]
18.Qa4 2:51
[18.c4 a6 19.Ba4]
18...a6 16:48 **19.Bf1** 5 Suddenly the bishop pair is gone and Black should think about equality.
[19.Bc6 Bxc6 20.Qxc6" After 20...Qxc6 21.Nxc6 Nd7]
19...b5 17 **20.Qh4⩲** 12:23 **Qd8** 6:22



21.Rad1 4:00 **Kg7** 1.14/19 8:48
[21...Nd5 22.Qh6! Strongly threatening Re4. Qxd6
A) 23.Re3 -0.18/21 23.Rd3 0.59 Qc7!? *(23...Rfe8! 24.Nxf7)*

24.Rh3! f5! 25.Nxg6 -0.01/22 *(25.b3!± 0.42/21 Rad8 26.Re1)* 25...Rf6!?;

B) 23.Rd3 Intending Rh3 and mate. 23...Qc7 24.Rh3 f5! 25.c4 *(25.Nxg6 -0.01/20 25.c4 0.78 Rf6)* 25...bxc4!= at least gives White the bishop pair in exchange for Black's dynamism. 26.Bxc4 looks a bit inconsistent, but may be White's best attempt at trying to use every wrinkle in the position.]

[21...Nd5± 0.60/20 22.Qh6 Qxd6]

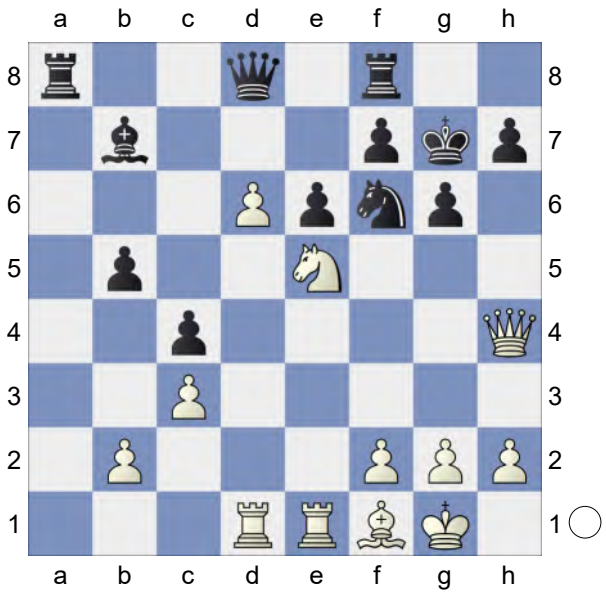
22.a4 5:12

[22.c4 bxc4⩲ 23.Qxc4]

22...c4 2:44 **23.axb5** 2

[23.Qd4 Bd5]

23...axb5 6:28



24.b3! 5:53 **cxb3** 2:14

[24...Bd5 25.bxc4]

25.Bxb5 0.13/22 2

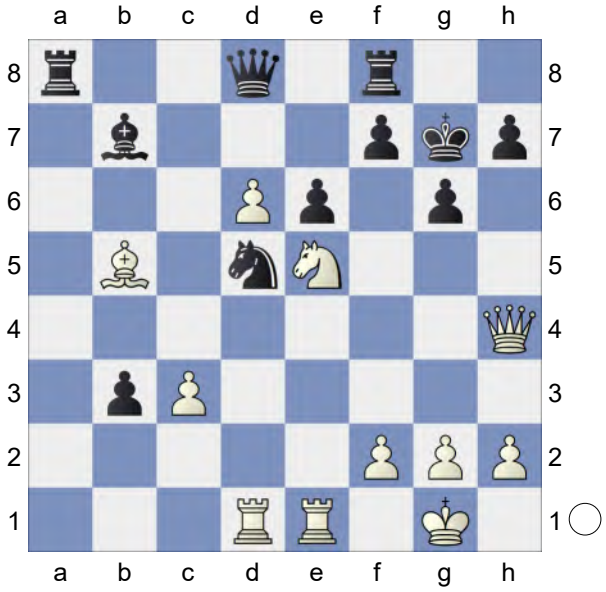
[25.Qb4 Qa5! 26.Qxb3 Bd5± Here Kramnik would have risked losing the exact same type of game which he won yesterday. 27.Qxb5 0.01/22 *(27.Qb2± 0.54/19 Qa3 28.Qxa3 Rxa3 29.Bxb5 Rxc3 30.Rc1)* 27...Qxc3]

[25.Qb4!± 0.57/22]

25...Nd5 0.76/20 4:48

[25...Qa5 26.c4 -0.01/20 *(26.Qc4!± 0.36/20)* 26...Qc3!]

[25...Qa5= 0.13/22]



26.Qd4± 6 And now Nd7+ would win.

26...Qf6? 1.98/22 19

[26...Qb6!]

[26...Qb6= 0.29/22 and Black stays safe. 27.Qxb6 Nxb6]

27.c4 0.55/20 4:54 The first hesitation.

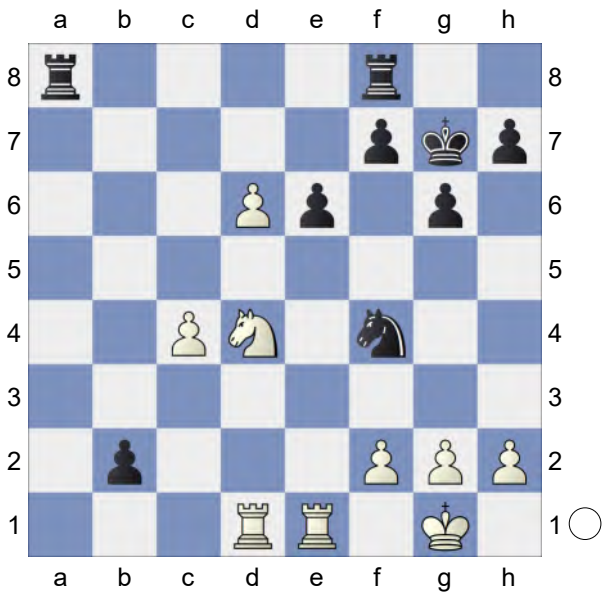
[27.Bf1]

[27.Rb1= is unpleasant for White, but playable if he jumps through a few more hoops. After the immediate 27...Ra3 there is a slight problem with 28.g3! Against Qf4]

[27.Rb1+- 1.98/22]

27...Nf4± 1:56 **28.Bc6** 4:39 **Bxc6** 56 **29.Nxc6** 8 aiming for Qxf6+. **29...Qxd4** 4 **30.Nxd4** 1:37 **b2** 1:16

(Diagram)



31.g3 5 The second hesitation, seemingly looking for another move repetition. **31...e5** 2:41 **32.Nb5** -0.01/21 20

[32.Nc2!± 0.85/21 Ne6 33.Rxe5]

32...Ne6= 2:35 But Kramnik is mentally tough enough to not take it, even though his position is far from being better.

33.Rb1 4:20

[33.Rxe5 Ra1 34.Ree1 Rfa8]

33...Rfc8 0.39/21 1:13

[33...Nc5!

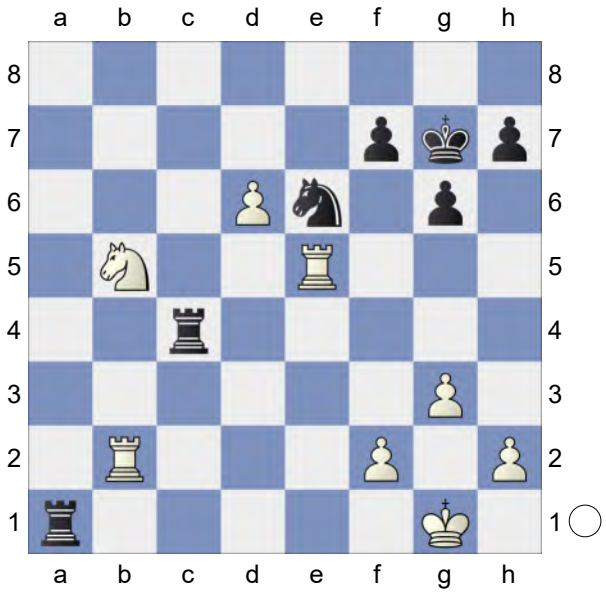
A) 34.Red1 prevents White's strong next move because Na4;

B) 34.Rxe5 -0.63/19 34.Kg2 -0.01 Ra1 35.Ree1" gives Black too much play. Rfa8 Threatens to win with ...Rxb1.should have been almost an impulse for a Catalan player like Vladimir Kramnik! 36.Kg2= was marginally more accurate. Nd3?! 37.Red1 Rxb1!= clings to equality tactically, but this is hard to calculate. 38.Rxb1?! Kf6!? -0.61/22 *(38...Kf8∓ -1.11/22 39.Kf3 Re8)*;

C) 34.Kg2 Nd3 35.Re3± would have left Black in a lot of trouble. Ra1 36.Nc3 Rxb1 37.Nxb1 e4 38.Rxe4 Kf6± is also good for White, but a bit less convincing.]

[33...Nc5!= 0.01/23]

34.Rxb2± 1:48 **Rxc4=** 1:00 Just like that, the advantage is gone. **35.Rxe5?** 48 Imaginative, but not correct. **35...Ra1+** 16



36.Kg2 2 **Rd1** 1:58 Inhibits Rd2. The point is that between this move and ...♖e7, Black is able to both discourage ♘b5 ideas and hold off the White king.

37.h4 20 **h5** 23 **38.Ree2** 4:52 **Rc5** 1:11

39.Rec2 0.00/24 36

[39.Re3± 0.47/20]

39...Re5 0.51/21 2:36

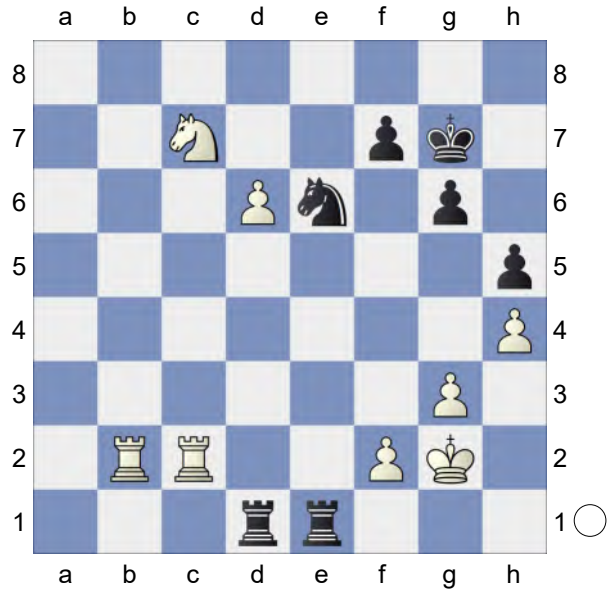
[39...Rxc2 40.Rxc2 Nd4! 41.Nxd4 Rxd4 might have occupied a fair bit of White's time, and while the position isn't technically winning as such, Black certainly faces more challenges after 42.Rc6± because he will be unable to hold the d-pawn. Kf6]

[39...Rxc2= 0.00/24 40.Rxc2 Nd4]

40.Nc7± 0 **Ree1** 1.20/20 2:18

[40...Rxd6↑ 9.45/24 40...Kh6 0.71 41.Ne8+]

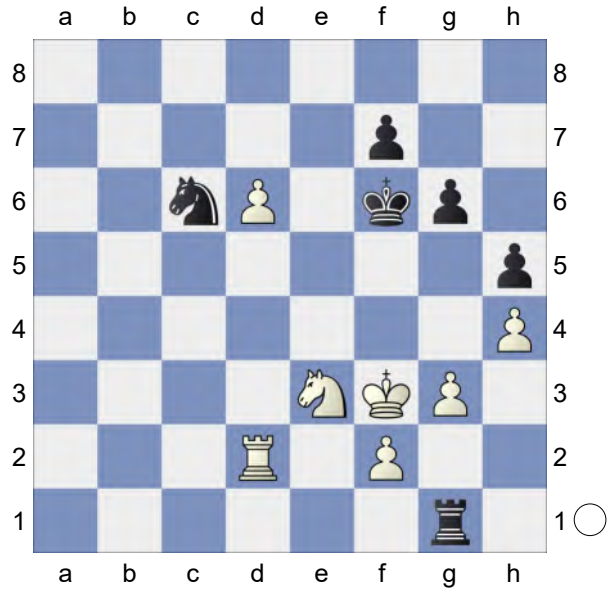
[Better is 40...Kh6!± 0.62/24]



41.Rd2!± 12:53 **Nd8** 8:35 **42.Nd5** 4:45 **Nc6** 9:40 Asking for a move from White. **43.Ne3** 8:55

[43.Nc3]

43...Rg1+ 1:37 **44.Kf3** 14 **Rxd2** 32 **45.Rxd2** 6:33 Endgame. KRN-KRN **45...Kf6** 1:18



46.Nd5+ 2:01

[46.Nc4 0.91/24 46.Kf4 1.66

A) 46...Ke6 1.50/22 46...Rb1 1.00 47.d7 Hoping for Rd6+.

A1) It was a good time for 47...Ke7 48.Kf4 Nd8 2.69/24 *(⌓48...f6 1.65/23 49.Nb6 Nd8 50.Nd5+ Ke6)* 49.Kg5+- Ne6+ 50.Kh6;

A2) 47...Nd8 48.Kf4-+;

B) 46...Rb1-+ 47.d7 Ke7]

[46.d7 Nd8 47.Nc4 Rc1 48.Nd6 Ke6= 49.Nc8 Rc5]

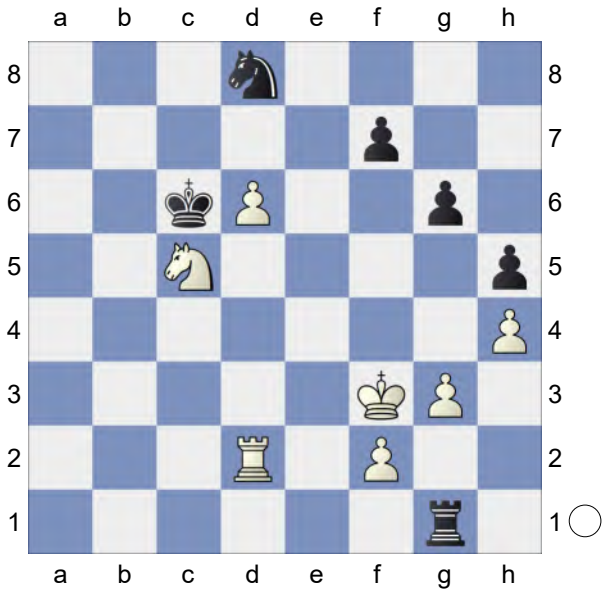
46...Ke6-+ 1:10 The front c-pawn being dead, the game is now over. A curious feature of this tournament, first in variations and now in an actual game, seems to be nearly-trapped White knights on a5. **47.Nf4+** 1.21/22 14

[47.Nc7++- 1.67/22 Kd7 48.Kf4]

47...Kd7± 1:54 **48.Nd3** 1:35 Repels Ne5+ **48...Nd8** 8

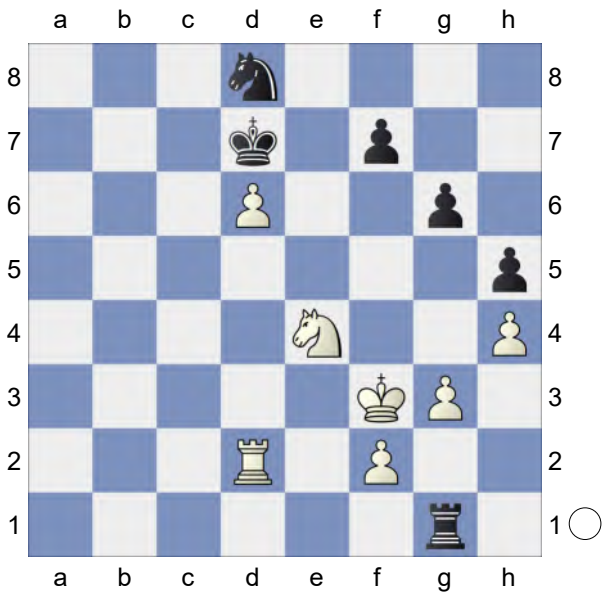
[48...Kxd6 1.71/22 48...Nd8 1.06 49.Nb4+ Kc5 50.Rc2+ Kxb4 51.Rxc6]

49.Nc5+! 33 **Kc6** 22

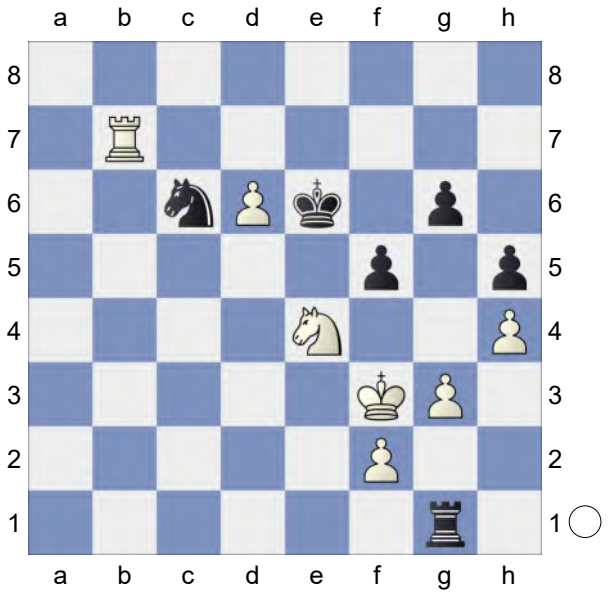


50.Ne4 6:46 **Kd7** 2:28

(Diagram)

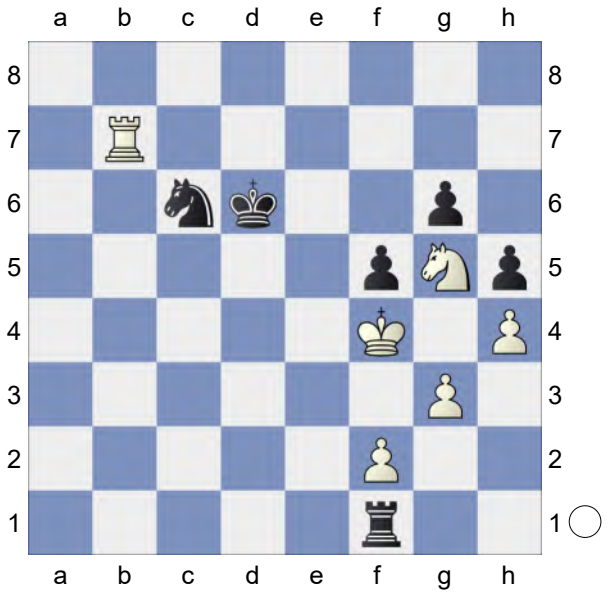


51.Nc5+? -0.01/20 11
[51.Nf6+ 0.61/20 51.Ra2 1.84 Ke6 52.Nh7]
[51.Ra2+- 1.63/23]
51...Kc6= 6 **52.Ne4** 0.01/18 11
[52.Nb3± 0.85/20]
52...Kd7! 56 **53.Ra2** 1:52 **Nc6** 29 Against Ra7+ **54.Rb2** 1.27/22 6
[54.Kf4+- 1.97/22]
54...f5± 17 **55.Rb7+** 3 **Ke6** 11

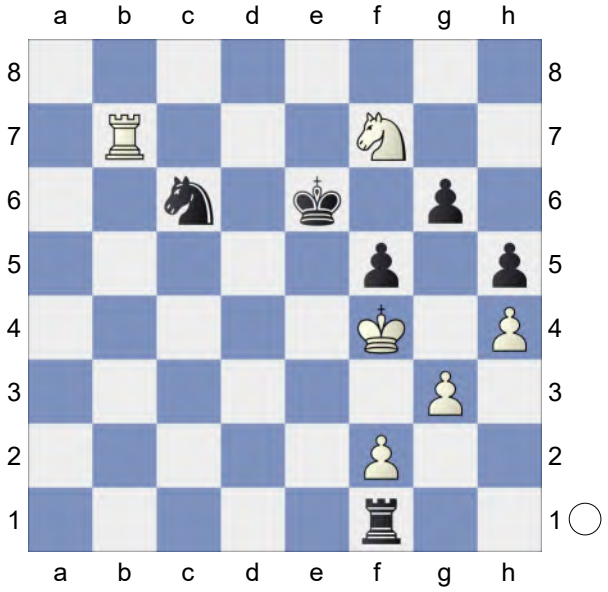


56.Ng5+ Kxd6 57.Kf4 Rf1 58.Nf7+ Ke6! 59.Ng5+ -0.01/23
[59.Kf3± 0.42/24]

59...Kd6=

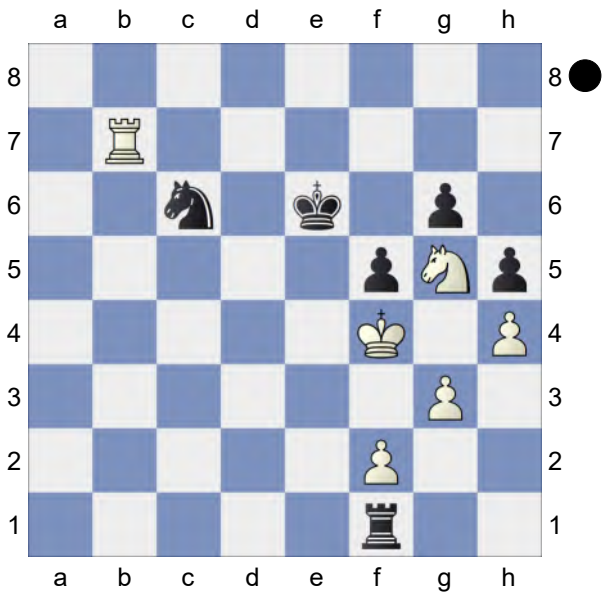


60.Nf7+ -0.01/19 was marginally faster.
[60.Rb2!]
[60.Rb2± 0.76/26]
60...Ke6!



61.Ng5+ -0.01/32
[61.f3± 0.52/22]

(Diagram)



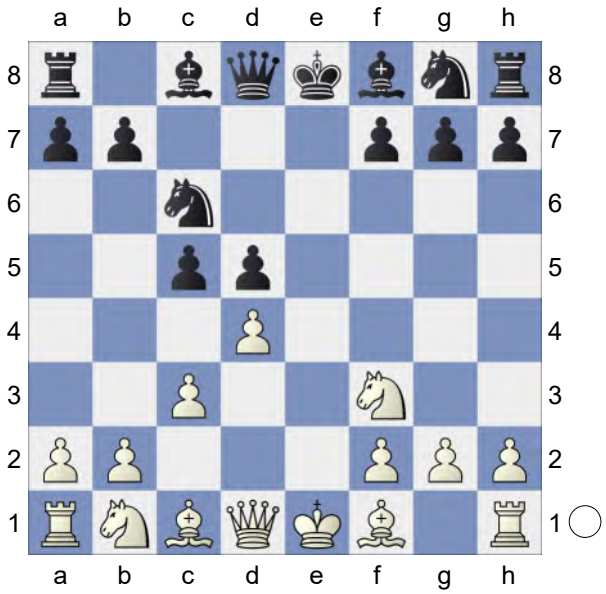
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise) .
Loss on time!?
0-1

120 **C09**
□ **Adhiban,Baskaran** **2654**
■ **Gschnitzer,Oswald** **2361**
Gibraltar Masters 18th (2) 22.01.2020
[Adhiban,Baskaran]

C09: French Tarrasch: 3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 Nc6

Before the start of the game, I met Stuart who exclaimed,"The beast is back!" and I wanted it to make it a reality.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 d5 5.exd5 exd5



6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nbd2 0-0N

[9...a6

A) 10.Be2 0-0 11.Nb3 Bb6;

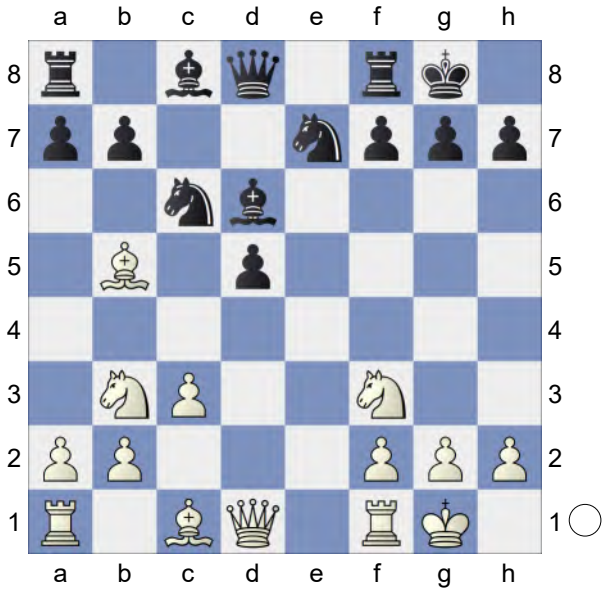
B) 10.Bd3 Ba7 *(10...Bg4 11.Nb3 Bd6 12.Re1 Qc7 13.h3 Bh5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Nbd4 Ne5 16.Be2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Kb8 18.b3 Nb6 19.Be3 Rhe8 20.Rc1 Bf4 21.Bxf4 Qxf4 22.a4 Nbc8 23.b4 Nd6 24.b5 a5 25.Qb3* 1-0 (65) Emms,J-Rossiter,P (Game 33) London 1999*)* 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Be3 Bb8 14.Nbd4 0-0 15.Be2 Re8 16.Qa4 Bh5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.g3 Ba7 19.Kg2 Bg6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Bxa7 Rxa7 22.Bd3 Rb8 23.Bxg6 Nxg6 24.Re2 Qd7 ½-½ (43) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Berkes,F (2596) 4NCL 2005-6 Birmingham ENG (1);

C) 10.Nb3 Bxf2+ 11.Rxf2 axb5 12.Qd3]

[9...Bg4 10.Qa4 Bh5 11.Qh4 Bg6 12.Nb3 Bb6 13.Nfd4 0-0 14.Be3 a6 15.Be2 Ne5 16.Rad1 B 22/11 2000]

10.Nb3 Bd6

[10...Bb6 11.Re1 Bg4 *(11...Ng6)* 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Rxe3 Nf5 14.Re1 Nh4 15.Be2 Re8 16.Nxh4 Bxe2 17.Rxe2 Qxh4 18.Rd2]



11.Bg5

[11.Bd3]

11...Qc7 12.Re1 h6 He said this was his prep...

[12...Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Be2 *(14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Be2)*]

13.Bh4

[13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Nbd4 *(14.h3 a6 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.Nfd4 g6 17.Qf3 Kg7)* 14...a6 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.h3]

[13.Be3 Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Bc5 Rae8]

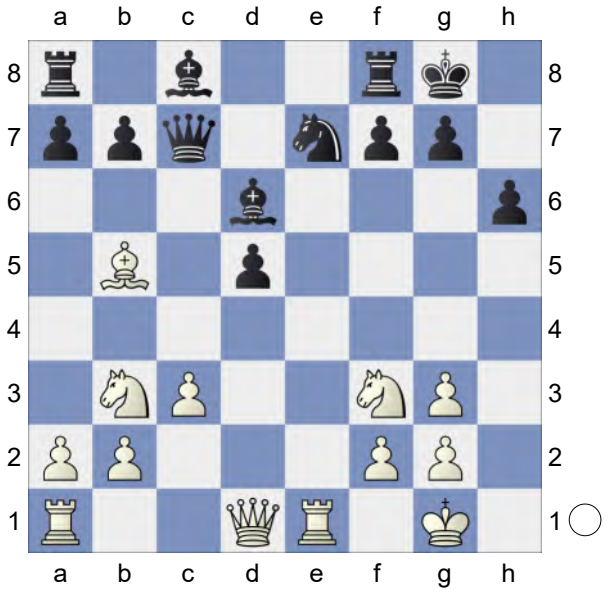
13...Nf5

[13...Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Be2 a6 17.Nh4]

14.Bg3 Nxg3 The position is equal.

15.hxg3 This looked solid while keeping the pressure. **15...Ne7**

[15...Bg4 16.Qxd5]



16.Nfd4 g6

[16...a6 17.Bd3 *(17.Be2 Bd7 18.Bf3 Rad8)* 17...g6 *(17...Bd7 18.Qh5)*]

17.Qd2 Kg7 18.c4 dxc4

[18...a6

A) 19.Qc3 White threatens Ne6+ and mate. Kh7 *(19...Kg8 20.c5 Be5* White must now prevent ... Bxd4! *21.Be2)* 20.c5 Be5;

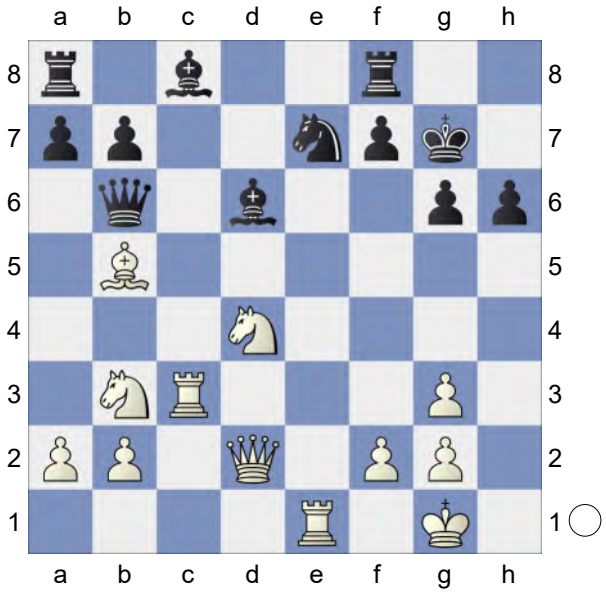
B) 19.c5 Be5!]

19.Rac1!? Permanently destroying Black's kingside pawn structure.

[19.Qc3!? Kh7 20.Qxc4= *(20.Bxc4 Bd7=)*]

19...c3 0.62/20 **20.Rxc3!±** At first I wasn't so sure about my threats, but delving deeper I realized that Black's position was quite difficult and I have some hidden threats one of which I managed to execute in the game.

20...Qb6



21.Rd3! White has more active pieces.

21...a6 Repels a4

[21...Bf5!? followed by Nh2-g4 etc.

A) 22.Rxe7 Bxe7 23.Nxf5+ gxf5

A1) 24.Nd4!? Qc5 25.b4+- *(25.Qf4 Bg5±)*;

A2) 24.Nd4 Bg5;

B) 22.Nxf5+!? looked more accurate. 22...Nxf5! with advantage. 23.a4! *(23.g4* -0.59/23 23.a4 0.30l felt Black was in time to defend his kingside. He had previously played *23...Qxb5 24.gxf5* White is doing quite well here. *Bb4* is possibly Black's best bet. *)*

B1) 23...a6 1.12/19 23...Rad8 0.41 Black should eventually equalize here. Comp is indignant that I didn't go for the greedy 24.g4! Somehow the idea of tripled pawns didn't look so inspiring, but maybe it was the right way. axb5 25.gxf5

with a big advantage to white. bxa4!? 7.48/25 *(25...Rad8± 1.15/21)* 26.f6+;

B2) 23...Rad8 24.g4 also didn't feel so threatening for Black. Ne7 25.Rd1 Nc8;

B3) 23...h5]

22.Nc2! This was the missing link!! And exactly the extra firepower I needed to break through Black's position. **22...Bb8** 1.69/25

[22...Qxb5 2.20/23 22...Rd8 0.88 23.Rxd6! An excellent shot.]

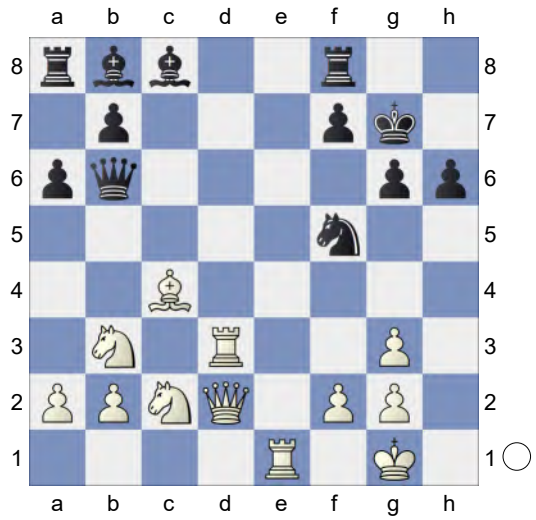
[22...Nf5 23.g4!]

[22...Rd8 23.Bc4! Qc7 24.Qc3+ winning. Black has to settle for 24...f6! after which it is still hard for White to breakthrough. 25.Nbd4]

[Better is 22...Nf5± 0.63/23]

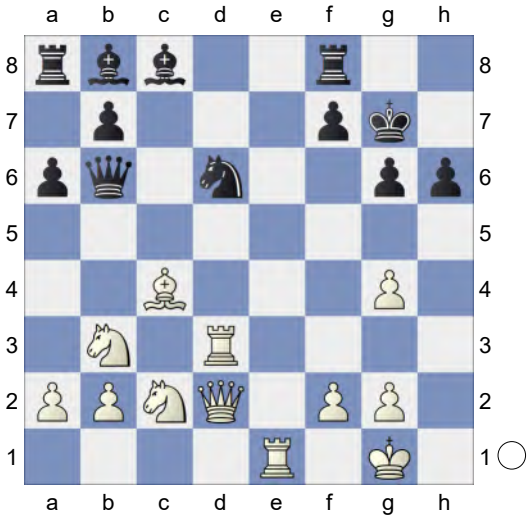
23.Rxe7 Hoping for g4.I decided that this was the cleanest.

[23.Bc4 0.76/20 23.Rxe7 1.69 Nf5 1.81/20 wins. *(23...Nc6± 0.76/20)*



After 24.g4 1.13/21 *(24.Nb4!+- 1.81/20)* the simple 24...Nd6? 3.14/19 would keep the advantage. *(24...Qc7± 1.13/21* might work better. *)*

(Diagram)



25.Qc3+? -0.06/21 *(25.Rh3!+- 3.14/19 g5 26.Qc3+ f6 27.Re7+ Nf7 28.Ne3)*]

[23.Bd7]

23...axb5 **24.Ne3!** Nd5 is the strong threat. A nice tactic, breaking up Black's defences. **24...Rxa2?** 7.90/22 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[24...b4 25.Nd5 going for the queen! Qb5? 5.54/22 *(25...Qd6 1.69/21 26.Re4 Bf5)* 26.Qe3 with a similar fate.]

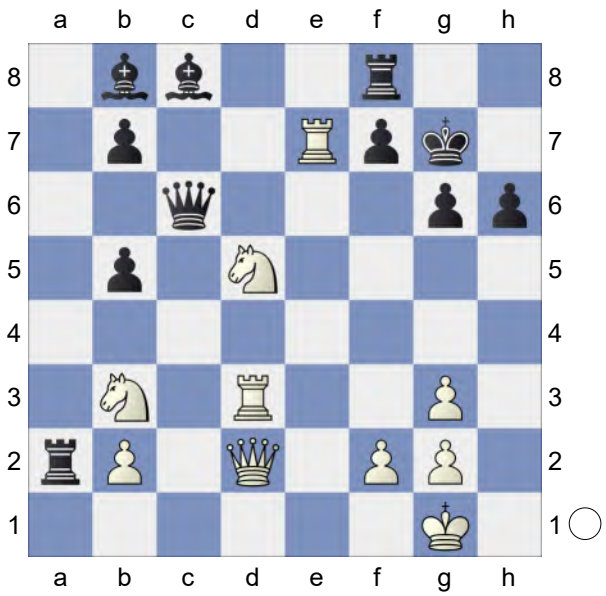
[24...Ba7? 7.79/24 24...b4 1.54 25.Rd6]

[24...Kh7± 1.58/22 25.Nd5 Qd6]

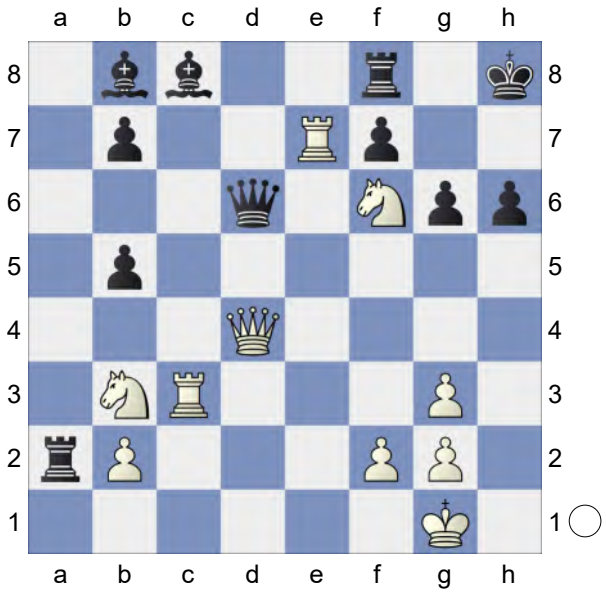
25.Nd5+- White is clearly winning.

25...Qc6

(Diagram)

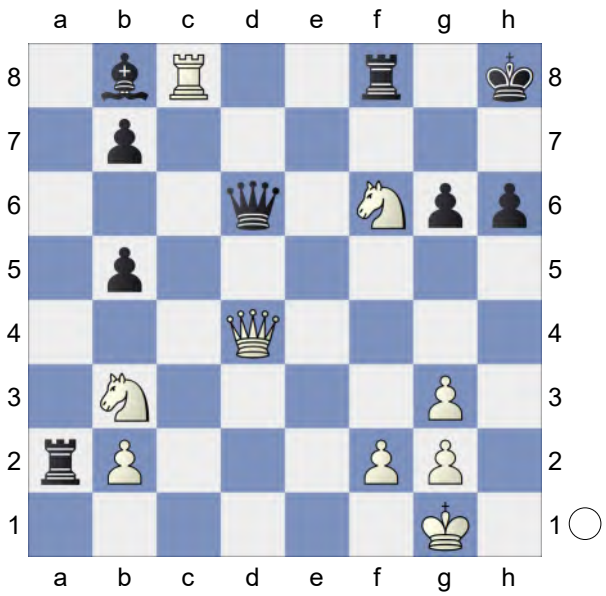


26.Rc3 Qd4+ would kill now. **26...Qd6**
27.Qd4+ Kh7
[27...Kg8! was a funny idea for Black.
28.Nf6+ was the winning way.]
28.Nf6+ Excellent horsemanship.
28...Kh8

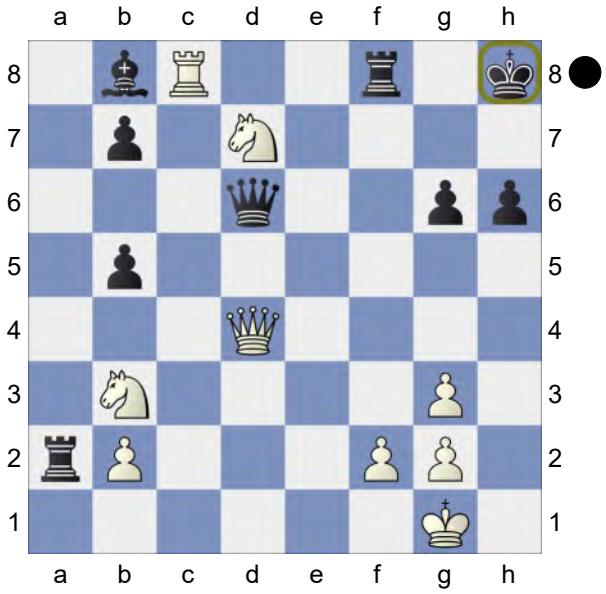


29.Rxf7!! D e f l e c t i o n **29...Rxf7**
30.Rxc8+ Rf8

(Diagram)



31.Nd7+

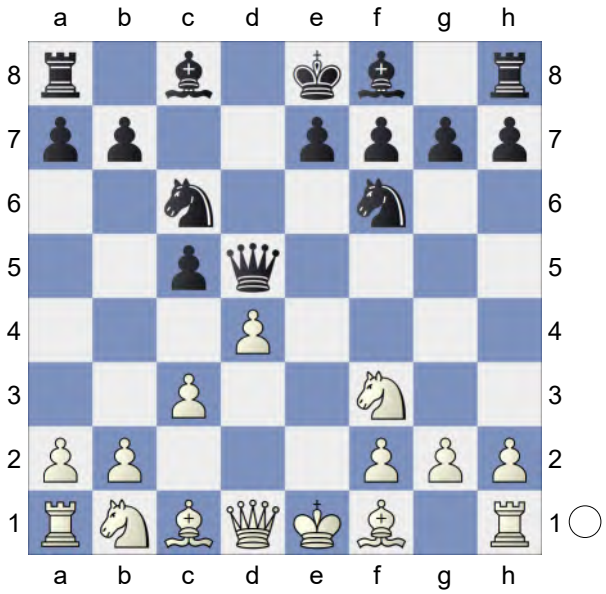


Pin, Discovered Attack (Check), Double Attack.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise) followed by Ng5 next.
1-0

121 **B22**
□ **Abasov,Nijat Azad** **2652**
■ **Asadli,Vugar Afgan Oglu** **2578**
EU-Cup 36th Struga (4.3) 21.09.2021
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Neil McDonald: 'According to Nimzowitsch, a strong point (which is basically a square in your possession which is of key strategic value) should be overprotected. That is to say, it should be protected in excess of any possible threat against it. Nimzowitsch explains that the relationship is mutually beneficial: the strong point gains the greatest possible security from being overprotected, while it radiates a constant source of energy from which the overprotecting pieces can draw new strength. Overprotection is also associated with prophylaxis, the restraint of the opponent's ideas, as by making key points invincible it frustrates any plan of attack he might devise. --- We don't hear much about overprotection these days. The word centralization often has the same function. Consider the following position which is reached after the moves:' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 Nc6**

(Diagram)



6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.Qb3N

[The most forcing and popular 10.Nb5 was covered by Jonathan Rowson in his notes to S.Zhigalko - A.Moiseenko, ECC 2005 (1/2-1/2 in 49). Qd8 11.Bf4 Nd5 12.Bg3 0-0 13.Bc4 a6 14.Bxd5

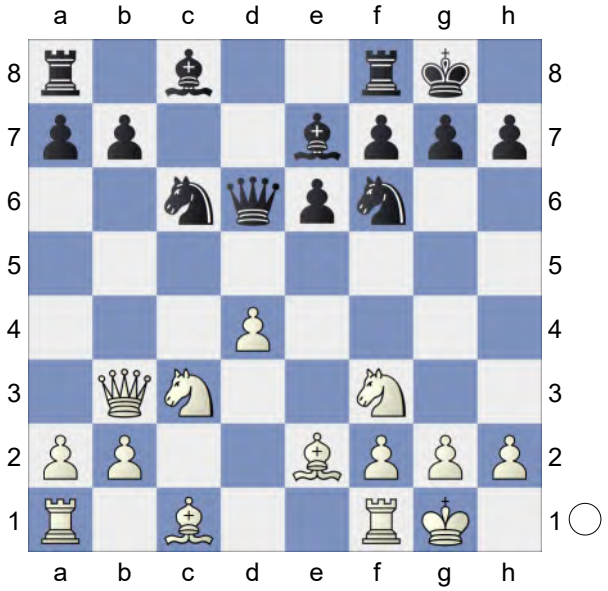
A) 14...axb5 15.Be4 f5 *(15...Nb4 16.Qb3 f5 17.Bb1 Bd7 18.Be5 Nd5 19.Bd3 Qb6 20.h3 Ra4 21.Rfe1 Rfa8 22.a3 b4 23.Bc4 Bf8 24.Bg3 R4a5 25.Rac1 Ba4 26.Qd3 bxa3 27.bxa3 Bb5 28.Rb1 Bxc4 29.Qxc4 Qa6 30.Qxa6* ½-½ (43) Miller (1493)-Krizsany,L (1499) 48/642 Belgrad 1989 *)* 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Qc1 Qb6 18.Be5 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.b4 Bxb4 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Qb2+ Kg8 23.Qxb4 Bb7 24.a4 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Qb7 26.Qb3 Qg7+ 27.Kh1 bxa4 28.Rxa4 Rxa4 29.Qxa4 ½-½ Miller (2232)-Yu,Q (2464) USSR All-Union 1990;

B) 14...exd5 15.Nc7 Ra7 16.Qb3 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Qb6 f6 19.Rac1 Rf7 20.Ne8 Qd7 21.Rfe1

a5 22.Nc7 h6 23.Ne6 a4 24.h3 Ra6 25.Qc5 1-0 (40) Lim,H (2625)-Levano Loayza,A (2630) (ol) 138/102 2018 (12)]

[10.Be3]

10...0-0



11.Rd1 Rd8 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.Nc3 Qd6 Black looks very comfortable here.

14.a3 b6

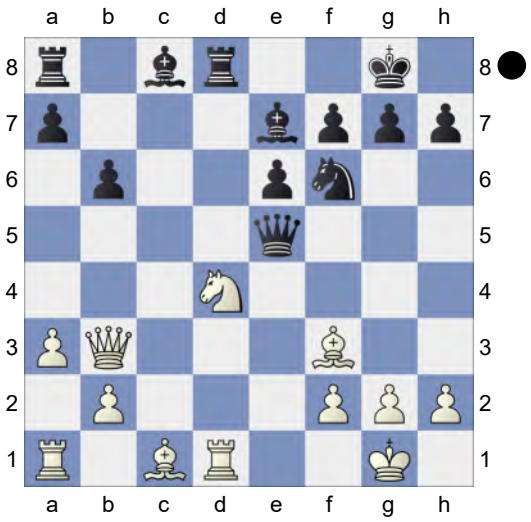
[14...a6 is a good option, removing Nb5 from the position.]

15.Nb5 Qd7

[15...Na5!= 0.19/20 15...Qb8 -0.25 is more precise.]

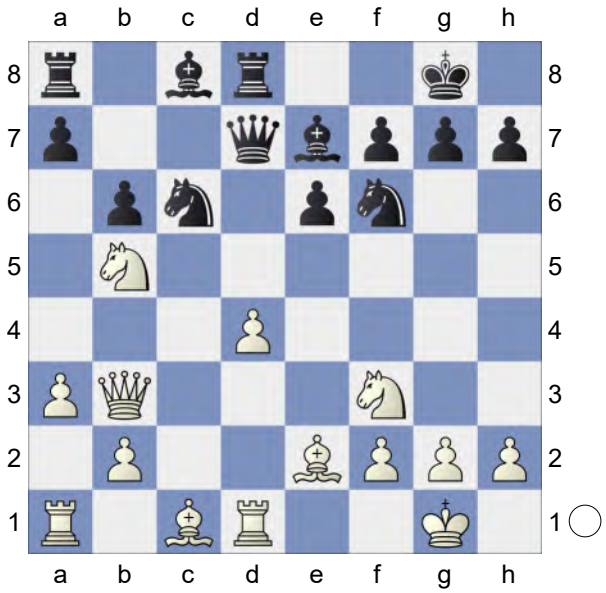
[15...Qb8 is also well met by 16.Ne5! , for example Nxd4! 17.Nxd4 Qxe5 18.Bf3

(Diagram)



Rxd4 -0.44/22 *(18...Ng4!=* -0.05/24 *19.g3 Qh5)* 19.Bxa8± and Black needs to prove sufficient compensation.]

[15...Qb8 looks sharper. 16.Ne5 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxe5 18.Bf3 Rxd4 19.Bxa8 Rxd1+ 20.Qxd1 Ng4]



16.Ne5!? The only move to put Black under any pressure. **16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Nd5 18.Bf3**

[18.Nd4 looks more promising, keeping the third rank free for Qg3 with some kingside pressure. Objectively it's nothing of course, but

in a practical game I'd take White.]

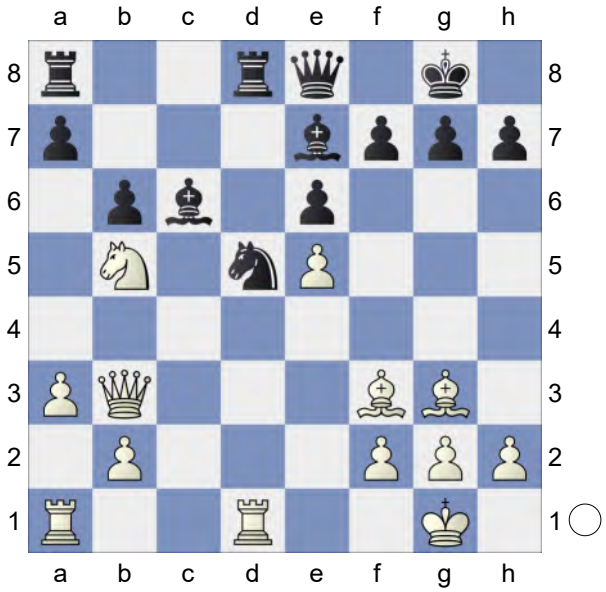
18...Bb7 19.Bf4 Qe8

[19...Bc6 20.Nc3 Qb7= is very solid.]

20.Bg3

[20.Nc7 Nxc7 21.Bxb7 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rd8 23.Rd3± (planning to take the d-file with Qd1) is marginally more pleasant for White.]

20...Bc6



21.a4 Qd7

[21...Bxb5 22.axb5 Qd7 23.h4 leaves Black with some small problems to solve.]

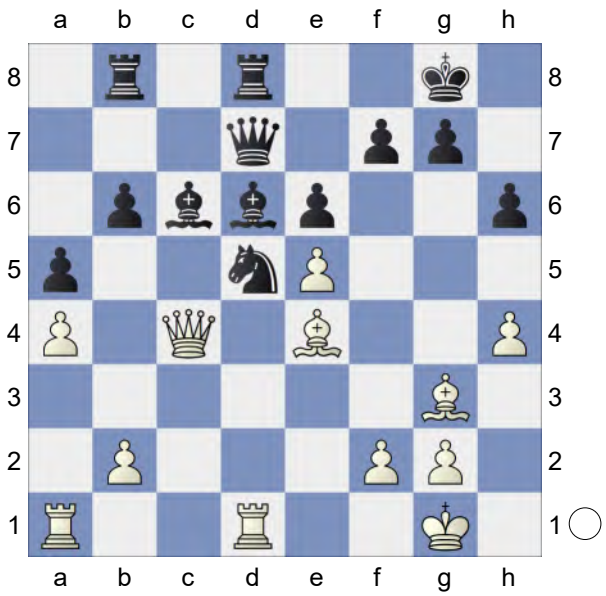
22.Nd6± By installing his knight on d6, White finally obtains a definite edge.

22...a5 23.h4 White has more active pieces. **23...Rab8 24.Be4**

[24.Rd4! with options of bring the rook to g4 or (after Rc1) to c4, was more dangerous.]

24...h6 25.Qc4 Bxd6!

(Diagram)



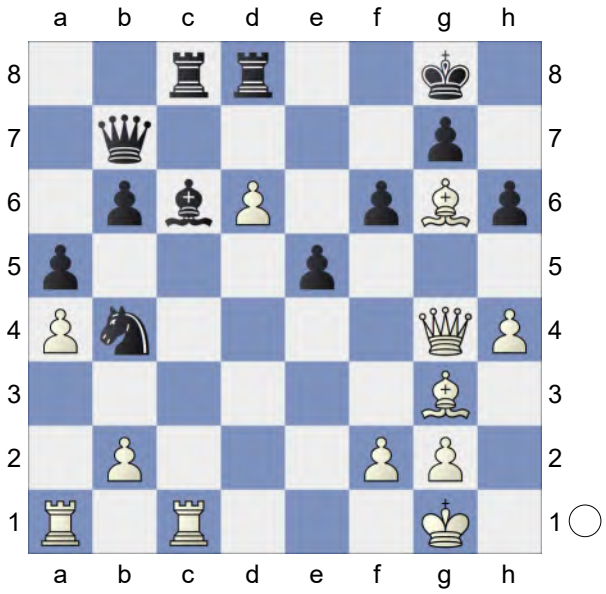
A very responsible decision, and well timed. **26.exd6 Rbc8 27.Qd4 Nb4 28.Rdc1 f6?!**

[28...Bxe4 0.47/21 28...f6 -0.01 29.Qxe4 Na6± holds. Prevents Rc7.]

29.Bg6! Qb7 0.47/20

[29...Rb8= -0.07/21]

30.Qg4 e5

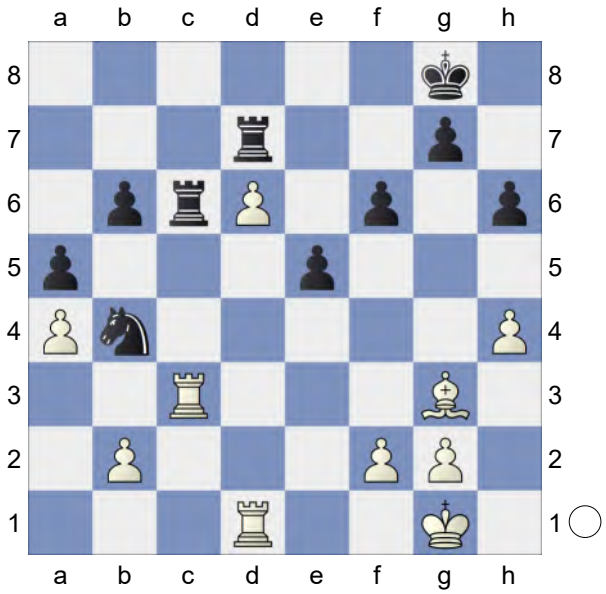


31.Bf5? 0.01/21 Trading light squared bishops is in Black's favour.

[31.f4!± 0.96/21 31.Rd1 0.60 increases the pressure.]

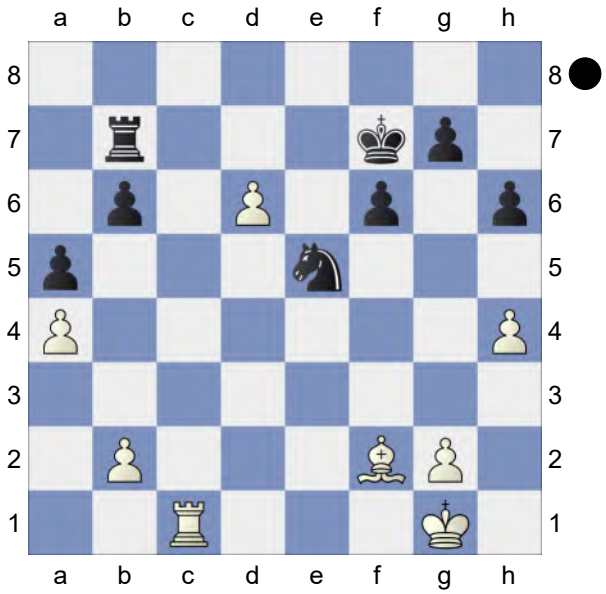
[Better is 31.Rd1± 0.74/23]

31...Bd7= 32.Rc3 -0.73/22
[32.f4= 0.12/21 Bxf5 33.Qxf5 exf4 34.Rxc8 *(34.Qxf4 Nd3=; 34.Bxf4 Rxc1+ 35.Rxc1 Qd5±)* 34...Qxc8 35.Qxc8 Rxc8 36.Bxf4]
32...Rc6 0.29/22
[32...Rxc3∓ -0.73/22 33.bxc3 Bxf5 34.Qxf5 Na6]
33.Rd1!
[33.Rxc6 Qxc6 34.Bxd7 Qxd7 35.Qc4+ Kh8∓]
33...Bxf5 34.Qxf5 Qd7G Black puts up resistance **35.Qxd7 Rxd7**

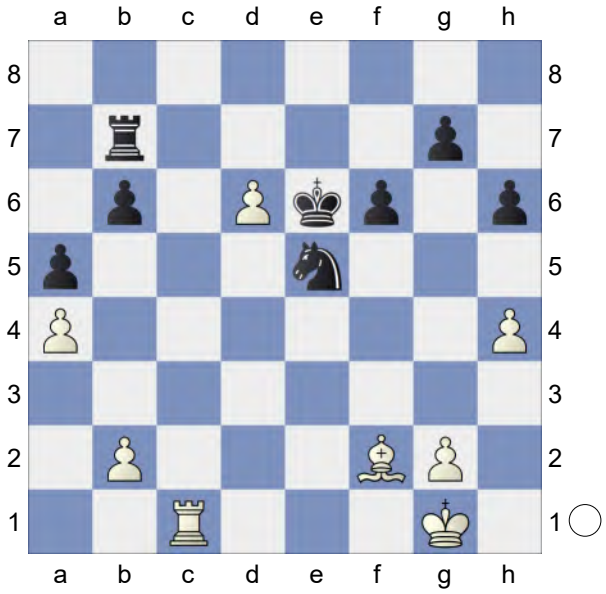


36.Rxc6 Nxc6 Endgame. KRB-KRN
37.f4 Kf7 38.fxe5 Nxe5
[38...fxe5 is also fine.]
39.Bf2 Rb7 40.Rc1

(Diagram)

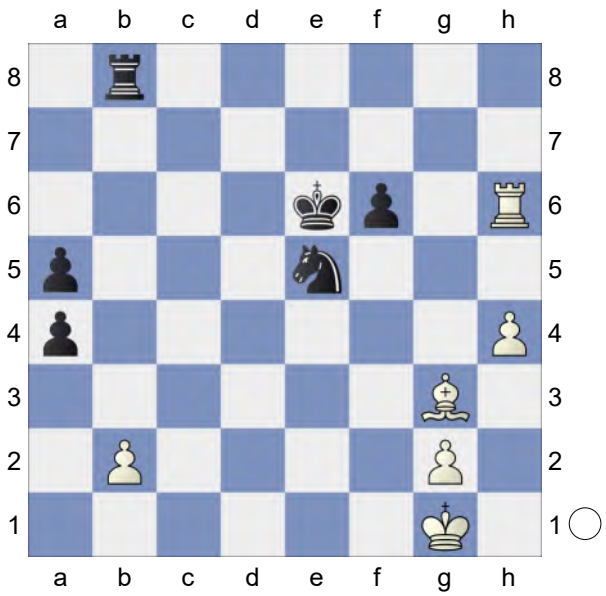


Strongly threatening Rc7+. **40...Ke6**

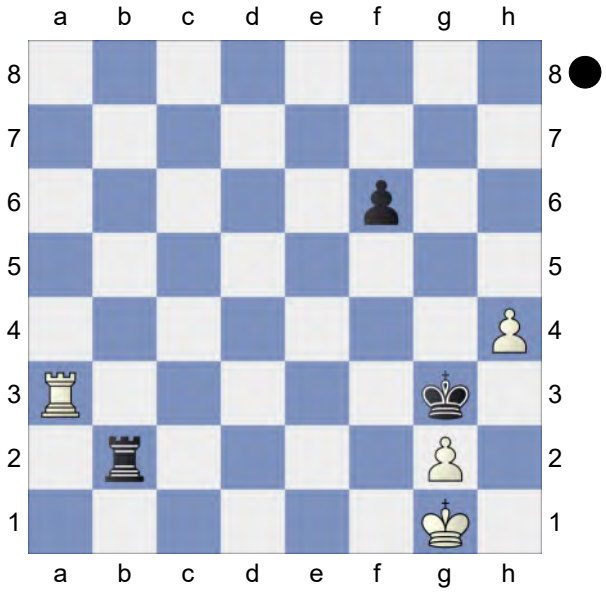


41.Rc7 Rb8 The only move, but sufficient. **42.Rxg7 Kxd6 43.Rh7 Ke6** The position is equal. **44.Bg3**
[44.Rxh6 -0.23/24 44.b3 0.18 b5= 0.70/21 liquidates. *(Black should play 44...Rc8=* -0.23/24 *45.Rh7 Ng4)*]
44...b5 45.Rxh6 Black should prevent Bxe5. **45...bxa4**

(Diagram)



46.Bxe5 Kxe5 47.Rh5+ Kf4
Threatens to win with ...f5. **48.Rxa5 Kg3 49.Rxa4 Rxb2 50.Ra3+**

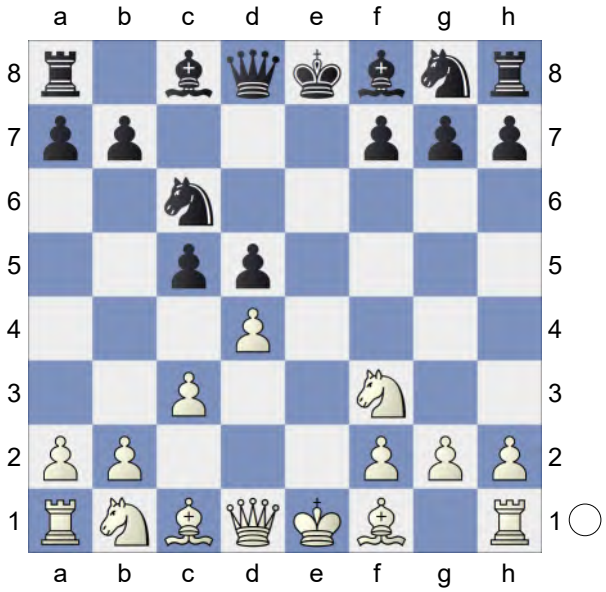


Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

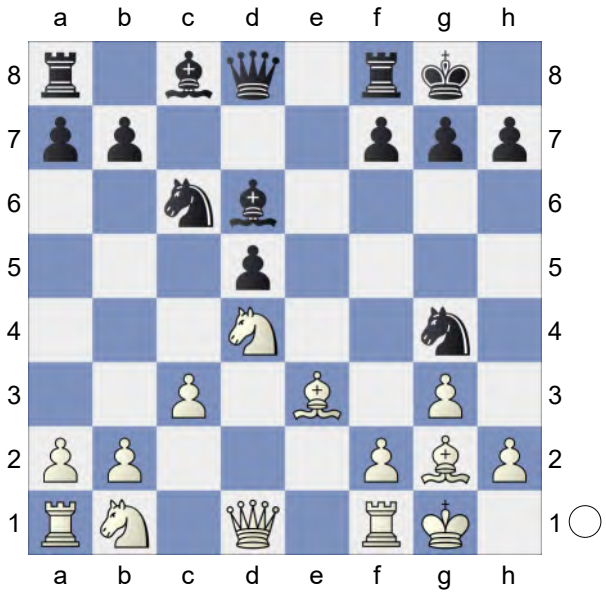
122 **B22**
□ **Beliavsky,Alexander G** **2650**
■ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2710**
Linares 12th 1994
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6

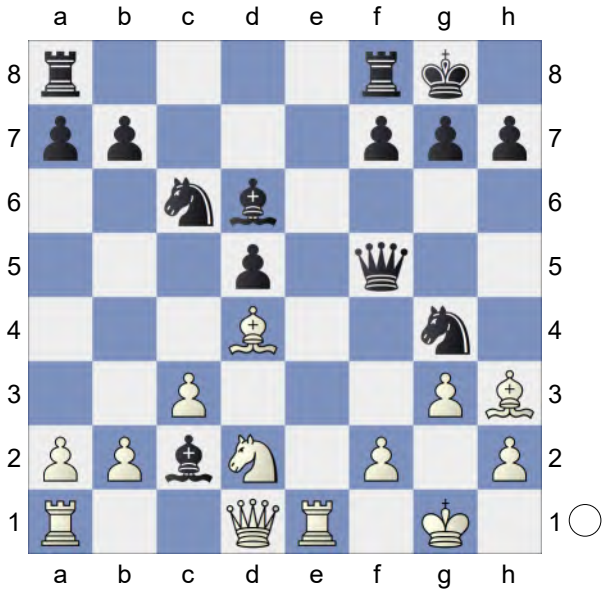


6.Be3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bd6 8.g3 Nf6 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Ng4

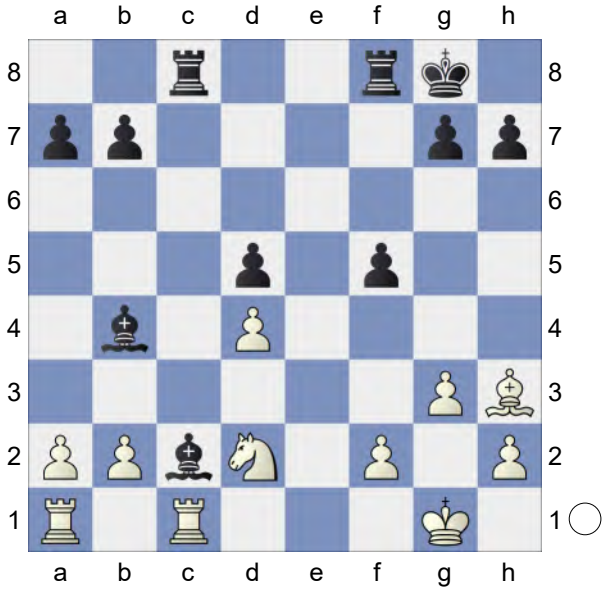


11.Nc2 Bf5 12.Nd2 Qd7 13.Bd4 Bd3 14.Re1 Qf5 15.Bh3 Bxc2

[15...Nxd4!? 16.Bxg4 Bxc2 17.Bxf5 Bxd1 18.cxd4 Ba4∓]

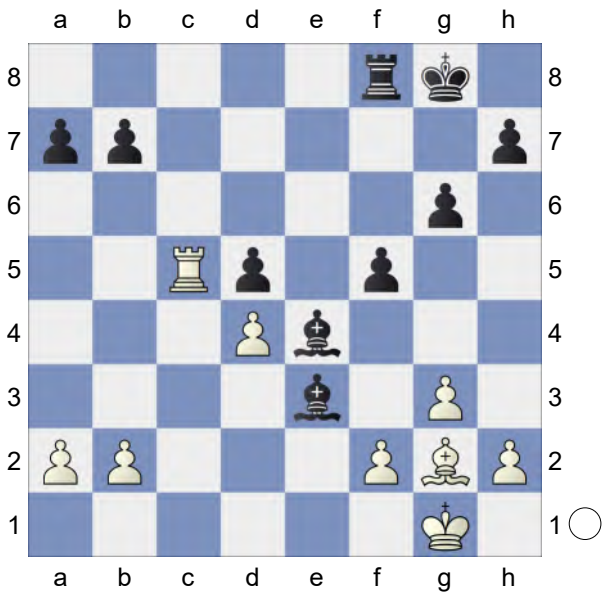


16.Qxg4 Qxg4 17.Bxg4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 f5 19.Bh3 Bb4 20.Rec1 Rac8

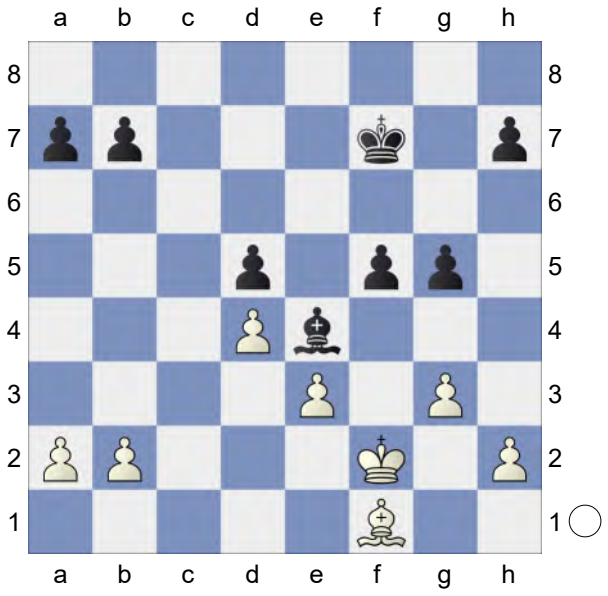


21.Nf1 g6 22.Ne3N Be4 23.Bg2 Rxc1+ 24.Rxc1 Bd2 25.Rc5 Bxe3

(Diagram)

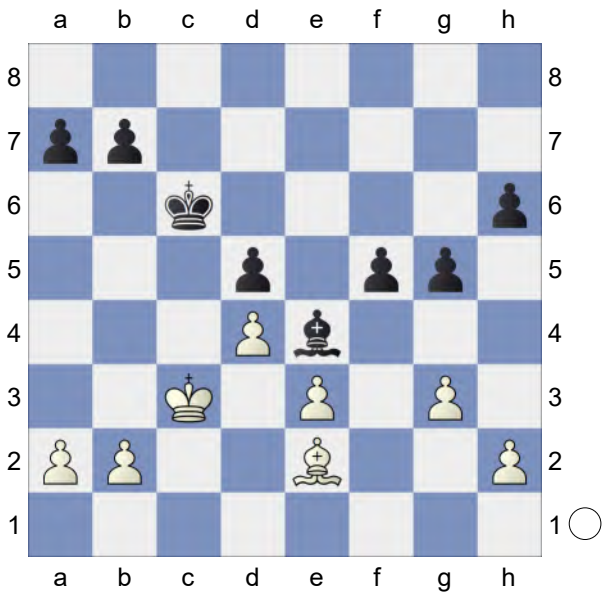


26.fxe3= Endgame. KRB-KRB **26...Kg7 27.Kf2** 0.01/23
[27.b4± 0.38/20]
27...Kf6 28.Rc7 Rf7 The position is equal. **29.Rxf7+ Kxf7** KB-KB **30.Bf1 g5**



31.Be2 h6 32.Ke1 Ke7 33.Kd2 Kd6 34.Kc3 Kc6

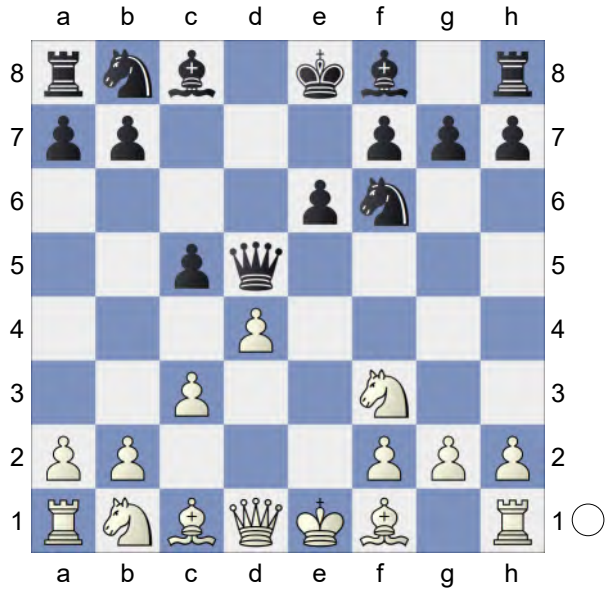
(Diagram)



An interesting draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless) .
Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
0-1

123 **B22**
□ **Mamedov,Rauf** **2650**
■ **Sadzikowski,Daniel** **2492**
EU-ch 16th Jerusalem (5) 01.03.2015
[Dave Smerdon]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6



6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 I've chosen this game because Black's system is becoming increasingly popular at club level. The idea is simple: Black wants to maintain the tension on d4 as long as possible to deny the white knight access to c3. This is an interesting modern philosophy, as the isolated pawn has always been considered the 'disadvantage' of the 2.c3 Sicilian. These days, however, Black has realised that constricting White's free-flowing development is more important. Like pretty much all lines of 2.c3 (or all Anti-Sicilians, or all openings in general, if you want to take it that far!), Black should be fine with best play. But Mamedov's approach with white is simple, no-nonsense and makes life a little uncomfortable for Black, even in the endgame. **8.Qe2**

[8.Be3 Rd8! is the strategy that I'm talking about. 9.Qe2 Nc6 and now after 10.Rd1 Giri took on d4, happy that White's rook is now not on its optimal square (usually, the rooks prefer d1 and e1 in these lines). cxd4 11.Nxd4?! e5 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Nd2 Bg4 14.f3∓ 1/2-1/2 (36) Rabiega, R (2507)-Giri, A (2749) Germany 2014]

8...Nc6

[8...Rd8! is better. 9.Rd1 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Nc3 Qh5= 1/2-1/2 (24) Rozentalis, E (2615)-Papp, G (2559) Oslo 2014]

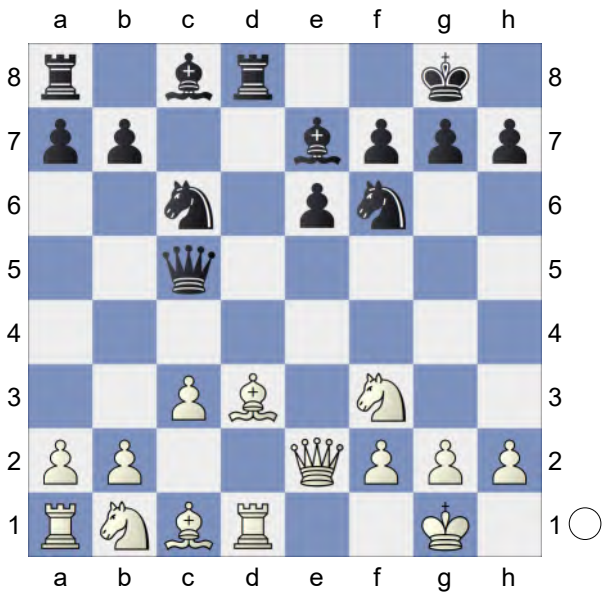
[8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Be3 Nb4 11.Nc3 Qh5 12.Bc4 b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.a3 Nbd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Be5 Qf5 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Rac1 Nf4 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.Rc3 Rfd8 21.Qe3 Qf5 22.Qe5 Qxe5 23.Nxe5 0-1 (38) Smerdon,D (2531)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2813) Baku ol (Men) 42nd 2016 (10.1)]

9.dxc5! Rd8N

[9...Qxc5 10.Bg5 *(10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.Ne4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Bf6 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Rad1 Bd7 15.b4 Rac8 16.b5 Na5 17.Bxa7 Rxc3 18.Bb6 Ra8 19.Nd2* Chapter-Games Chapter 12 Game 1 *)* 10...h6 11.Bh4 Bd7 12.Nbd2 Rad8 13.Rad1 Rfe8 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Nd6 Nd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd6 18.Nb5 Qb6 19.Nd6 Re7 20.Ne4 Be5 21.Nd2 Qc7 22.Nf3 Bf6 23.Qe4 g6 24.Qe3 0-1 (60) 7. ♗b3 b5 8.a4 b4 60577-Seul,G W-ch M442 corr 1988]

10.Rd1 aiming for Bxh7+! **10...Qxc5**

(Diagram)

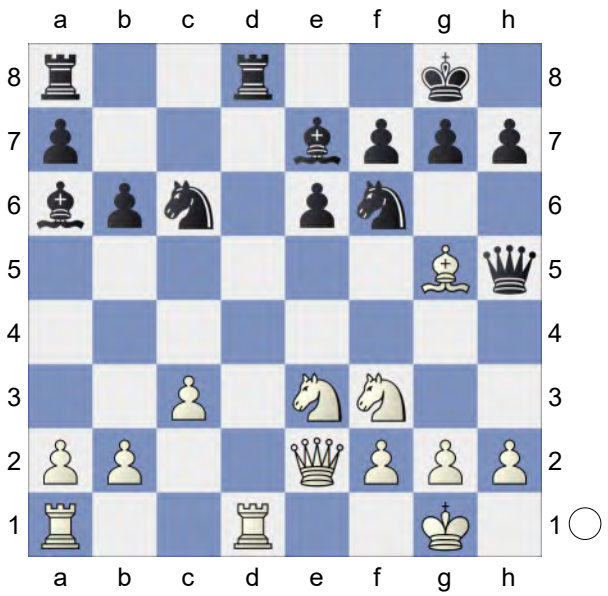


11.Nbd2!± White has a small but comfortable edge. Black has problems with his queenside development, while the queen is still not in a safe harbour. **11...Qd5** White is slightly better. **12.Nc4** Bxh7+! is the strong threat. **12...Qh5 13.Bg5 b6 14.Ne3**

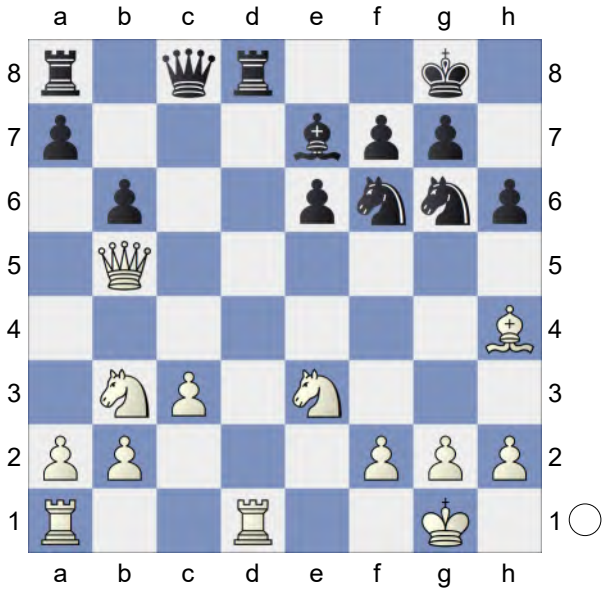
[I wonder if either player realised that 14.Bxf6 forces a doubling of Black's pawns, as Bxf6?? 1.83/22 *(14...gxf6=* 0.02/23 and Black is okay. *15.Ncd2 Bb7)* 15.Be4! wins. Still, the situation isn't totally clear after 14... gxf6.]

14...Bb7 15.Ba6 Bxa6

(Diagram)

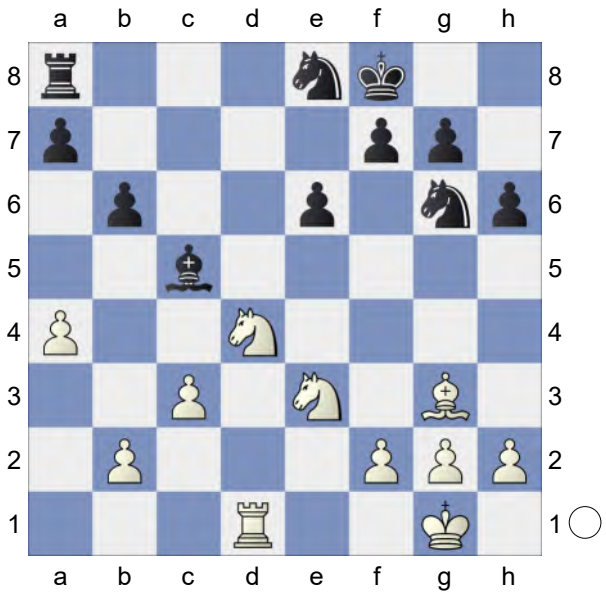


16.Qxa6 h6 17.Bh4 Qc5 18.Nd2 There are lots of options for both sides over these moves, but it is clear that Black hasn't managed to fully equalise. Part of the problem is that a lot of endgames are inferior for Black, who will have to face a fast-moving queenside majority. **18...Ne5 19.Nb3 Qc8 20.Qb5 Ng6**



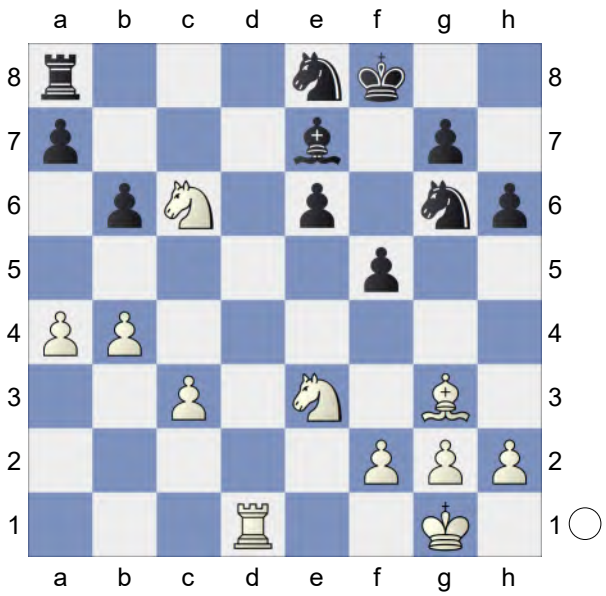
21.Bg3 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qe8 23.a4 I like this move, getting one move further along towards making a passed pawn as well. **23...Kf8 24.Nd4 Bc5**

25.Qxe8+ Nxe8 0.70/21
[25...Kxe8= 0.15/20 26.Nb5 Kf8]

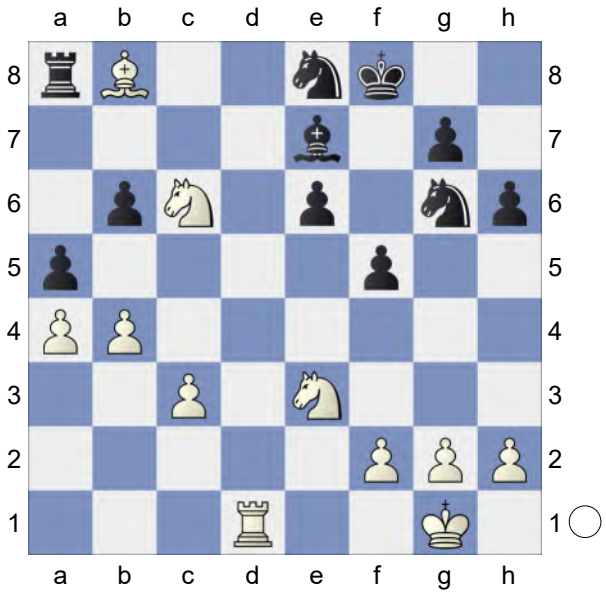


26.Nc6! White is more active. **26...f5??** 1.62/23 A huge mistake that will cost the game.
[26...Ne7 is met by the similar idea 27.Nb8! , but here Black has a concrete sequence to salvation: Bxe3 28.fxe3 And now Rd8 would win. f6! 29.Rd8 Black must now prevent Nd7+. Kf7 and the plan of ...e5 means that White's pieces will be almost as tied up as Black's.]
[26...Bxe3± 0.43/25 27.fxe3 Ne7]
27.b4?! 0.81/23
[27.Bb8!!+-]
[27.Bb8+- 1.62/23]
27...Be7 2.11/22
[27...Bxe3 28.fxe3 Hoping for Rd7. Rc8!±]
[27...f4± 0.81/23 was worth a try. 28.bxc5 Rc8 29.Nxa7 *(29.cxb6 Rxc6 30.bxa7 Ra6=)* 29...Rxc5]

(Diagram)

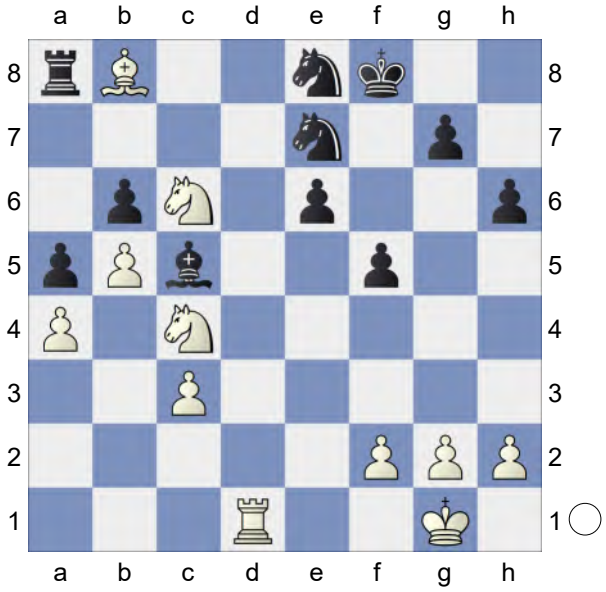


Against Rd8. A mistake that costs the game. **28.Bb8!+-** There it is! Black's rook will not be lost, but importantly it will also not take part in the rest of the fight. Strongly threatening Nc4! **28...a5?** 3.37/23
[28...Nf6!±]
[28...Nf6 1.84/21 might work better. 29.h4 *(29.Bxa7 Ne5±)* 29...h5]

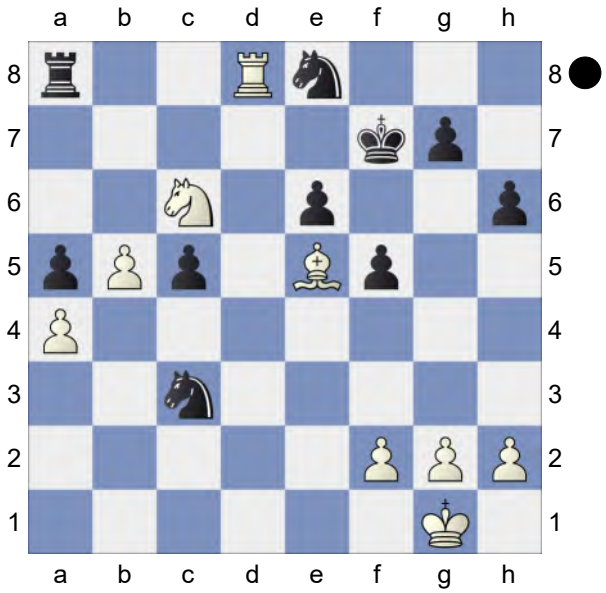


29.b5! Nc4 would now be deadly.
[Less strong is 29.Nc4 axb4 30.cxb4 *(30.Nxb6 Ra6=)* 30...Rxa4±]

29...Bc5? 4.83/24
[29...Nf6 3.00/23 30.Nc4 Nd5 31.Rxd5 Remove Defender exd5 32.Nxb6 Rxb8 33.Nxb8 Bd6]
30.Nc4 White is clearly winning.
30...Ne7



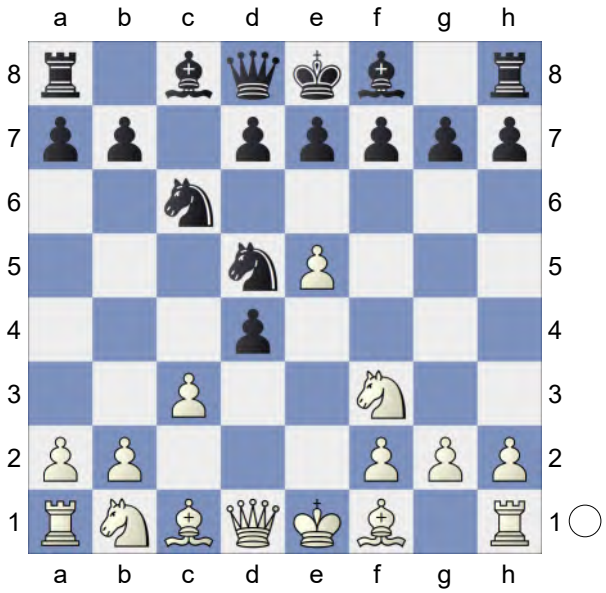
31.Rd8! Nd5 32.N4e5 Nxc3 33.Nd7+ Kf7 34.Nxc5 bxc5 35.Be5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.38
1-0

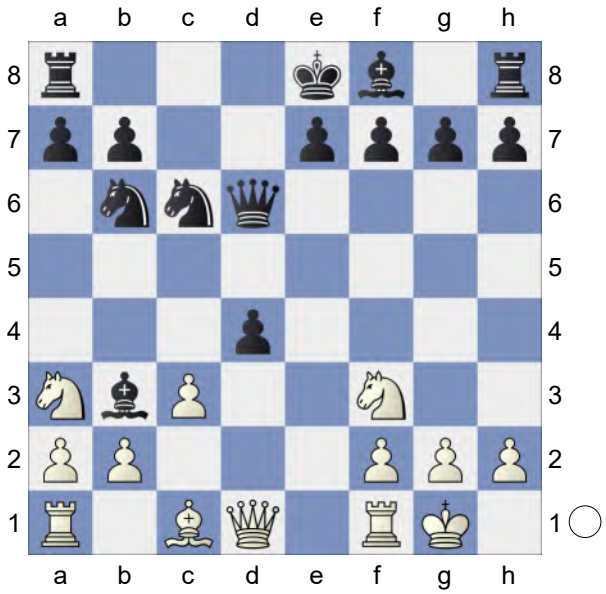
124 **B22**
□ **Parligras,Mircea Emilian** **2650**
■ **Rapport,Richard** **2543**
Gibraltar Masters 10th (8) 31.01.2012
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6



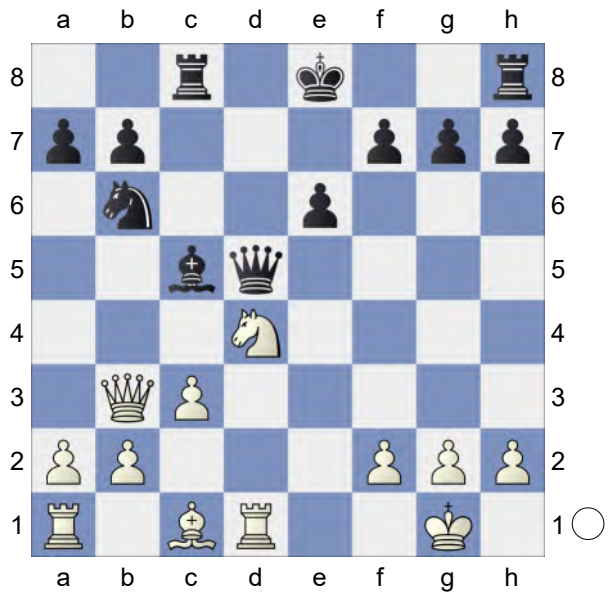
6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 This line was examined in the opening survey in CBM 132. **9...Be6** A relatively new idea, which can hardly change the evaluation of the position as more pleasant for White. **10.Na3 Bxb3**

(Diagram)



11.Qxb3 Qd5 12.Nb5 Rc8
[12...Qxb3 13.axb3 0-0-0 14.Nxa7+ Nxa7 15.Rxa7 dxc3 16.bxc3 Rd3 *(16...Kb8 17.Bf4+ Kxa7 18.Bc7)* 17.Ne5 Rxc3 18.Be3 Kc7 19.Nxf7 Rg8 20.Bf4+ Kc6 21.Nd8+]
13.Nbxd4
[13.Nfxd4 Qxb3 14.axb3 a6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6 16.Nd4 Rc8 17.b4 Nd5 18.b5 axb5 19.Nxb5 e6 20.Ra7 b6 21.b3 Bc5 22.c4 Nb4 23.Nc7+ Kf8 24.Nb5]
13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 e6!? An interesting idea: Black sacrifices a pawn to make use of his bishop pair. His pieces (including the a6 knight) are quite passive so objectively he should not succeed but in practice everything is possible. **15.Rd1 Bc5** Missing a good opportunity:
[15...Be7 16.Be3]

(Diagram)



16.Qb5+ Qd7 17.Qe2

[17.Be3 Nd5 18.Qxd7+ Kxd7 19.Nf5

A) 19...Bxe3 20.Nxe3 Kc6 21.Nxd5± 1-0 Nielsen,P (2636)-Michelakis,G (2405)/Copenhagen 2003/CBM 095 ext/[Krasenkow] (24) exd5 22.Rd4;

B) 19...Kc6 20.Bxc5 Kxc5 21.c4 *(21.Nxg7 h5)* 21...Rhd8 22.cxd5 exf5 23.Rd3 Kd6 24.Rad1 Rc2 25.Rb3 Rd7 *(25...Re8 26.Rxb7 Ree2 27.Rf1 Rxb2 28.Rxa7 Rxa2 29.Rxf7)* 26.g3;

C) 19...g6 20.Bxc5 Rxc5 21.Ne3 Kc6]

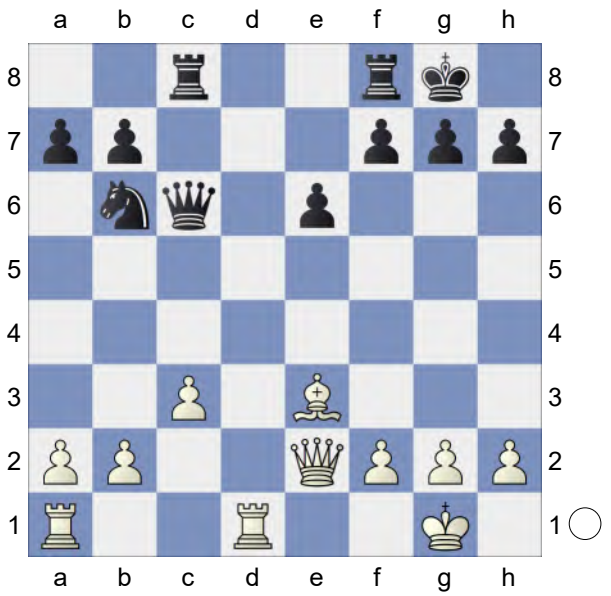
17...Qe7 18.Nb3

[18.Nb5 a6 19.b4 1-0 Andreikin,D (2669)-Schaefer,M (2390)/Plovdiv 2010/CBM 139 (47) axb5± 20.Qxb5+!? Rc6]

18...0-0

[18...Bd6 19.Qb5+ Qd7 20.a4 Nc4 *(20...Qxb5 21.axb5 Bb8 22.Na5)* 21.Qxd7+± 1-0 Yilmaz,M (2521)-Belous,V (2522)/Moscow RUS 2012/The Week in Chess 900 (31) Kxd7 22.Nd4]

19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.Be3 Qc6



21.Bd4 f6

[21...Nd5 22.Qg4 f6+- 1-0 Lysyj,I (2620)-Grigoryan,A (2506)/Moscow 2009/CBM 129 (45) 23.c4 Ne7 24.b3 a6 25.Rd2"]

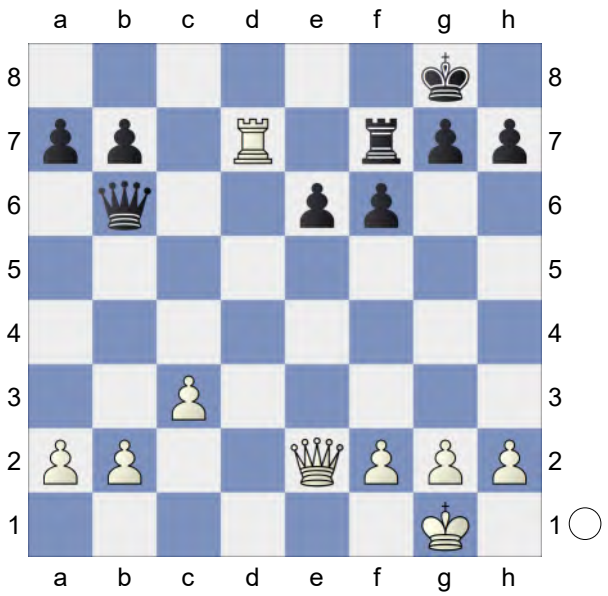
[21...Rfe8!± 22.b3!? e5 leads to a good Maroczy structure for White. Here is a recent example: 23.Bxb6 Qxb6 24.c4 Rcd8 25.Rxd8 Qxd8 26.Rd1 Qc7 27.Qd3 h6 28.Qd5 b6 29.g3 g6 30.a4]

22.Bxb6! Using a tactical trick, White has won a second pawn but the position remains tense as Black's kingside counterplay should not be underestimated. **22...Qxb6**

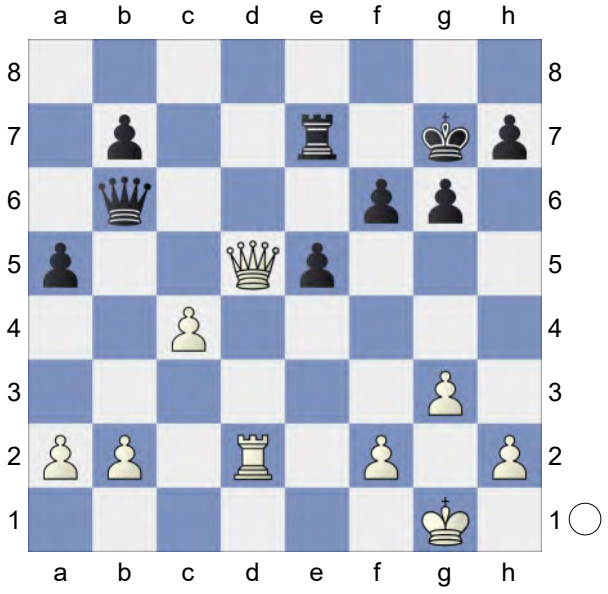
[22...axb6 23.Rd2 Rfd8 24.Rad1 Rd5 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Re1]

23.Rd7 Rcd8 24.Rad1 Rxd7 25.Rxd7 Rf7

(Diagram)

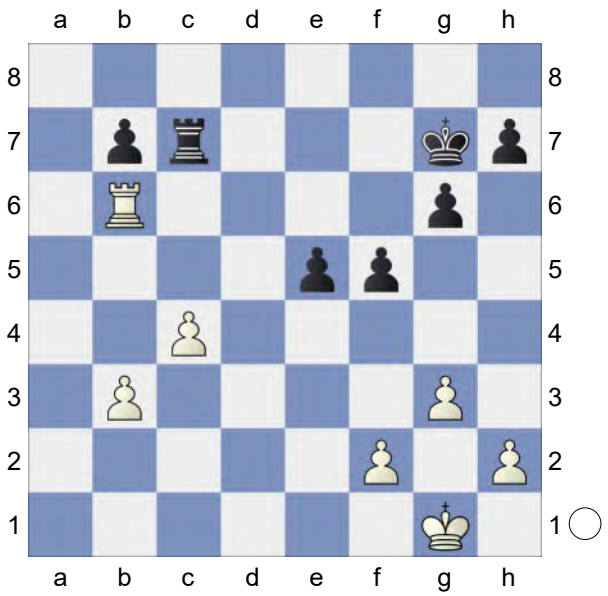


26.Rd2 g6 27.Qc4
[27.h4]
27...Kg7 28.g3 e5 29.Qd5??
And now this move is a terrible blunder.
29...Re7 30.c4 a5

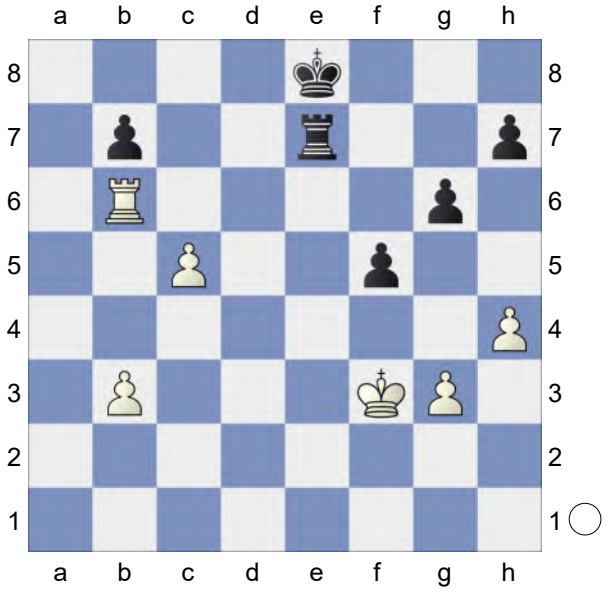


31.Qd6 Qxd6! 32.Rxd6 was a must. It is unclear whether Black had anything better than **32...Rc7 33.b3 a4 34.Rb6 axb3 35.axb3** , and White should gradually prevail. **35...f5**

(Diagram)

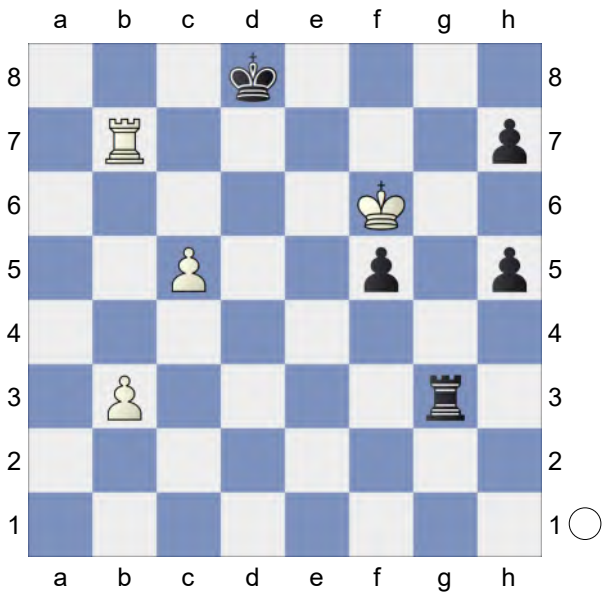


36.h4 e4? 37.f3 exf3 38.Kf2! Kf7 39.Kxf3 Re7 40.c5
[40.h5 g5 41.c5]
40...Ke8



41.Kf4 Kd8 42.h5 Re4+
[42...gxh5 43.Kxf5 Kc7]
43.Kg5 Rg4+ 44.Kf6 gxh5 45.Rxb7 Rxg3

(Diagram)

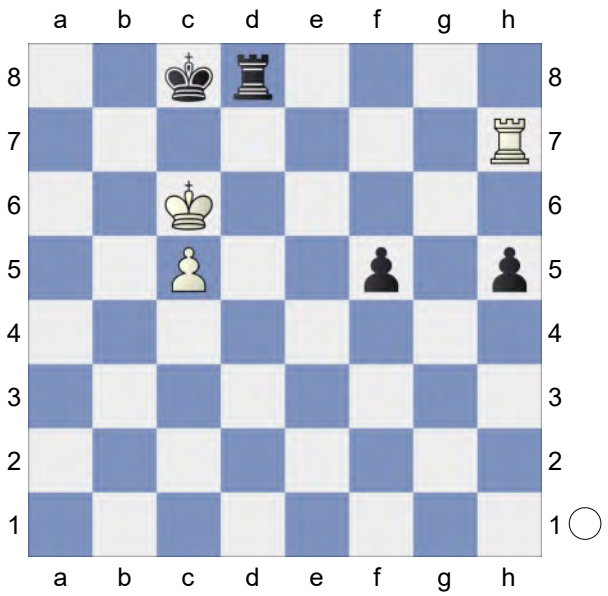


46.b4

[46.Ke5 Kc8 47.c6± 1-0 Kunin,V (2546)-Butunoi,A (2402)/Lienz 2009/CBM 128 Extra (36) Rg6 48.Kd5]

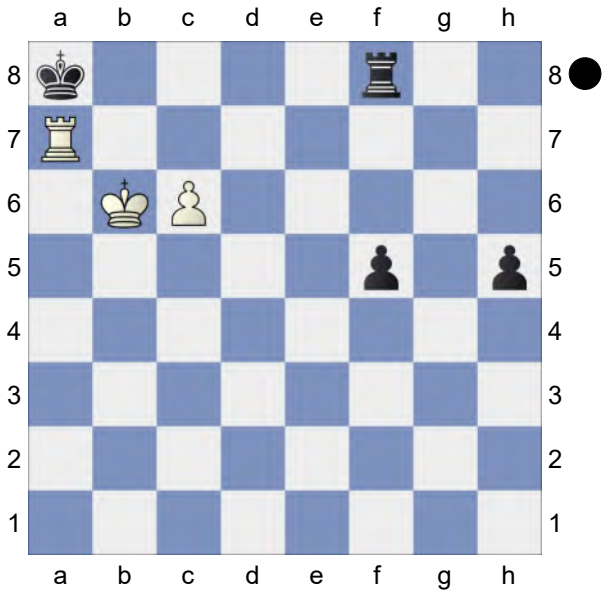
46...Kc8 47.Rxh7∞ 1/2 Ipatov,A (2591)-Stellwagen,D (2625)/Remagen GER 2012/The Week in Chess 903 (31) **47...Rb3!** , activating the rook and creating strong counterplay. **⌓48.Ke6 Rxb4 49.Kd6 Rd4+ 50.Kc6!? Rd8**

[50...Kd8]



51.Kb6 Rf8 52.c6± Kb8 53.Rb7+ Ka8

54.Ra7+



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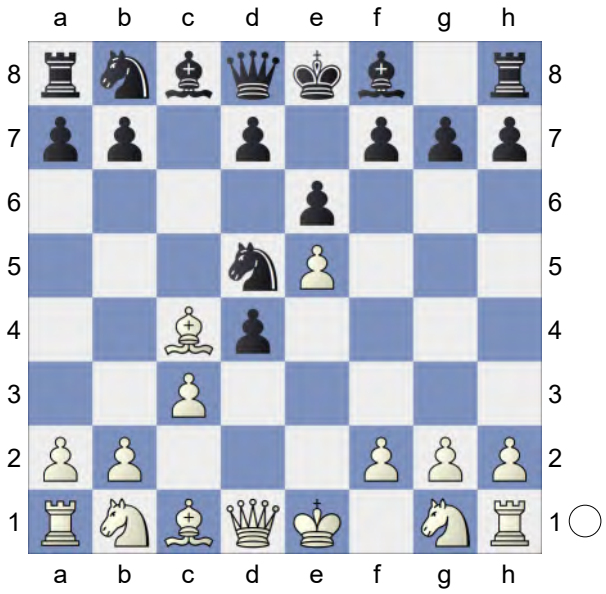
125 **B22**
□ **Shevchenko,Kirill** **2649**
■ **Supi,Luis Paulo** **2612**
MrDodgy Online Inv Finals 3rd blitz (1.5)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 e6 5.d4 cxd4

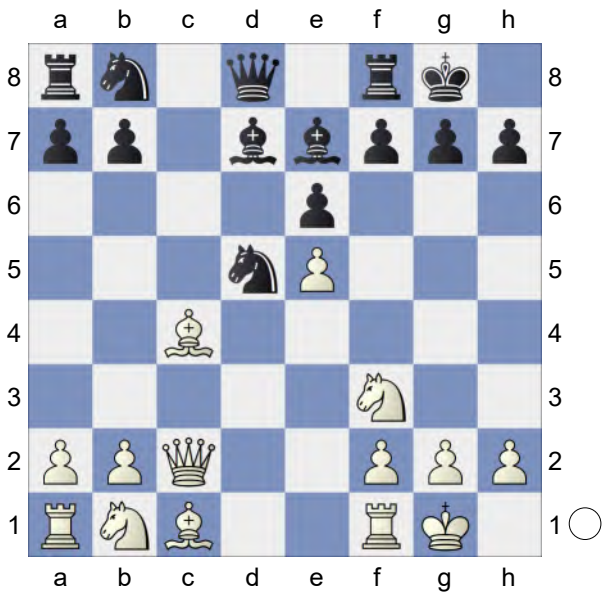


6.cxd4 d6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qc2 dxe5!N An important novelty. Eine beachtenswerte Neuerung.

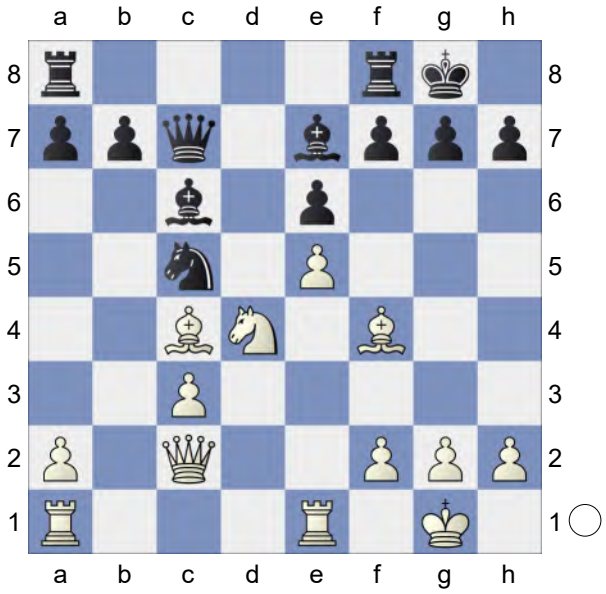
[Vorgänger: 9...b6 10.Bxd5 exd5 11.Nc3 dxe5 12.Nxe5 Be6 13.Bf4 f6 14.Nf3 Nc6 15.Rfe1 Qd7 0-1 (46) Mamedov,R (2656)-Caruana,F (2792) Baku 2021]

10.dxe5 Bd7

(Diagram)

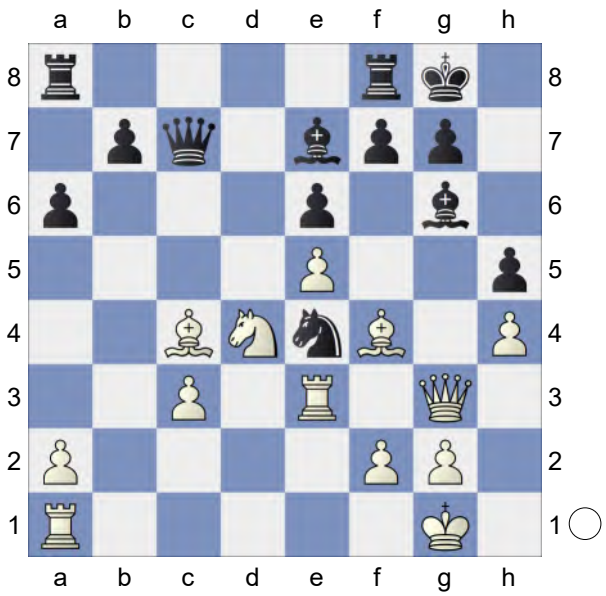


11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bc6 13.Nd4 Qc7 14.Re1 Nd7 15.Bf4 Nc5

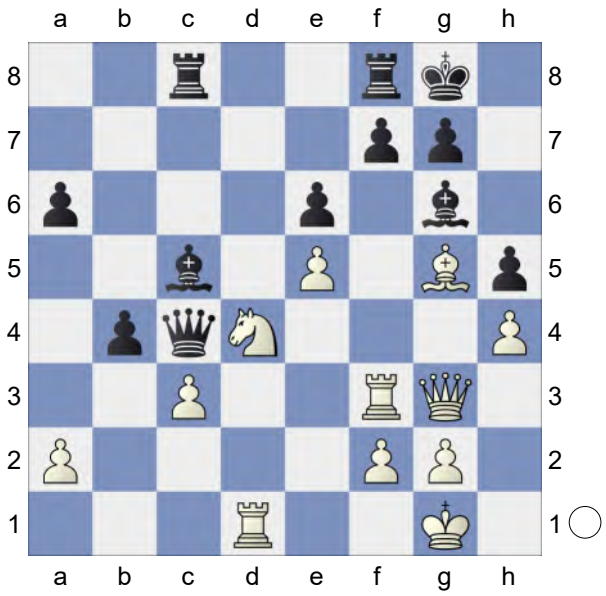


16.Re3 Be4 17.Qe2 a6 18.Qg4 Bg6 19.h4 h5 20.Qg3 Ne4

(Diagram)

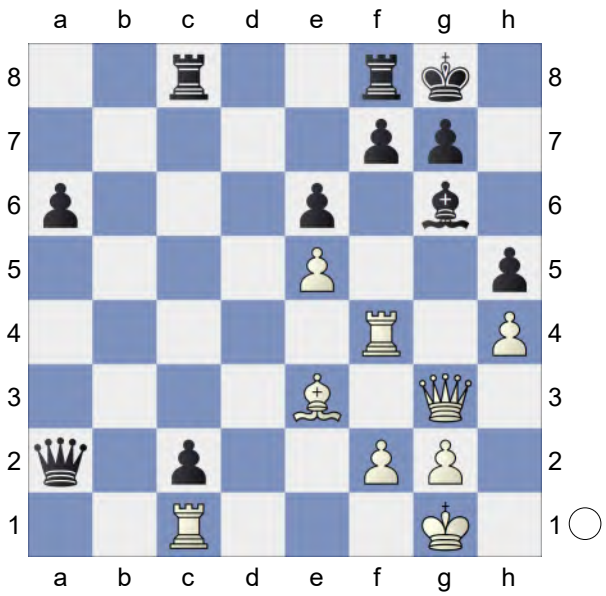


21.Rxe4 Qxc4 22.Re3 b5 23.Bg5 Bc5 24.Rd1 b4 25.Rf3 Rac8

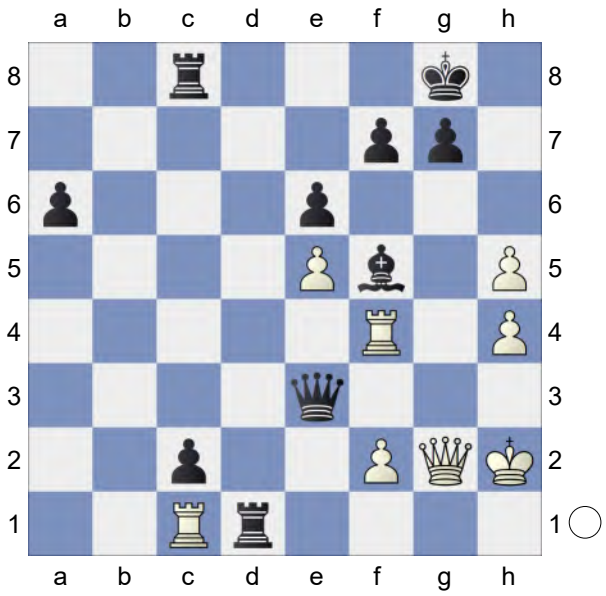


26.Nb3 bxc3 27.Nxc5 Qxc5 28.Be3 c2 29.Rc1 Qd5 30.Rf4 Qxa2

(Diagram)

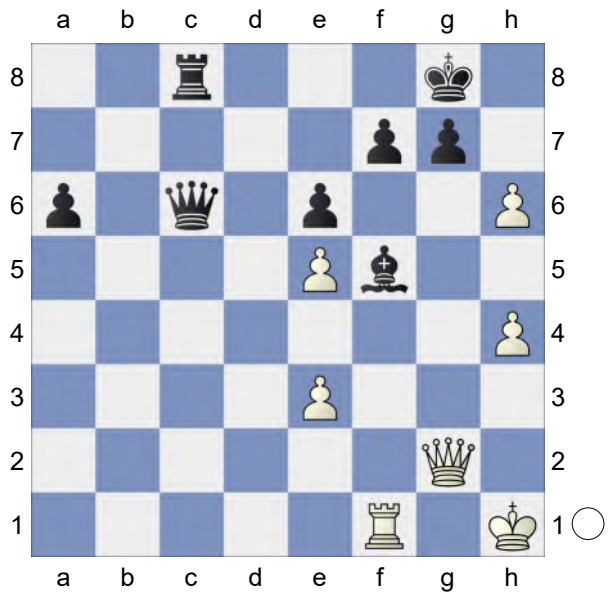


31.Kh2 Rfd8 32.Qf3 Qb3 33.g4 Rd1 34.gxh5 Bf5 35.Qg2 Qxe3



36.fxe3 Rxc1 37.h6 Rh1+ 38.Kxh1 c1Q+ 39.Rf1 Qc6

(Diagram)



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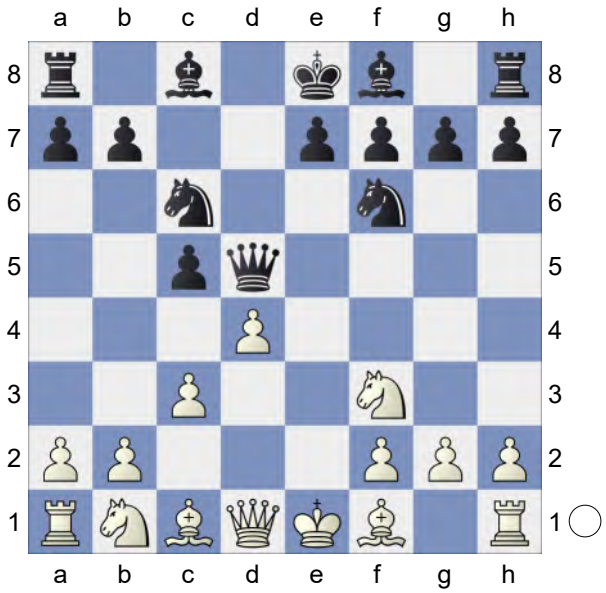
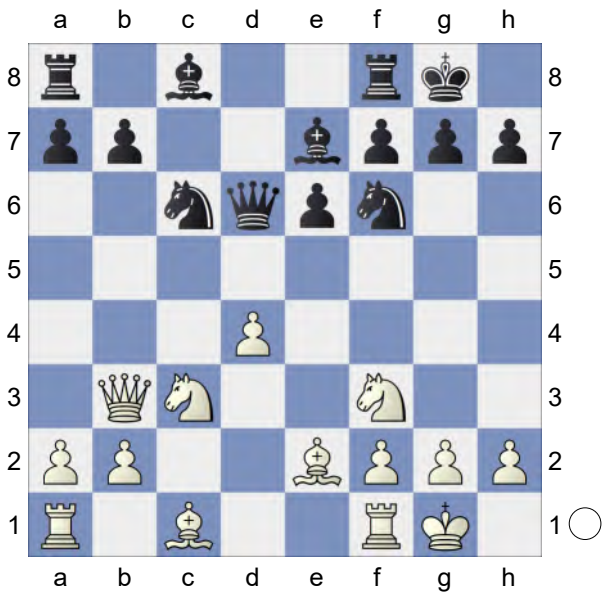
126 **B22**
□ **Abasov,Nijat Azad** **2643**
■ **Talibov,Shiroghlan** **2316**
AZE-ch Prelim 77th (6) 18.01.2023

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 Nc6

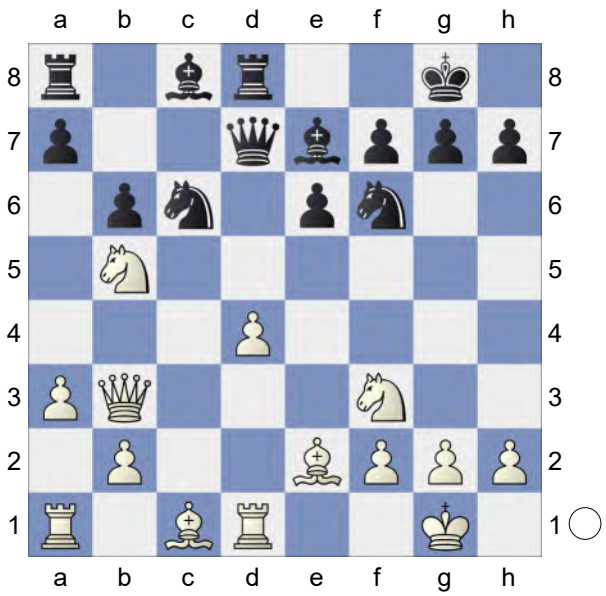


6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 is more profitable than 9... Bc5 at the moment.scheint profitabler als 9...Lc5. **10.Qb3**
[10.Nb5]
10...0-0

(Diagram)



10...Qc8 is not played anymore. 10...Dc8 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt. **11.Rd1 Rd8 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.Nc3 Qd6 14.a3!?** An interesting side line .Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **14...b6**
[14...a6]
15.Nb5 Qd7
[15...Na5]
[15...Qb8 16.Ne5 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxe5 18.Bf3 Rxd4 19.Bxa8]



16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Nd5N 18.Bf3

[18.Nd4]

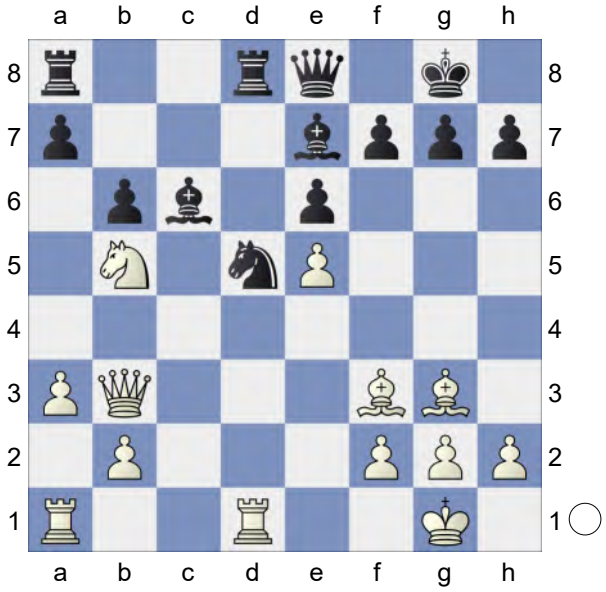
18...Bb7 19.Bf4 Qe8

[19...Bc6 20.Nc3 Qb7]

20.Bg3

[20.Nc7 Nxc7 21.Bxb7 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rd8 23.Rd3]

20...Bc6



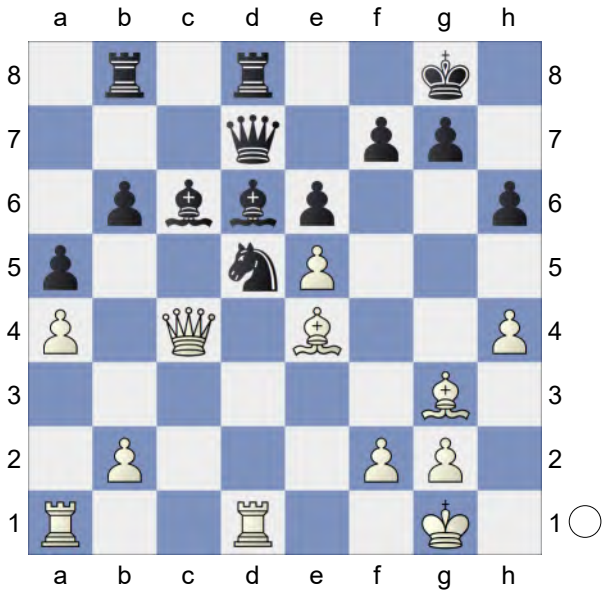
21.a4 Qd7

[21...Bxb5 22.axb5 Qd7 23.h4]

22.Nd6 a5 23.h4 Rab8 24.Be4

[24.Rd4]

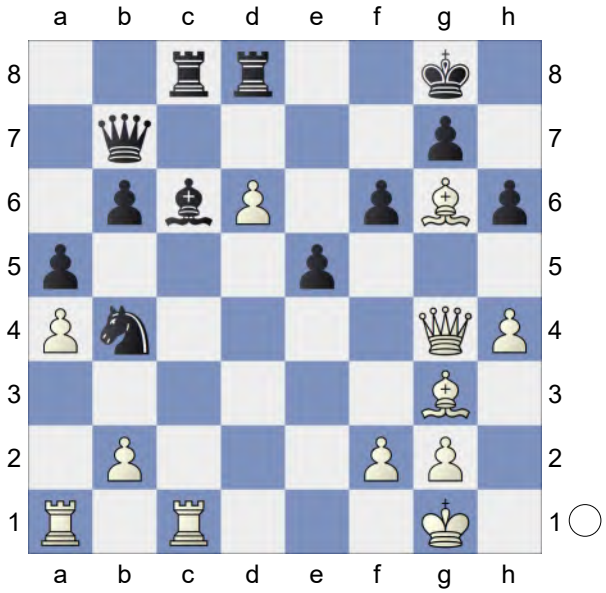
24...h6 25.Qc4 Bxd6



26.exd6 Rbc8 27.Qd4 Nb4 28.Rdc1 f6

[28...Bxe4 29.Qxe4 Na6]

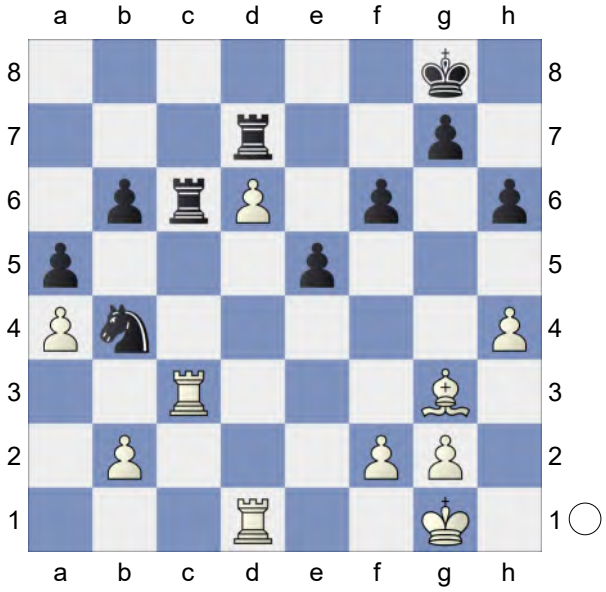
29.Bg6 Qb7 30.Qg4 e5



31.Bf5

[31.f4]

31...Bd7 32.Rc3 Rc6 33.Rd1 Bxf5 34.Qxf5 Qd7 35.Qxd7 Rxd7

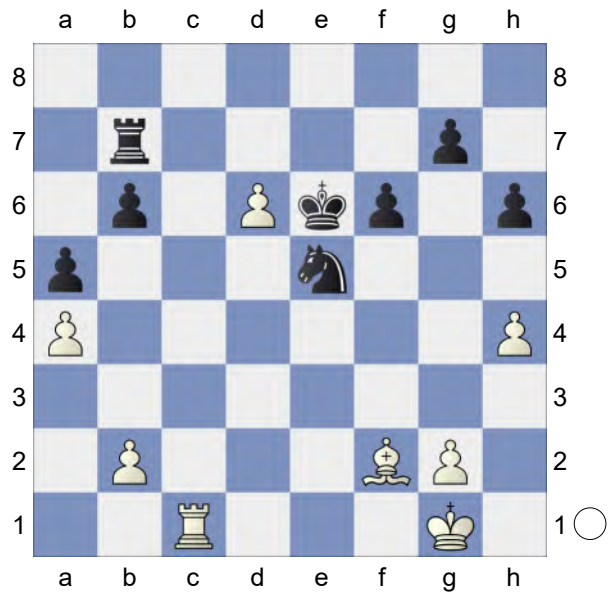


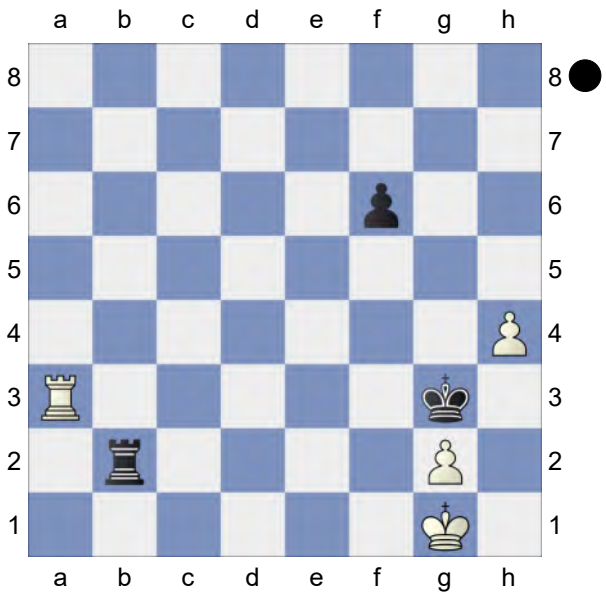
36.Rxc6 Vorgänger: **36...Nxc6 37.f4 Kf7 38.fxe5 Nxe5**

[38...fxe5]

39.Bf2 Rb7 40.Rc1 Ke6

(Diagram)



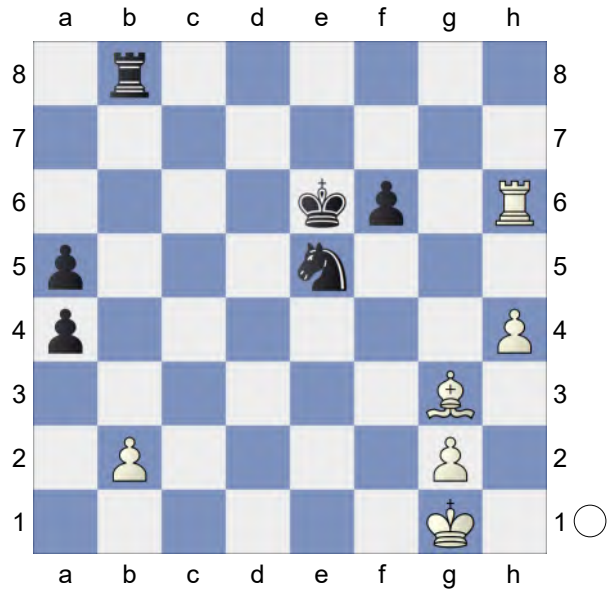


41.Rc7 Rb8 42.Rxg7 Kxd6 1-0

½-½ (32) Teske,H (2545)-L'Ami,E (2606) Germany 2010 **43.Rh7 Ke6 44.Bg3**

[44.Rxh6 b5]

44...b5 45.Rxh6 bxa4

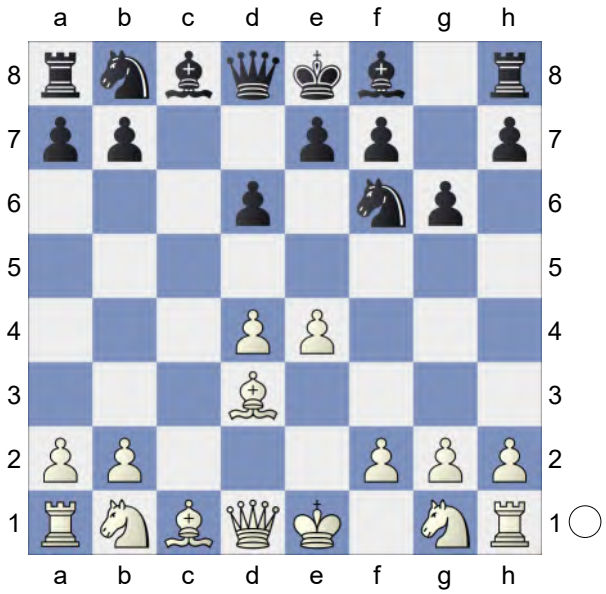


46.Bxe5 Kxe5 47.Rh5+ Kf4 48.Rxa5 Kg3 49.Rxa4 Rxb2 50.Ra3+

(Diagram)

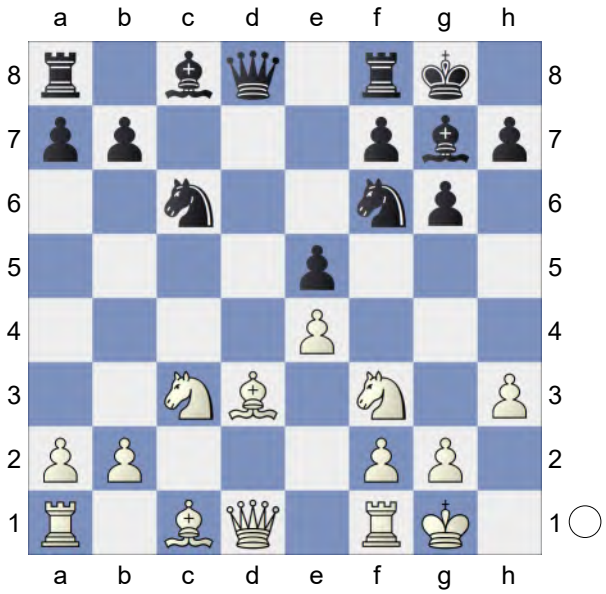
127 **B07**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2640**
■ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2720**
PCA-WchQual1 1994
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems
Smirin,Ilia: 'Smirin,I: 'Inf 68/93'' Adams, Michael: 'Adams,M: 'Inf 70/95'' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 cxd4 5.cxd4 g6**



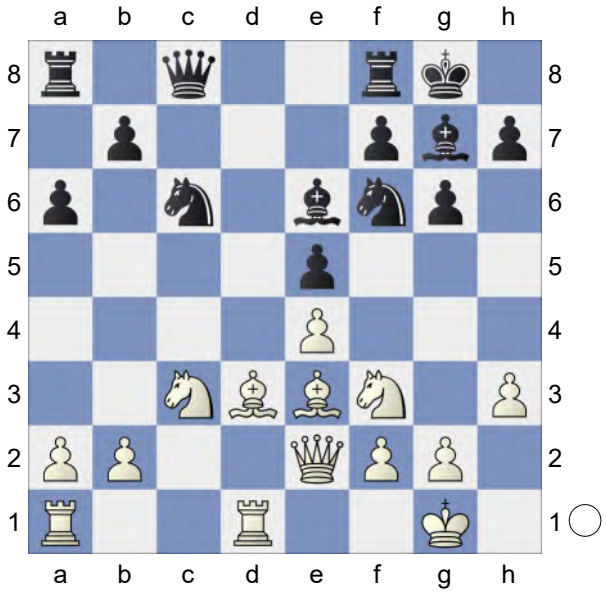
6.Nc3 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Nf3 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.0-0 Nc6

(Diagram)

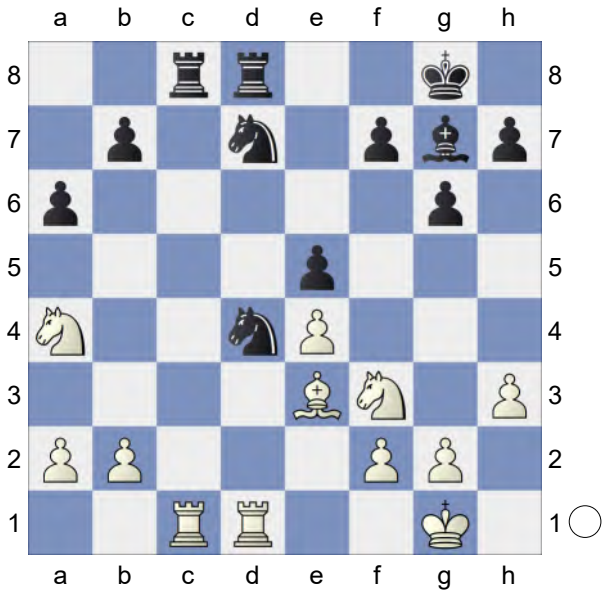


11.Be3 Be6
[11...Nh5 12.Bc4 Nf4 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Ng5 Be6 15.Nxe6 Nxe6 16.Rac1 Ncd4 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Kf1 Rd7 20.Ne2 Rcd8 21.Bg5 Rf8 22.Rd3 h6 23.Be3 g5 24.Rdc3 Rfd8 25.Rc8 Rxc8 26.Rxc8+ 1-0 (53) Adams,M (2680)-Mcshane,L (2455) (ch) 70/95 Great Britain 1997]
12.Bb5 Na5N
[12...Qc7 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qc2 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Nh5 16.Nb5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Qa5 18.Qxc6 Rc8 19.Qb7 Qxa2 20.Nxa7 Qa4 21.b3 Qxb3 22.Qxb3 Bxb3 23.Rb1 Rc3 24.Bd2 Rd3 25.Nc6 Bf6 26.Nb4 Rxd2 27.Nxd2 1-0 (71) 4.♖b1 ♕d5 (2180)-Frank,H (2210) 33/656 Minsk 1982 (4)]
[12...Qa5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qc2 h6 15.Na4 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Rfc8 17.Nd2 c5 18.Nc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Nb6 20.Nxb6 axb6 21.Rd6 Qb4 22.Qxb4 cxb4 23.Rxb6 Bf8 24.Rb7 Rc2 25.b3 f5 26.Rd1 Rcxa2 27.Rdd7 1-0 (47) Smirin,I (2625)-Kempinski,R (2510) (open) 68/93 1996]
13.Qe2 a6 14.Bd3 Nc6 White is

slightly better. **15.Rfd1 Qc8** 1.02/21
[Better is 15...Qc7± 0.34/22]

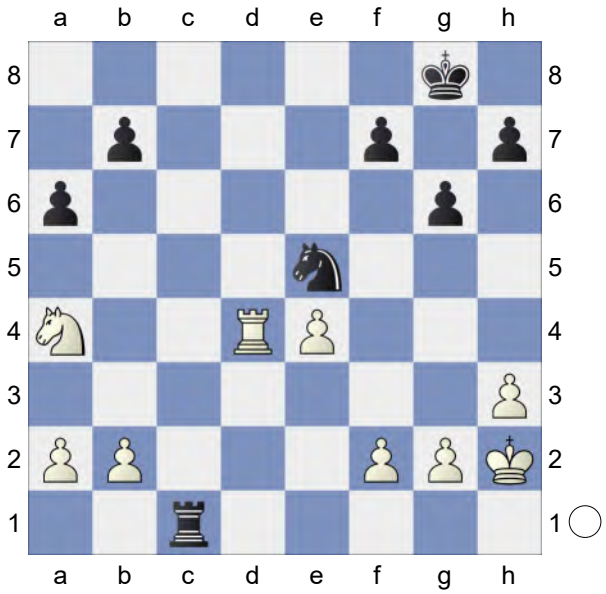


16.Rac1!± Rd8 17.Na4 aiming for Nxe5. **17...Nd7 18.Bc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4**
[But not 19.Rxc4 b5 20.Nb6 Qb7 *(20...Nxb6 21.Rxd8+ Qxd8 22.Rxc6=)* 21.Rxc6 *(21.Nxa8?* loses. *bxc4-+)* 21...Qxc6 22.Nxa8 Rxa8±]
19...Nd4 20.Qxc8 Raxc8

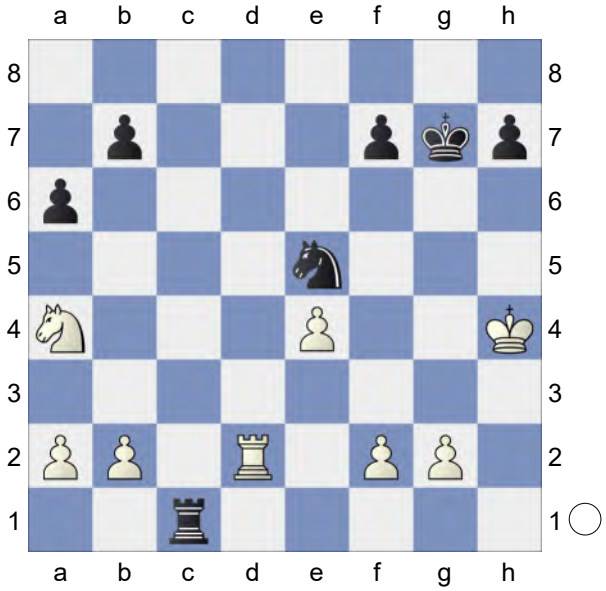


21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Bxd4 Bxd4 24.Rxd4 Endgame. KRN-KRN

24...Rc1+ 25.Kh2 Ne5

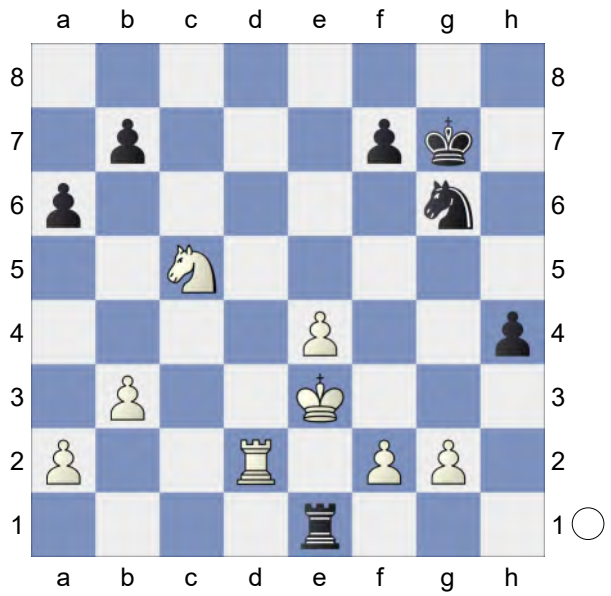


26.Rd5 Nc6 27.Rd2 Against Rc2
27...g5 28.Kg3 Kg7 29.h4 gxh4+ 30.Kxh4 Ne5

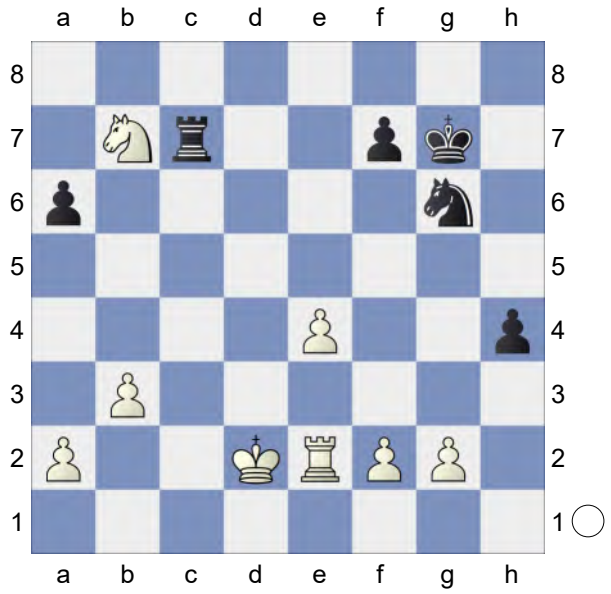


31.b3 Repels Nc4 **31...Rh1+** 1.84/21
[31...f6± 1.37/21 32.Nb6 Kf7]
32.Kg3+- h5 33.Nc5 h4+ 34.Kf4 Ng6+ 35.Ke3 Re1+

(Diagram)

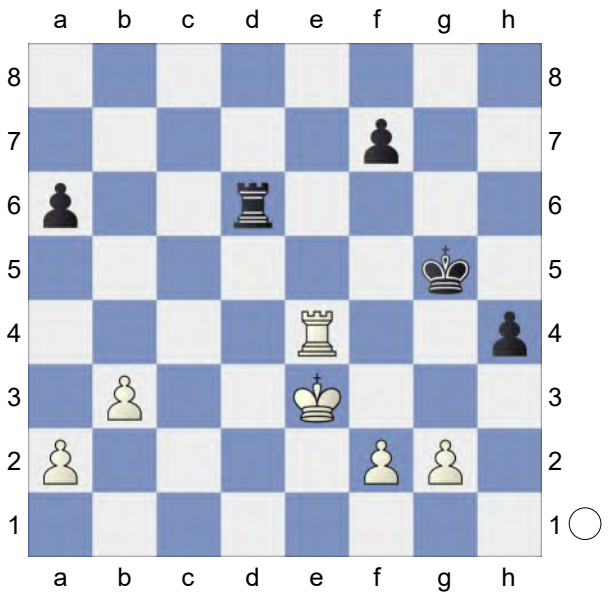


36.Re2! **Rc1** **37.Nxb7** **Rc3+** **38.Kd4** **Rc1** **39.Ke3** 0.01/20 Prevents Nf4.
[39.Re3± 1.28/21]
39...Rc3+!= **40.Kd2** 0.85/22
[40.Kd4= 0.01/25 Rc1 41.Ke3]
40...Rc7±

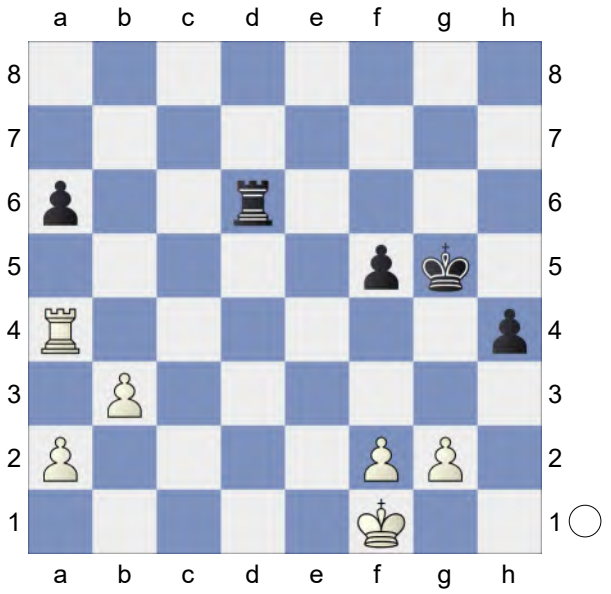


41.Nd6 Ne8+ is the strong threat.
41...Rd7 **42.e5** **Nxe5** **43.Rxe5** And now Rd5 would win. **43...Rxd6+** KR-KR **44.Ke3** **Kg6** Dodges Rg5+ **45.Re4** **Kg5**

(Diagram)

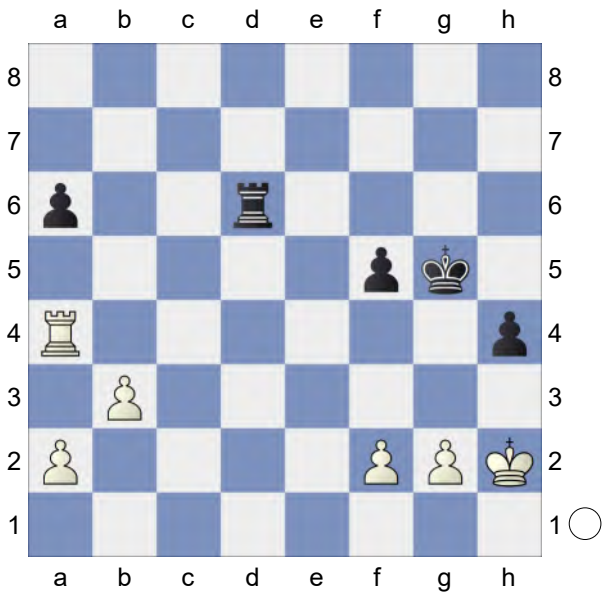


46.Ke2 0.78/20
[⌓46.Re7 1.21/21]
46...f5 **47.Ra4** **Re6+** 1.82/27
[47...Rc6± 0.80/26 was called for.]
48.Kf1!+- **Rd6**

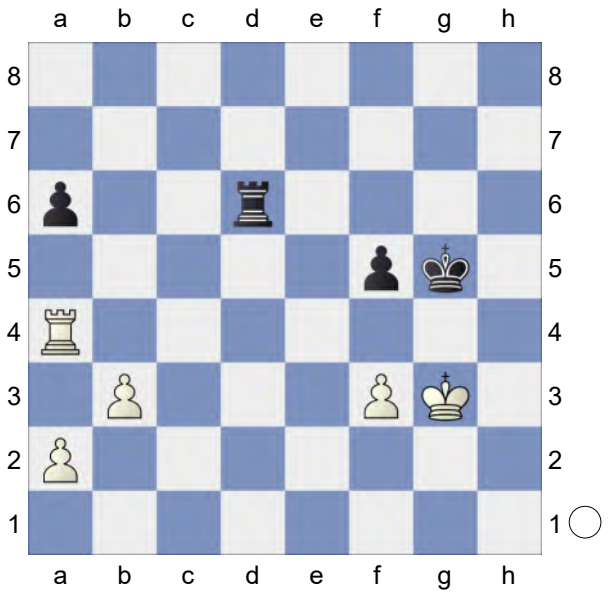


49.Kg1! **Rd1+** 0.77/5
[49...Rc6+- 1.89/28 50.Kh2 Rd6]
50.Kh2± **Rd6**

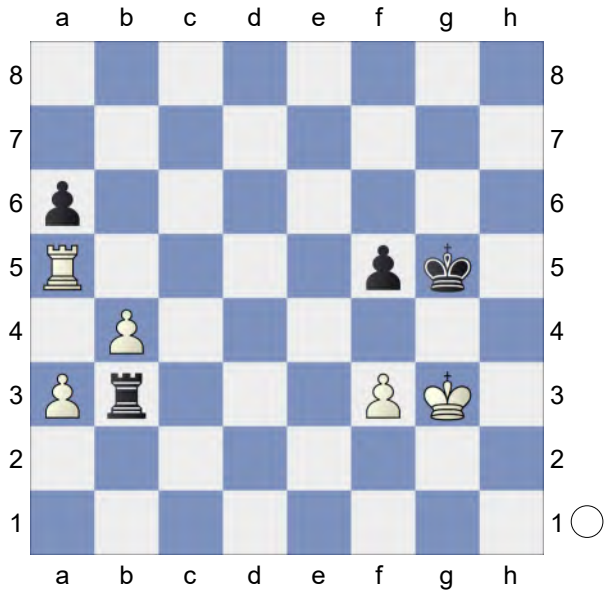
(Diagram)



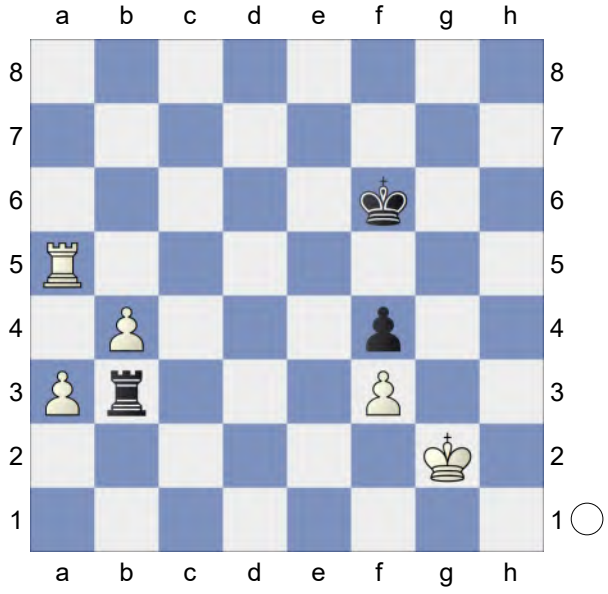
51.Ra5 Kg4 52.Ra4+ -0.01/23
[52.Ra3± 1.27/28]
52...Kg5= 53.g3 hxg3+ 54.Kxg3 Rd3+ 55.f3 Rd6



56.Ra5! Rc6 57.b4 1.79/27
[⌓57.f4+ 3.10/29 Kg6 58.b4]
57...Rb6 3.23/28
[57...Rc4 1.79/27 might work better.]
58.a3 Rd6 59.Rc5? 0.14/25
[White has to play 59.f4++- 3.00/25 Kg6 60.Kf2]
59...Rd3 60.Ra5 Rb3 1.24/23
[60...Rd6= -0.01/27]

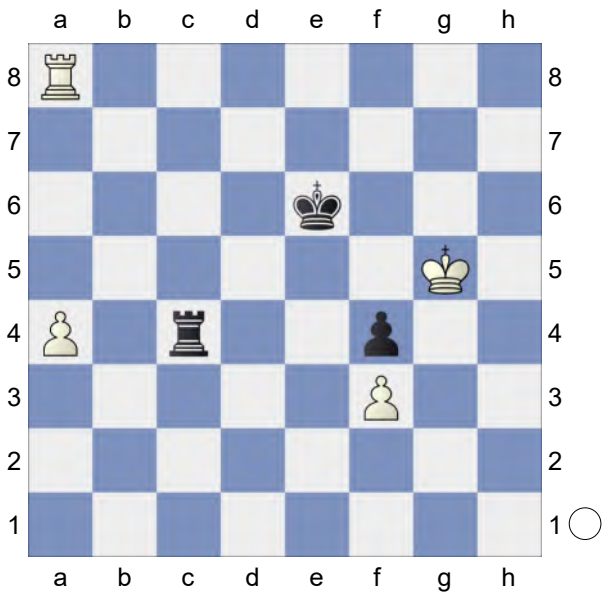


61.Rxa6± Strongly threatening Ra5.
61...f4+ 62.Kg2 Kh5 63.Ra7 Kg5 64.Ra8 Kf5 3.10/26
[⌓64...Rb1 2.18/25 65.Rg8+ Kf5]
65.Ra5++- Kf6

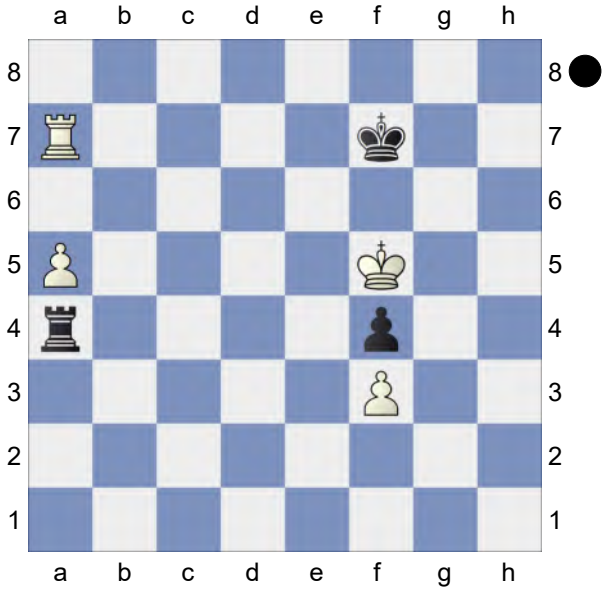


66.a4 Rxb4 67.Kh3 Ke6 68.Kg4 Rc4 69.Ra8 Rb4 4.49/31
[⌓69...Kf6 2.90/28 70.Rf8+ Skewer Ke6 71.Rxf4 Rc3]
70.Kg5 Rc4

(Diagram)



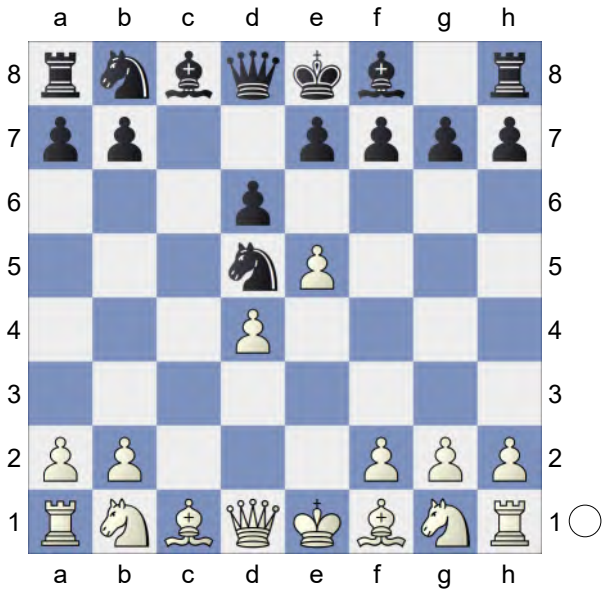
71.a5 a6 would now be deadly. **71...Ra4**
72.Ra6+ Kf7 4.55/33
[72...Kd7 3.12/30 was worth a try.
73.Ra8 Kc6]
73.Kf5 Ke7 74.Ra8 Kf7 75.Ra7+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise) .
Loss on time!?
0-1

128 **B22**
□ **Kharlov,Andrei** **2639**
■ **Gallagher,Joseph G** **2519**
12. Goodricke Open (9) 14.02.2001
[Rogozenko]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 e6

[7...Nb6 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is the main alternative. After 7. ... e6 the position is more complicated.' is the main alternative. After 7...e6 the position is more complicated. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is the main alternative. After 7. ... e6 the position is more complicated. Rogozenko: 'is the main alternative. After 7. ... e6 the position is more complicated. is the main alternative. After 7...e6 the position is more complicated.'' ist die wichtigste Alternative. Nach 7... e6 ist die Stellung komplizierter. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'ist die wichtigste Alternative. Nach 7...e6 ist die Stellung komplizierter."]

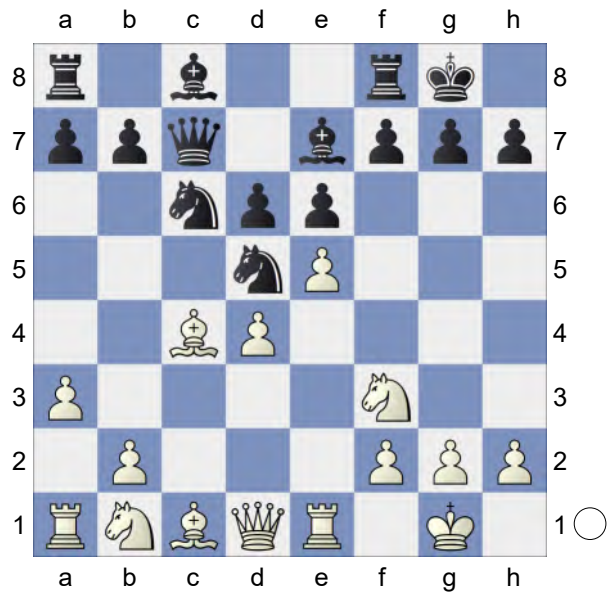
8.0-0 Be7 9.a3

[9.Qe2 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is considered the main line.' is considered the main line. gilt als Hauptvariante. Rogozenco, Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'gilt als Hauptvariante.'' 0-0 10.Nc3 *(* Rogozenco,Dorian: 'another option is' another option iseine andere Möglichkeit ist Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'eine andere Möglichkeit ist" *10.Qe4* Rogozenco,Dorian: 'with the idea Bd3, Bh6, Nbd2.'with the idea ♗d3, ♗h6, ♘bd2. Rogozenco, Dorian: 'with the idea Bd3, Bh6, Nbd2. Rogozenko: 'with the idea Bd3, Bh6, Nbd2. with the idea ♗d3, ♗h6, ♘bd2. " mit der Idee ♗d3, ♗h6, ♘bd2. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'mit der Idee ♗d3, ♗h6, ♘bd2.") 10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 dxe5 12.dxe5 Qc7 *(* Rogozenco,Dorian: 'A safe way seems to be'A safe way seems to be Ein sicherer Weg zu sein scheint Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Ein sicherer Weg zu sein scheint'' *12...Qa5!?)* 13.Bd3 Rd8 14.Qe4 g6 15.Bh6 b6 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.Qf4 Rd7= 1-0 Matsuura,E-Milos,G/ Americana 1999/ (35) Rogozenco, Dorian: 'Rogozenko: '1-0 Matsuura,E-Milos,G/Americana 1999/ (35)'' Rogozenco,Dorian: '1-0 Matsuura,E-Milos,G/Americana 1999/ (35)']

9...0-0 10.Re1 Qc7

[⌓10...Bd7 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko' [%draw arrow,a8,c8,green] [%draw arrow,d8,b6,green] [%draw arrow,c6,a5,green]]

(Diagram)



11.Bd3 dxe5

[11...Rd8 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko' 12.Qe2 b6 13.exd6? *(13.Qe4! f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Qh4→* <xml ✕:en>Black's pieces are misplaced here (the rook on d8, the queen on c7).</:en ✕ /xml> <xml✕:de>Hier stehen die schwarzen Figuren deplatziert (der Turm auf d8, die Dame auf c7).</:de ✕/xml> Black's pieces are misplaced here (the rook on d8, the queen on c7). Die schwarzen Figuren stehen hier deplatziert (der Turm auf d8, die Dame auf c7).*)* 13...Qxd6 14.Nc3 Bb7 15.Bc2 Nf6 16.Be3 Rac8∓ ½-½ Palkovi,J (2446)-Mastrovasilis,D (2435)/Panormo 2001 (26)]

[<xml✕:en>Even now</:en✕/xml> <xml✕:de>Sogar jetzt war</:de ✕/xml> Even now Selbst jetzt war 11...Bd7 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko' <xml ✕:en>was better:</:en ✕/xml> <xml ✕:de>noch besser:</:de ✕/xml> was better:besser: △12.Qe2 Qb6 13.Qe4 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Qh4 d5∞]

12.dxe5 Rd8 13.Qe2 g6

[13...h6 14.Nc3 *(14.Bd2!? Δ ♘c3, ♕e4→.* Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Δ ♘c3, ♕e 4→ .'' Rogozenco,Dorian: ' ΔNc3, Qe4 →.' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'ΔNc3, Qe4→.'*; 14.Qe4!? f5 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Qc4±)* 14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bf8 16.Qe4 g6 17.Bf4± ½-½ Chandler,M-Stuart,P/ Upper Hutt 1976/ (30) Rogozenco, Dorian: 'Rogozenko: '½-½ Chandler,M-Stuart,P/Upper Hutt 1976/ (30)'' Rogozenco,Dorian: '½-½ Chandler,M-Stuart,P/Upper Hutt 1976/ (30)' Rogozenco,Dorian: '½-½ Chandler,M-Stuart,P/Upper Hutt 1976/ (30)']

[13...Na5 Rogozenco,Dorian: 'An important move, which if works concrete, is probably the best, causing some development problems in White's position,'An important move, which if works concrete, is probably the best, causing some development problems in White's position, Ein wichtiger Zug, der konkret funktioniert, wahrscheinlich der beste ist und Weiß gewisse Entwicklungsprobleme bereitet. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Ein wichtiger Zug, der konkret funktioniert, wahrscheinlich der beste ist und Weiß gewisse Entwicklungsprobleme bereitet.'' 14.Bg5 *(14.Ra2!? △Nb3? 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qd3+ Kg8 17.Qxb3)* 14...Bxg5 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 *(15...Kf8!? 16.Nxg5 Nb3∞ △17.Ra2 Nc1)* 16.Nxg5+ Kg8 17.Qh5 Nb3 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.Qh8+ Ke7 20.Qxg7 Rf8 21.Nc3 Nxc3 22.bxc3 Nxa1= Rogozenco,Dorian: '=' '=' '=' '=' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: '=' '=' '=" Rogozenco,D: '=' 23.Nh7

A) 23...Rd8 24.Ng5 *(24.Qf6+ Ke8 25.Qh8+ Kd7 26.Rd1+*

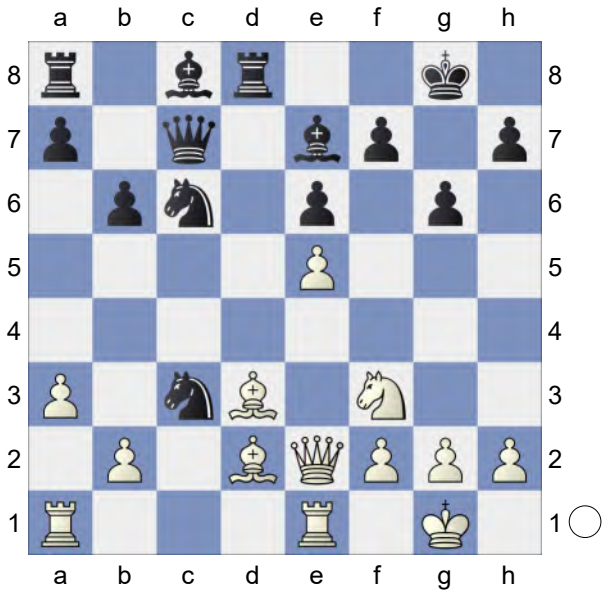
Kc6∞) 24...Rf8=;
B) 23...Bd7 24.Qg5+ Ke8 25.Nf6+? *(25.Rd1!+-)* 25...Kd8 26.Rd1 Kc8 27.Rxd7 Qxc3-+ 0-1 Remizov,J-Dochev,D/Decin 1998 (43) Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: '0-1 Remizov,J-Dochev,D/Decin 1998 (43)'' Rogozenco,Dorian: '0-1 Remizov,J-Dochev,D/Decin 1998 (43)']

14.Bd2

[Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Of course White would like to trade dark-squared Bishops (to eliminate the most important defencive piece), but here it simply does not work:'Of course White would like to trade dark-squared Bishops (to eliminate the most important defencive piece), but here it simply does not work: Natürlich würde Weiß gerne die schwarzfeldrigen Läufer tauschen (um die wichtigste Verteidigungsfigur zu beseitigen), aber hier geht das einfach nicht: Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Natürlich würde Weiß gerne die schwarzfeldrigen Läufer tauschen (um die wichtigste Verteidigungsfigur zu beseitigen), aber hier geht das einfach nicht:'' 14.Bg5? Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Nf4-+]

14...b6 15.Nc3 Nxc3

(Diagram)



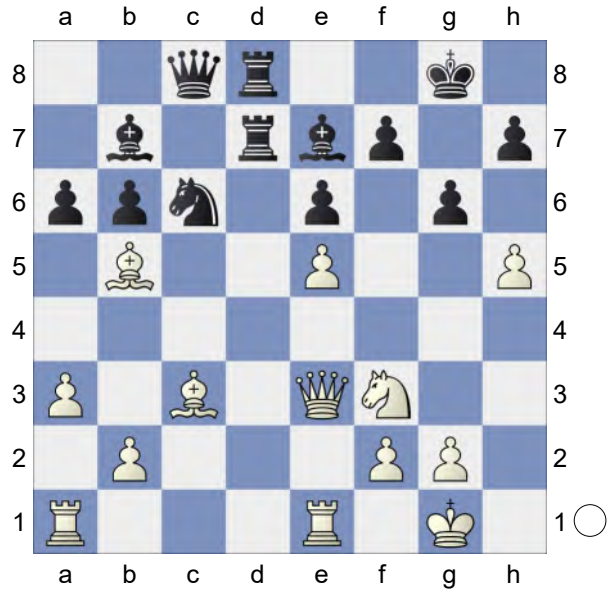
16.Bxc3 Bb7 17.h4 Rd7

[17...h5 <xml✕:en>does not solve the problems in the long run. White keeps his pressure, while Black's kingside is weak anyway.</:en ✕ /xml> <xml ✕:de>vermag die Probleme langfristig auch nicht zu lösen. Weiß behält Druck, während der schwarze K" nigsfl" gel schwach bleibt.</:de ✕/xml> Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is not satisfactory. White keeps his pressure, while Black's kingside is weak anyway. ' is not satisfactory. White keeps his pressure, while Black's kingside is weak anyway .ist unbefriedigend. Weiß behält seinen Druck, während die schwarze Königsstellung schwach bleibt. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'ist unbefriedigend. Weiß behält seinen Druck, während die schwarze Königsstellung schwach bleibt." 18.Be4 Rd7 19.Rac1 △Bf8 20.Bb4!? '!' *(20.b4↑)* 20...Rc8 *(20...Bxb4 21.axb4 a6 22.Rxc6 Bxc6 23.Rc1+-; 20...Bg7 21.Rxc6 Bxc6 22.Rc1+-)* 21.Bxf8 Kxf8 22.Rc3±]

18.h5

[18.Rac1!? Rad8 19.Bb5↑]

18...Rad8 19.Bb5 Qc8 20.Qe3 a6



21.Bf1 Bc5 22.Qf4 Ne7 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.Ng5 Nf5

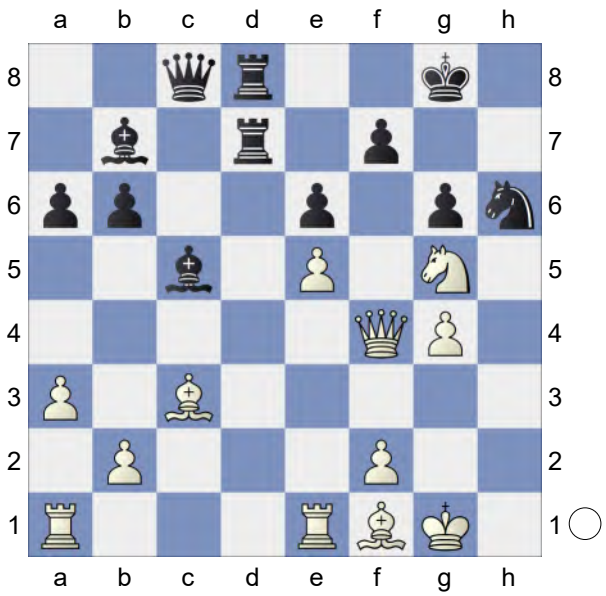
[24...Nd5 25.Qh4 Nxc3 26.bxc3 <xml X:en>Black's position is difficult because there's no piece to defend the King and he cannot create counterplay. For example:</:en X/xml> <xml X:de>Die Stellung von Schwarz ist schwierig, weil keine Figur den König verteidigt und er kein Gegenspiel erzeugen kann. Zum Beispiel:</:de X/xml> Black's position is difficult because there's no piece to defend the King and he cannot create counterplay. For example: Die schwarze Stellung ist schwierig, weil er keine Figuren hat, die seinen König verteidigen und er kein Gegenspiel entwickeln kann. Zum Beispiel: Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Die schwarze Stellung ist schwierig, weil er keine Figuren hat, die seinen König verteidigen und er kein Gegenspiel entwickeln kann. Zum Beispiel:'' Qc7 27.Qh6 Rd2 *(27...b5 28.Nh7 Be7 29.Nf6+ Bxf6 30.exf6* <xmlX:en>and mate next.</:en X/xml> <xml X:de>nebst Matt.</:de X/xml> and mate next.und Matt im nächsten. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'und Matt im nächsten.'')* 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Nxe6++-]

25.g4 Nh6

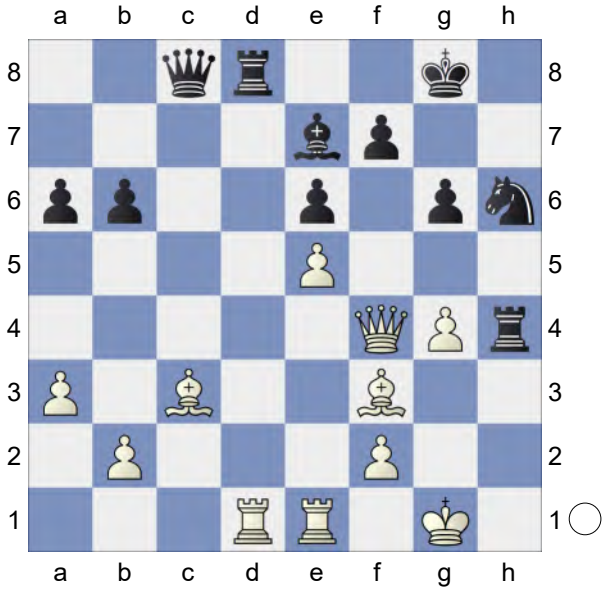
[25...Qc6 <xmlX:en>Black's defence must be based on the tactical aspects of the position.</:en X /xml> Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Black must play very exact in order to keep the position balanced. His defence is based on tactical aspects of the position.'Black must play very exact in order to keep the position balanced. His defence is based on tactical aspects of the position.Schwarz muss sehr genau spielen, um die Stellung im Gleichgewicht zu halten. Seine Verteidigung beruht auf taktischen Aspekten der Stellung. Rogozenco, Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Schwarz muss sehr genau spielen, um die Stellung im Gleichgewicht zu halten. Seine Verteidigung beruht auf taktischen Aspekten der Stellung.'' 26.Ne4 *(26.Re4 Ng3!!* <xmlX:en>such a move is impossible to find for a human, especially over the board.</:en X/xml> such a move is impossible to find for a human, especially over the board. solch einen Zug zu finden ist für einen Menschen unmöglich, vor allem am Brett. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'solch einen Zug zu finden ist für einen Menschen unmöglich, vor allem am Brett.'' *27.Qxg3 Be7!* <xmlX:en>exchanging the most active piece; Black solves the problems and is probably not worse.</:en X/xml> Rogozenco, Dorian: 'exchanging the most active

piece Black solves the problems and is probably no worse.'exchanging the most active piece Black solves the problems and is probably no worse. mit dem Abtausch der aktivsten Figur löst Schwarz die Probleme und steht wahrscheinlich nicht schlechter. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'mit dem Abtausch der aktivsten Figur löst Schwarz die Probleme und steht wahrscheinlich nicht schlechter. " *)* 26...Nh4 27.Qg3 g5 <xml✕:en>If</ :en✕/xml> Rogozenco,Dorian: 'The position is very sharp and Black's chances must not be underestimated. If' The position is very sharp and Black's chances must not be underestimated.Die Stellung ist sehr scharf und die schwarzen Chancen darf man nicht unterschätzen. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Die Stellung ist sehr scharf und die schwarzen Chancen darf man nicht unterschätzen.''If Falls Rogozenco, Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'Falls'' 28.Rac1 <xml ✕:en>then</:en ✕/xml> then dann Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'dann" Qxe4! *(* <xml✕:en>Or even</ :en✕/xml> <xml ✕:de>Oder sogar</ :de✕/xml> *28...Rd1)* 29.Rxe4 Bxe4 <xml ✕:en>and Black has a strong initiative.</:en ✕/xml> <xml ✕:de>und Schwarz hat eine starke Initiative.</ :de ✕ /xml> and Black has a strong initiative .und Schwarz hat starke Initiative. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Rogozenko: 'und Schwarz hat starke Initiative."]

(Diagram)

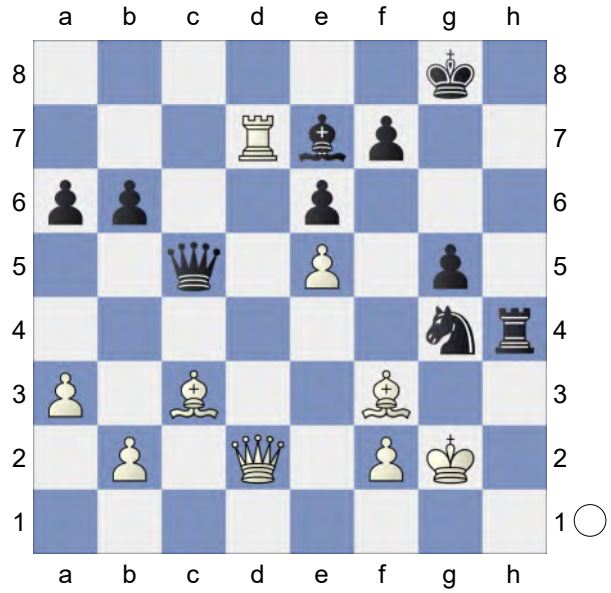


26.Bg2 Rd3 27.Ne4 Bxe4
[27...Kg7 28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Qh4 Kg7 30.Nd6+-]
28.Bxe4 Rh3 29.Rad1
[<xml✕:en>Simpler is</:en✕/xml> 29.Bg2 Rh4 30.Qg5+-]
29...Rh4 30.Bf3 Be7

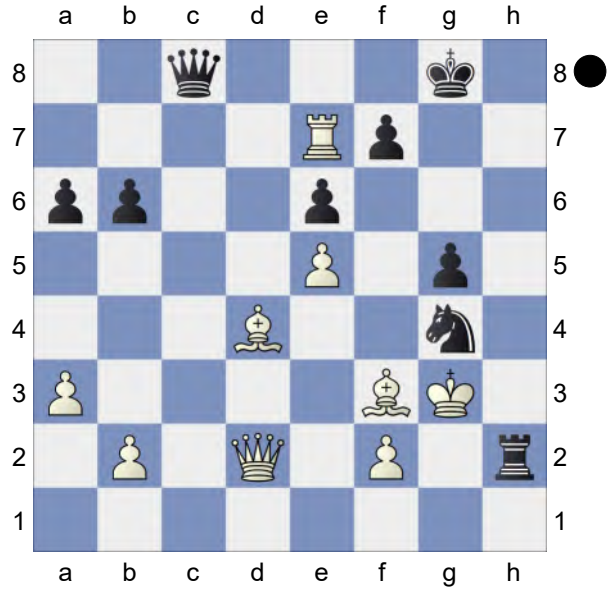


31.Kg2 Rxd1 32.Rxd1 Qc7 33.Rd6!+-
Rogozenco,Dorian '!'<xml✕:en>After</ :en✕/xml> **33...g5**
[33...Bf8 34.Qg5 Be7 *(34...Qe7 35.Qxe7 Bxe7 36.Rxb6+-)* 35.Qd2+-]

34.Qd2 <xmlX:en>Black's position is hopeless:</:en X/xml> Black's position is hopeless: **34...Nxg4 35.Rd7 Qc5**



36.Bd4 Rh2+ 37.Kg3 Qc8 38.Rxe7+-

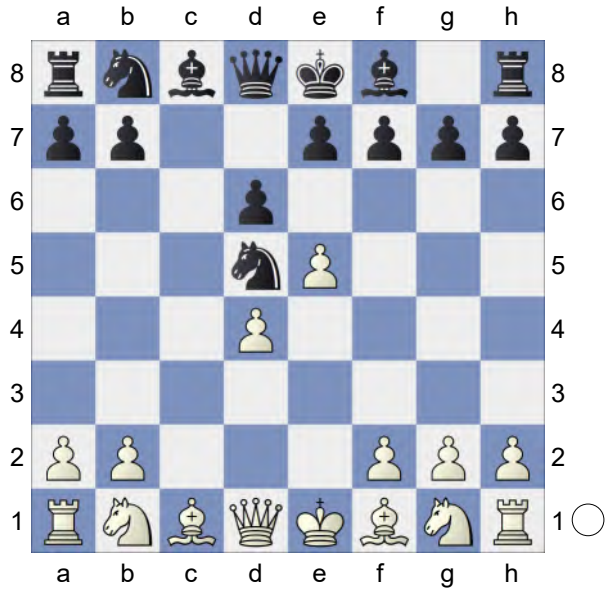


1-0 (38) Kharlov,A (2639)-Gallagher,J (2519) Calcutta 2001 CBM 082 [Rogozenko]

1-0

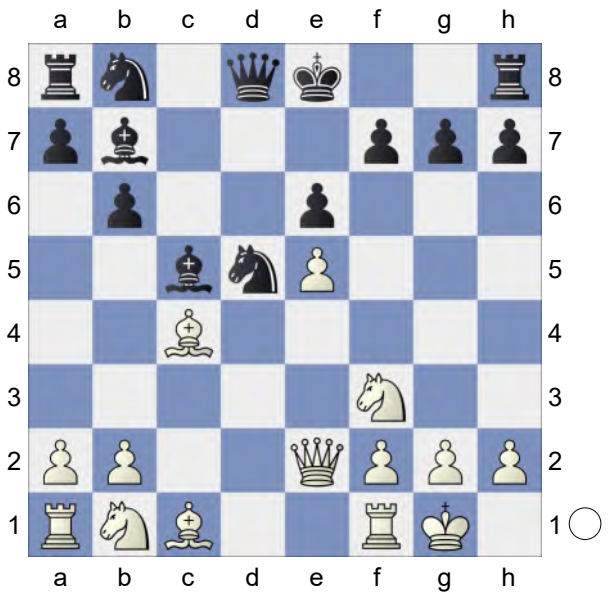
129 **B22**
□ **Karthikeyan,Murali** **2637**
■ **Tabatabaei,Mohammad Amin** **2695**
Qatar Masters 2024 | Open A (7)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6



6.Nf3 e6 7.Bc4 dxe5 7...Be7 is the modern continuation.7...Le7 ist die moderne Fortsetzung.
[7...Nb6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.0-0 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nb4 11.Be4 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bd7 13.Nc3 Bc6 14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.Nb5 Nd5 16.Rxd5 exd5 17.Nc7+ Kd7 18.Nxa8 Be7 19.Bg5 Rxa8 20.Rd1 h6 21.Bxe7 Nxe7 22.Nd4 ½-½ Vidit,S (2724)-Maghsoodloo,P (2720) Tata Steel India Rapid 2022 (1) ½-½ (34) Vidit,S (2724)-Maghsoodloo,P (2720) Tata Steel India Rapid 2022 (1)]
8.dxe5 b6N
[8...Bb4+ 9.Nbd2 *(9.Bd2 0-0 10.Bxb4 Nxb4 11.Nc3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nc2+ 13.Qxc2 Qxc4 14.Ng5 Qh4 15.Nce4 Nc6 16.g3 Qh6 17.f4 Qg6 18.0-0 f6 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Nf3 Nb4 21.Qc4 a5 22.Rae1 b5 23.Qb3 Nd5* 1-0 Magrin-Merkulov EU/FSM/29 corr ICCF 1990 1-0 (65) Magrin-Merkulov EU/FSM/29 corr ICCF 1990*)* 9...Nb6 *(9...0-0 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Qe2 Nf4 12.Qe4 Ng6 13.Bd3 Bxd2 14.Bxd2 Ncxe5 15.Nxe5 f5 16.Qe2 Nxe5 17.Qxe5 Qxd3 18.Bb4 Re8 19.Bc3 Qd7 20.Rad1 Qf7 21.Rd3 Kh8 22.Rfd1 h6 23.h4 Kh7 24.Rg3* ½-½ Pedmanson,A (2535)-Rios,E Bled/Portoroz 27/526 1979 (4) ½-½ (53) Pedmanson,A (2535)-Rios,E Bled/Portoroz 27/526 1979 (4)*)* 10.Be2 Bd7 11.0-0 Bc6 12.a3 Be7 13.Qc2 N8d7 14.Ne4 Rc8 15.Qb1 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Bg5 Be7 18.Rd1 Nd5 19.Bd2 Qb6 20.b4 Ba4 21.Rc1 0-0 22.Bc4 Qd8 23.Qe4 1-0 Ajay,S (2184)-Mohd,T (1496) Asia-ch U20 Jamshedpur 2023 (4) 1-0 (41) Ajay,S (2184)-Mohd,T (1496) Asia-ch U20 Jamshedpur 2023 (4)]
9.0-0 Bb7 10.Qe2 White is slightly better. **10...Bc5**
[10...Nd7 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.Rac1 Rfd8 15.Rfe1 h6 16.a3 Rac8 0-1 (33) Ju, W (2563)-Maghsoodloo,P (2723) FIDE World Bl Team Final blitz 2024 (2.2)]

(Diagram)



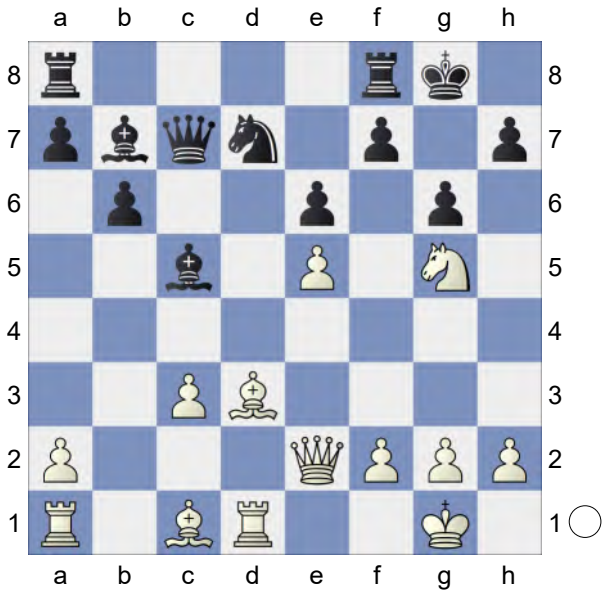
'N' 'N' **11.Rd1 0-0! 12.Bd3** Bxh7+! is the strong threat. **12...Nd7 13.Ng5** -0.55/23

[13.Nc3= 0.04/22 Nxc3 14.bxc3]

13...g6 0.18/19

[13...h6∓ -0.55/23 14.Qe4 f5 15.exf6 N5xf6 16.Qxe6+ *(16.Qxb7 hxg5 17.Nc3 Ng4=)* 16...Kh8 17.Nf7+ Rxf7 18.Qxf7 Ng4]

14.Nc3= Nxc3 15.bxc3 Black must now prevent Bb5. **15...Qc7!**



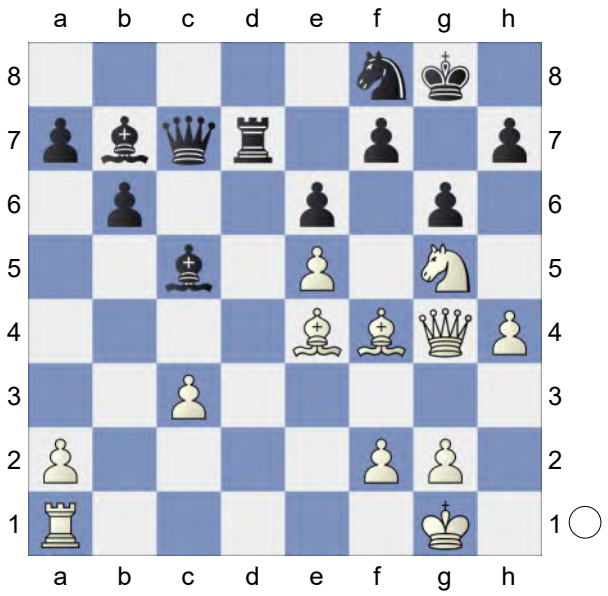
16.Bf4 Rfd8 0.13/22

[16...Nf6∓ -0.31/22]

17.Qg4 Nf8

[17...Nxe5? 18.Qh3 Bxf2+ 19.Kh1+-]

18.h4 Rd7 19.Be4 Rad8 20.Rxd7 Rxd7

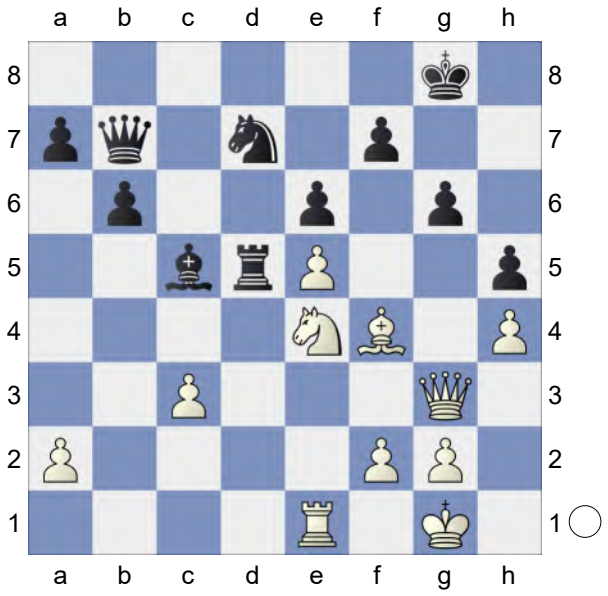


21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Re1 Ne4 would now be deadly. **22...h5 23.Qg3 Rd5** 0.53/22

[Black should try 23...Qd5= 0.03/23]

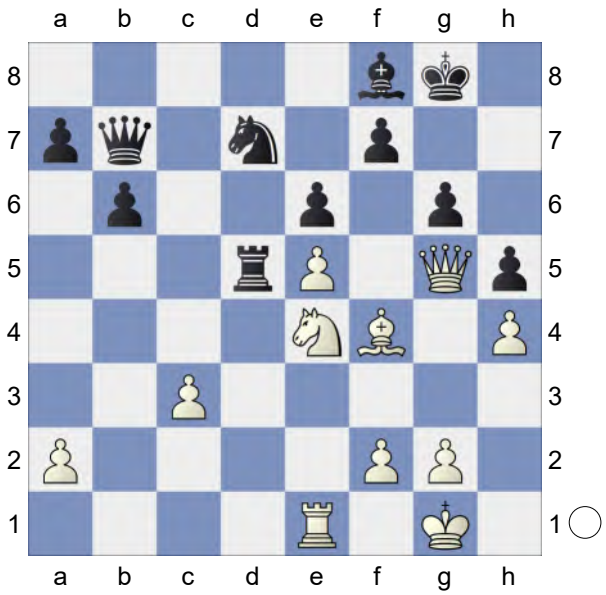
24.Ne4± Hoping for Nf6+. **24...Nd7** 1.09/19

[24...Be7± 0.41/23]



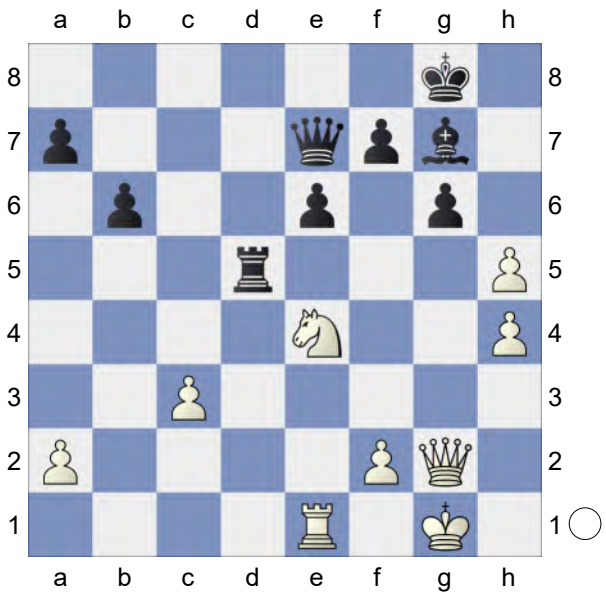
25.Qg5!± Threatens to win with Qd8+.

White is more active. **25...Bf8** 2.51/23
[25...Qb8± 1.28/24 was necessary.]

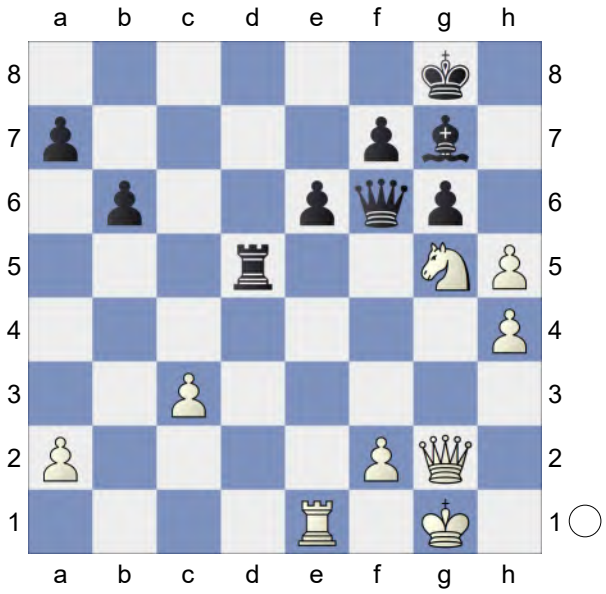


26.g4 Bg7 27.gxh5? 0.08/18
[White should play 27.Nd6+- 2.65/22 Qc6 28.Qe7 *(28.gxh5 Qxc3 29.Rc1 Qf3=)* 28...Rxd6 29.exd6]
27...Nxe5= 28.Bxe5 Remove Defender
28...Bxe5 29.Qg4
[29.hxg6 Bh2+ 30.Kxh2 Rxg5 31.gxf7+ Qxf7 32.hxg5 Qf4+ 33.Kg2 Qg4+ 34.Kh2 Kg7]
29...Bg7 30.Qg2 Strongly threatening c4.
[30.hxg6? f5 31.Qg2 fxe4 32.Qxe4 Bxc3-+]
30...Qe7!
[30...gxh5? loses. 31.Nf6+ Kf8 32.Qxd5 *(32.Nxd5 Qxd5 33.Qxd5 exd5+-)* 32...Qxd5 33.Nxd5 exd5+- 34.Rd1+-]

(Diagram)

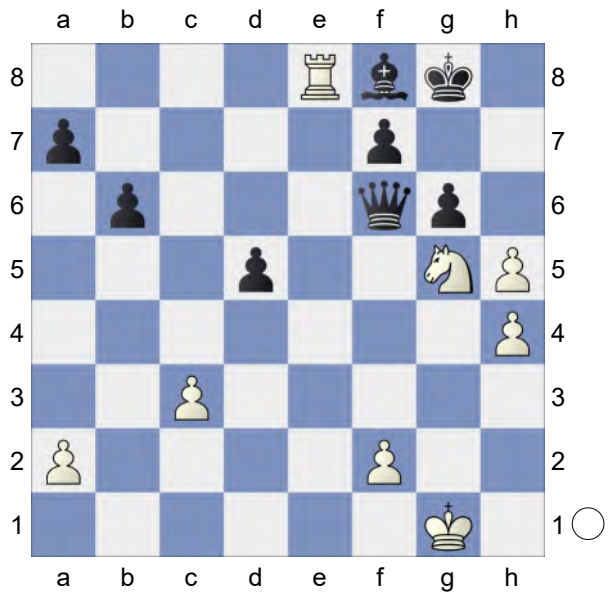


31.Ng5 Qf6? 6.75/21
[31...gxh5? too greedy. 32.Qxd5 Bh6 33.Qf5 exf5 34.Rxe7+-]
[31...Bf6= -0.12/26 32.Qxd5 exd5 33.Rxe7 Bxe7]

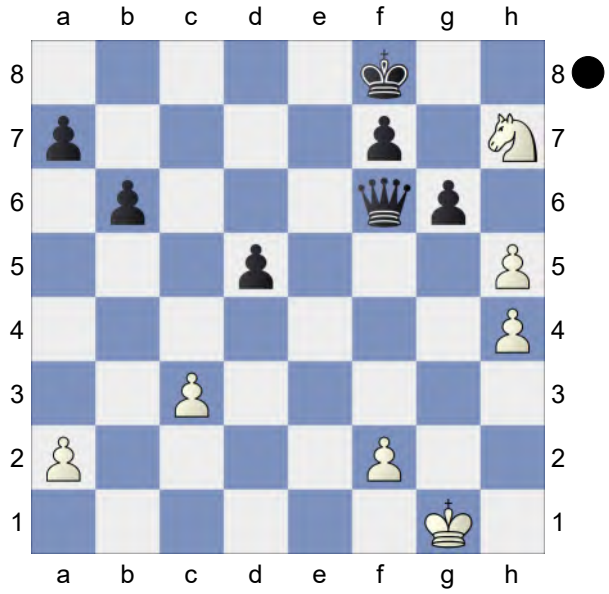


This move loses the game for Black.
32.Qxd5!!+- White is clearly winning.
32...exd5
[32...Bf8 33.Nxe6]
33.Re8+ Bf8

(Diagram)



34.Rxf8+! Decoy **34...Kxf8 35.Nh7+**

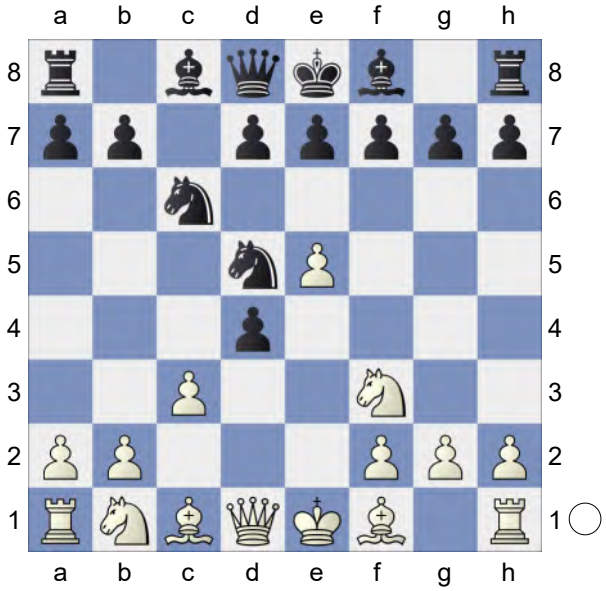


Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.45

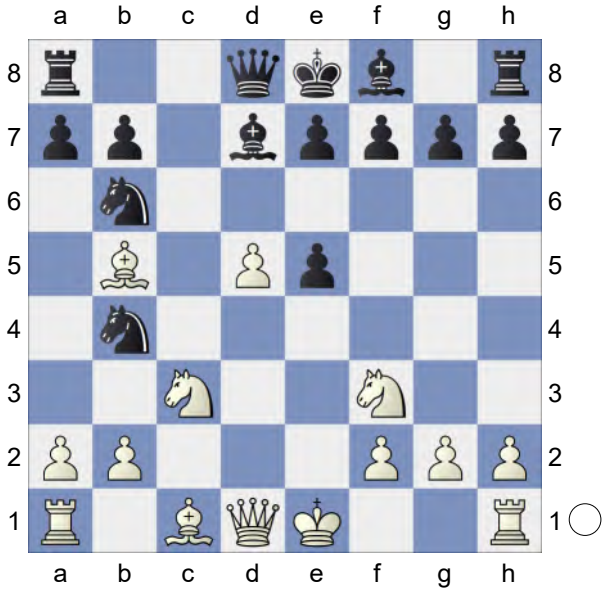
1-0

130 **B22**
□ **Georgiev,Kiril** **2634**
■ **Erdos,Viktor** **2582**
EU-ch 10th Budva (10) 16.03.2009
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4

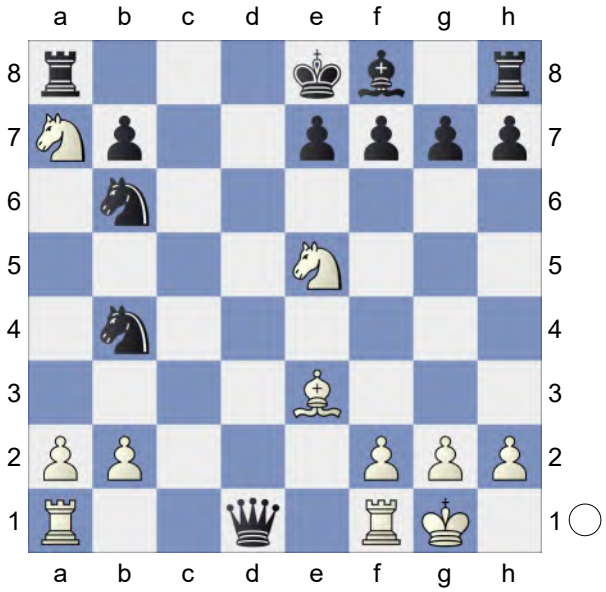


6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nc3!?N dxe5 10.d5 Nb4



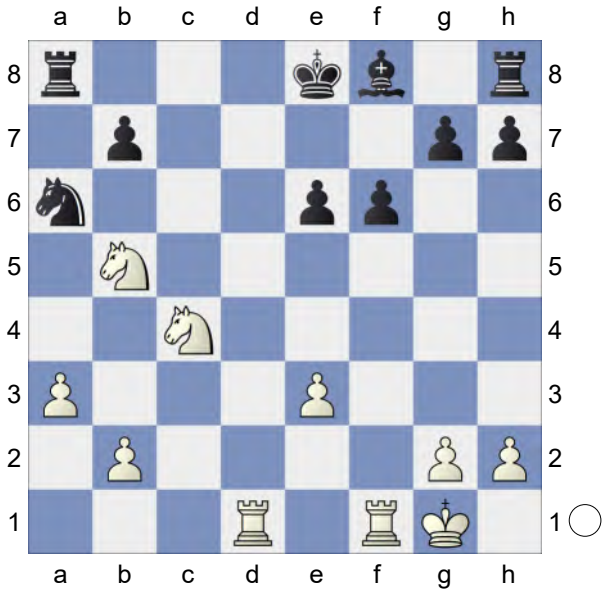
11.Nxe5 Bxb5 12.Nxb5 Rc8
[but not 12...g6]

13.0-0 Qxd5= Black has completed his development and has no problems.
14.Nxa7 Ra8
[14...Qxe5 15.Nxc8 Nxc8 16.Re1⊙+-]
15.Be3 Qxd1
[15...Rxa7 16.Bxb6 Ra8 17.a3 Qxd1 18.Rfxd1 Nc6 19.Nxc6 bxc6 20.Rac1 Rc8 21.Rxc6+-]

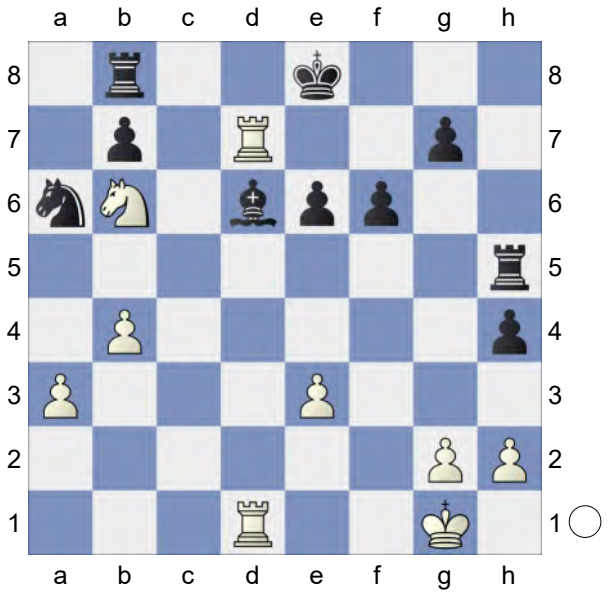


16.Raxd1
[16.Rfxd1 N6d5 17.a3 Nxe3⊙ 18.Nb5 Na6 19.fxe3 g6]
16...N6d5
[16...N4d5 17.Nb5 Rc8 *(17...e6 18.Bxb6+- Nxb6 19.Nc7+)* 18.Bxb6 Nxb6 19.Rc1+-]
17.a3 Nxe3 It looks unbelievable that Black can lose this endgame.
18.Nb5 Na6
[18...Nxd1 19.Nc7+ *(19.Rxd1 Na6)* 19...Kd8 20.Nxa8 Nxb2! the simplest 21.Nxf7+ *(21.axb4 Rg8 22.Nxf7+ Kd7)* 21...Kd7 22.Nxh8 N4d3 23.Nf7 e5]
19.fxe3 f6 20.Nc4 e6
[20...Rc8 21.Rc1? After the text move, amazingly, Black can't organize

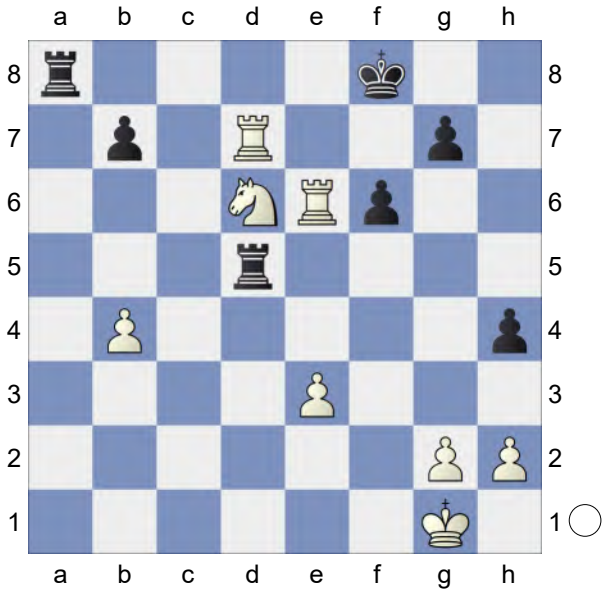
his defence! Rc5⊙ 22.Na7 e6 23.b4 Rd5 24.Na5]



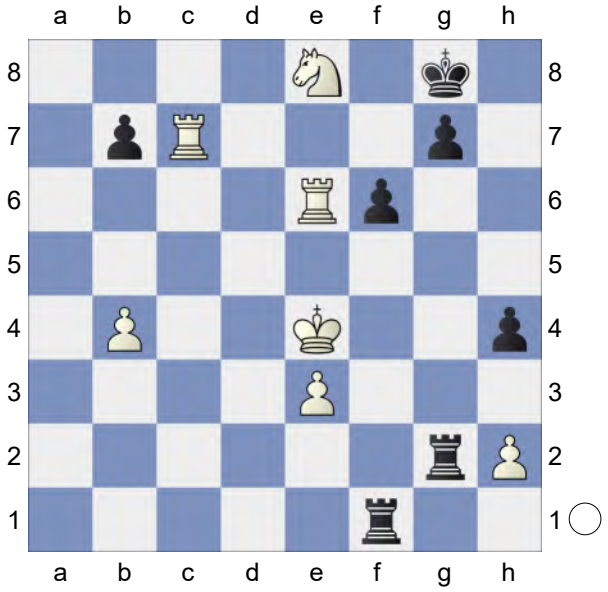
21.Nb6 Rb8 22.b4 h5
[22...Be7 23.Rd7 Bd8 24.Nd6+ Kf8 25.Nbc8 Bc7 26.Rf7+? White's only plan is to bring his king to g6 and then play e6-e7. It was easy to prevent: Kg8 27.Ne7#?! Too late!]
23.Rd7 h4 24.Rfd1 Rh5 25.Nd6+ Bxd6



26.R1xd6 Kf8
[26...Re5 27.Rxg7]
27.Rxe6 Rb5 28.Nc4 Nxb4 29.Nd6
[29.axb4 Rxb4 30.Nd6]
29...Rd5 30.axb4 Ra8

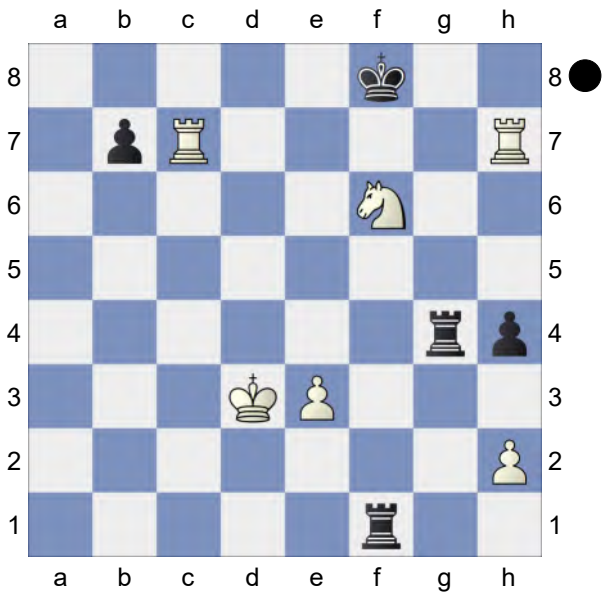


31.Rc7 Rd1+ 32.Kf2 Ra2+ 33.Kf3 Kg8
[33...Rf1+ 34.Kg4 Rxg2+ 35.Kh3]
34.Ne8 Rf1+ 35.Ke4 Rxg2



36.Ree7 Rg4+ 37.Kd3 Rxb4?!
A strange manoeuvre. **38.Rxg7+ Kf8 39.Rh7 Rg4 40.Nxf6**

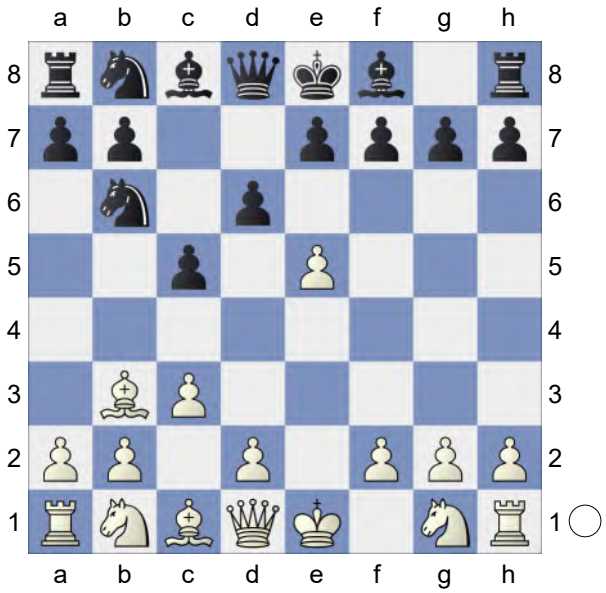
(Diagram)



1-0

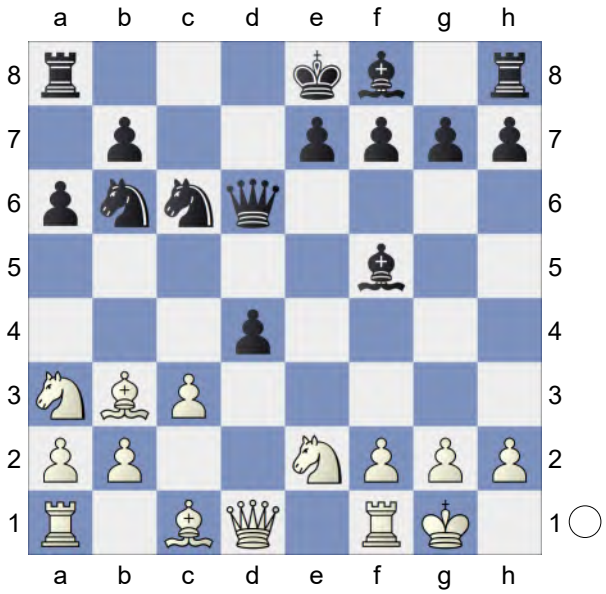
131 **B22**
□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2634**
■ **Plat,Vojtech** **2546**
Bundesliga 2223 (6.7) 05.02.2023
[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 d6

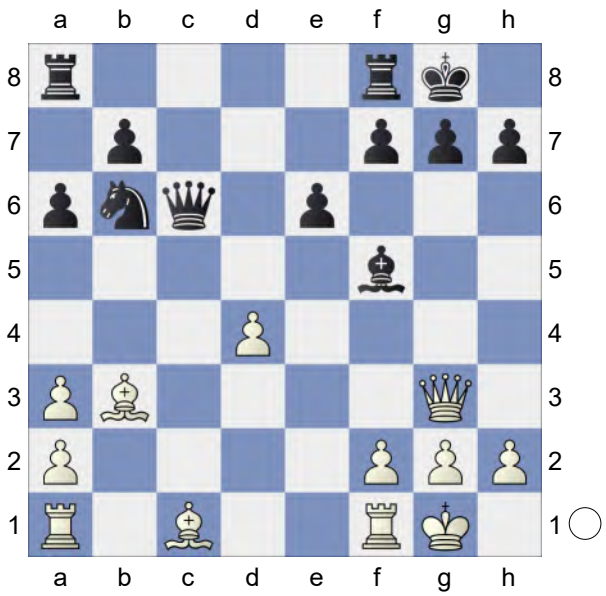


6.exd6 Qxd6 7.Na3 A rare move. White plans Nf3-h2. ...h7-h5 stops White's h-pawn but weakens Black's position. **7...a6?!** Counterplay in the centre is a standard reply to a flank attack but this is hardly a good version. **8.Ne2 Nc6 9.0-0 Bf5 10.d4** The simplest course. **10...cxd4**

(Diagram)

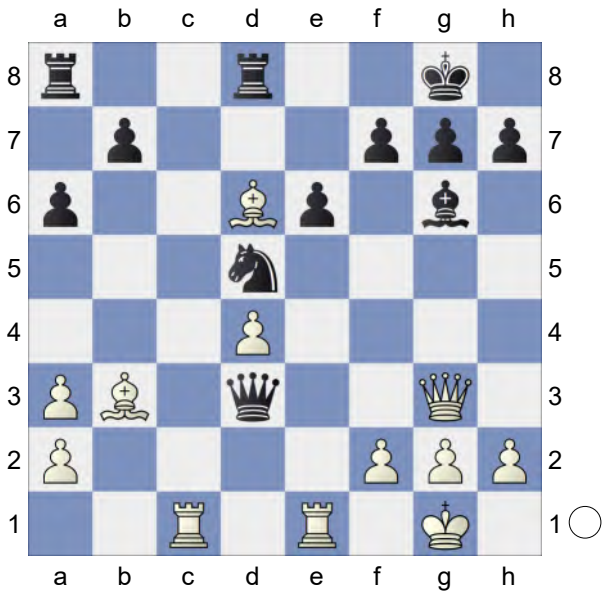


11.Nxd4
[11.Bf4 Qd7 *(11...e5 12.Nxd4)* 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 e6]
11...Nxd4 A desperate attempt to find a way to White's king. **12.cxd4 e6 13.Qf3 Qc6 14.Qg3 Bxa3 15.bxa3**
[15.Qxg7 0-0-0 16.bxa3 1-0 (55) Karpov,Al (2330)-Yakunin,A (2357) Khanty-Mansiysk 2007 Rhg8 17.d5 Nxd5↑ 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Qc3+ Qc6 20.Qxc6+ bxc6]
15...0-0



16.Bh6 Bg6 17.Rac1 Qe4 18.Rfe1

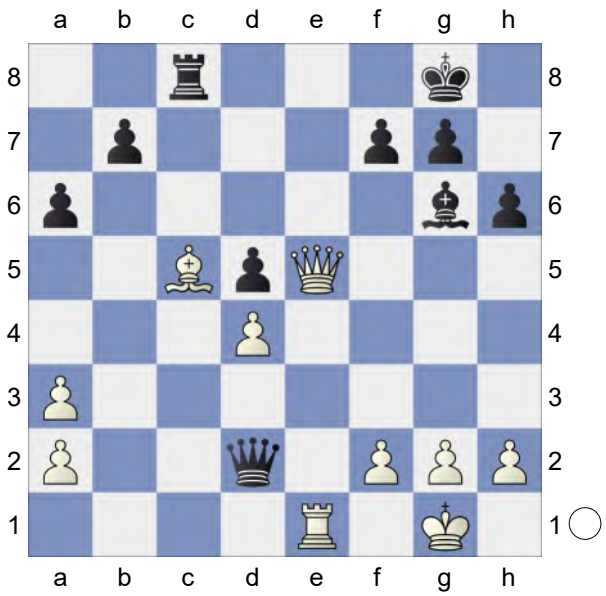
Qd3 19.Bf4 Nd5 Black is a rook down, and this counter-attack fails. White gives back his material advantage but continues his killing attack. **20.Bd6! Rfd8**



21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Be7 Rdc8 23.Rxc8+ Black resigns as his king is helpless. **23...Rxc8 24.Bc5 Qd2 25.Qe5**

[25.Bb4 Qxd4! 26.Qc7 Qg4 27.h3 f6± 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Re7+ Bf7± 30.hxg4 b6]

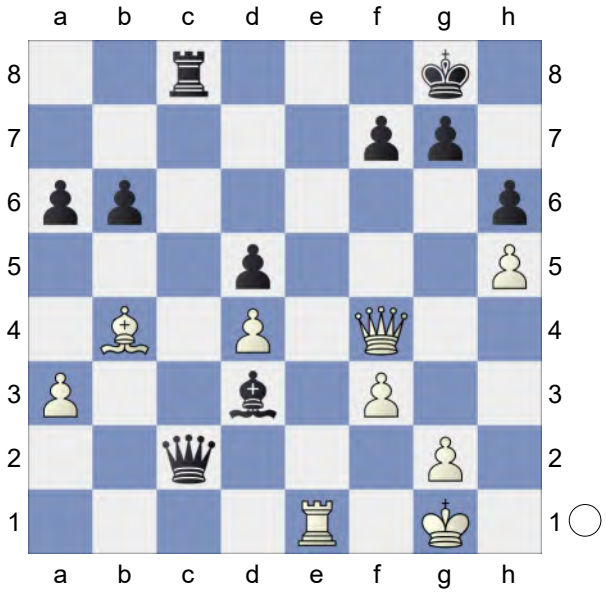
25...h6+-



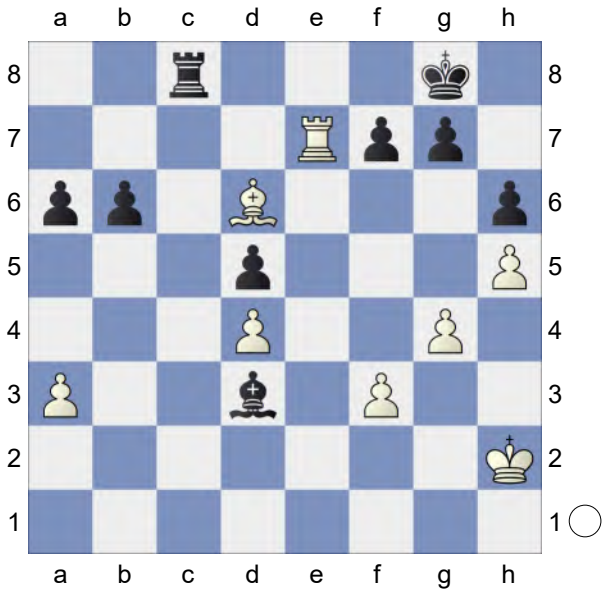
26.h4 b6 27.Bb4

[27.Bxb6→ Be4 28.Ba5! Qxa5 29.Rxe4±]

27...Qxa2 28.h5 Be4 29.f3 Bd3 30.Qf4 Qc2



31.Kh2 Bf5+- 32.Re7 Be6 33.Bd6 Qf5 34.Qxf5 Bxf5+- 35.g4 Bd3

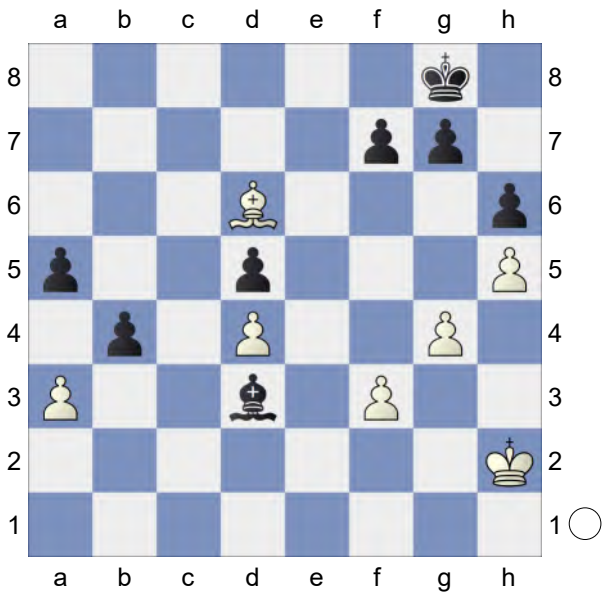


36.Rc7 Ra8! 37.Rb7 b5 38.Rb8+

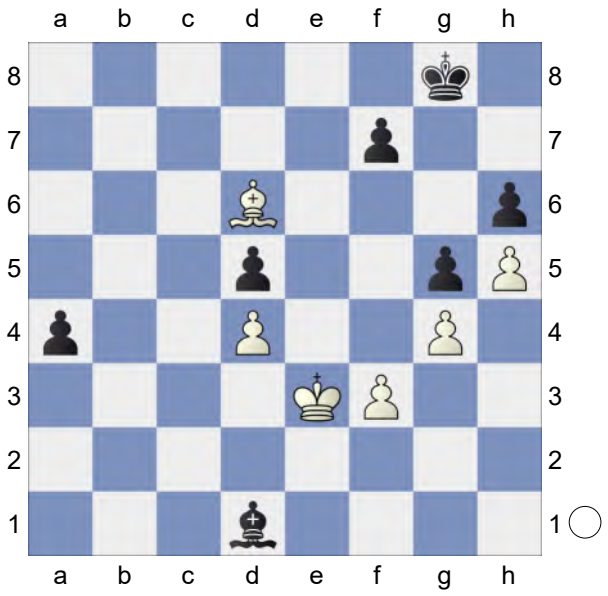
[38.Bb4 a5 39.Bc3 is hardly better. b4!? 40.axb4 Rc8 41.Be1 a4↑ △42.Ra7 Rc1 43.Ra8+ Kh7 44.Bg3]

38...Rxb8! 39.Bxb8 a5!+- 40.Bd6 b4

(Diagram)



even better than **41.axb4 a4 42.b5 Bxb5 43.Kg3 Be2 44.Kf2 Bd1 45.Ke3! g5**

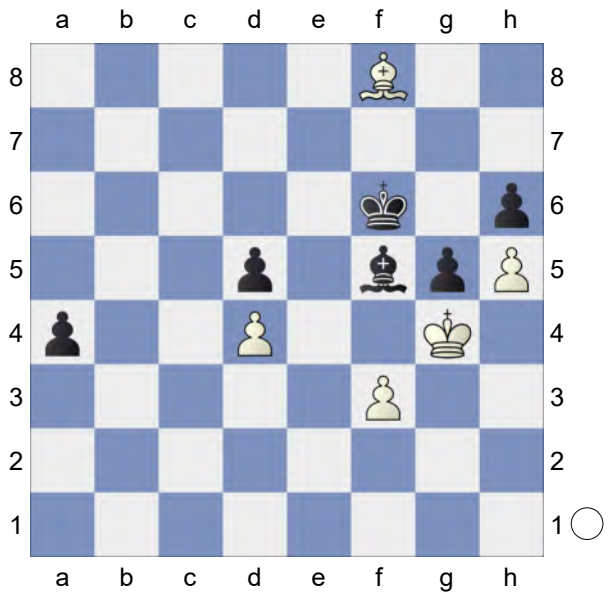


46.Kf2 f5 47.gxf5 Kf7 48.Kg3 Kf6 49.Kg4 Bc2 50.Bf8+-

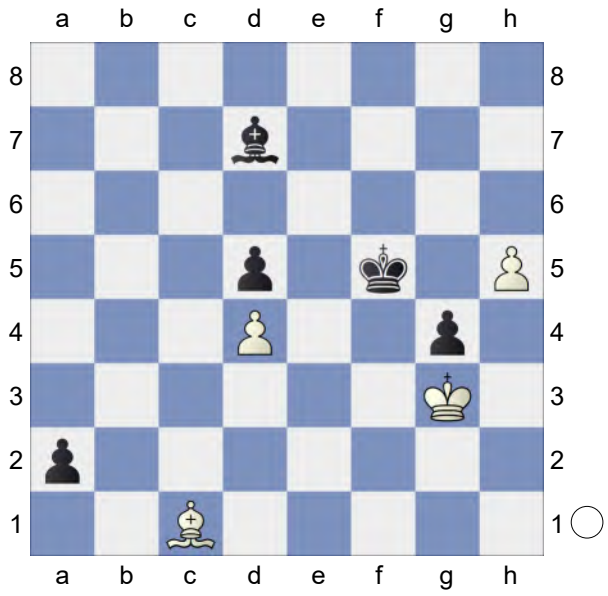
[50.Be5+ Ke7 51.f6+ Ke6 , and Black will hardly survive.]

50...Bxf5+

(Diagram)

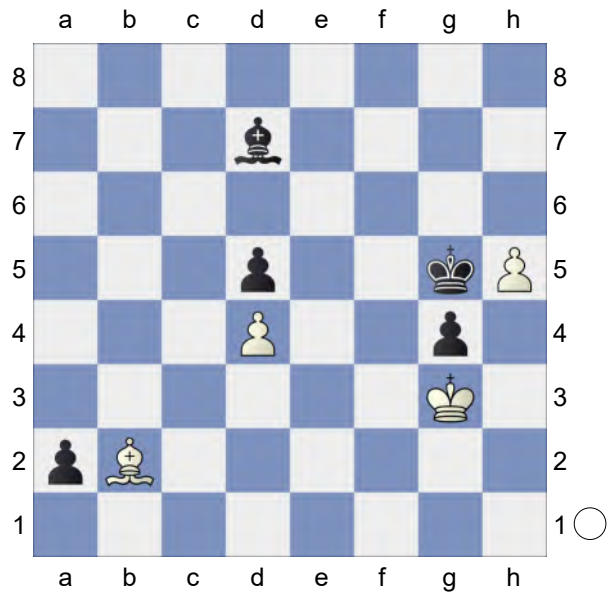


51.Kg3 Bd7 52.f4 g4 53.f5 Kxf5!? 54.Bxh6 a3 55.Bc1 doesn't stop White's attack: **55...a2!**



56.Bb2 Kg5

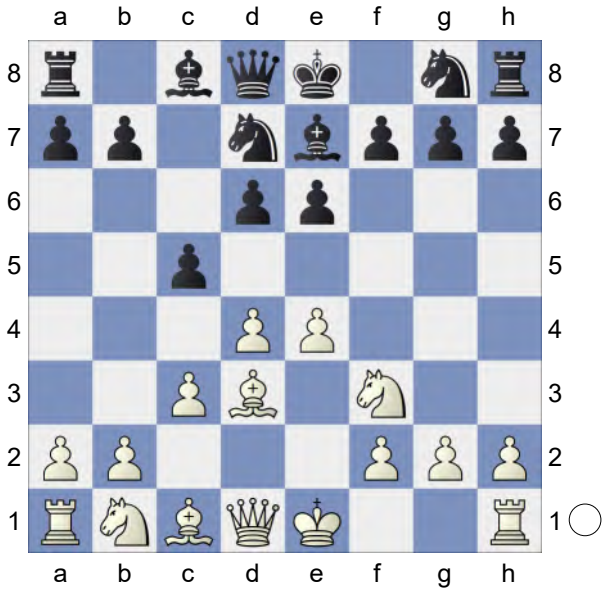
(Diagram)



1-0

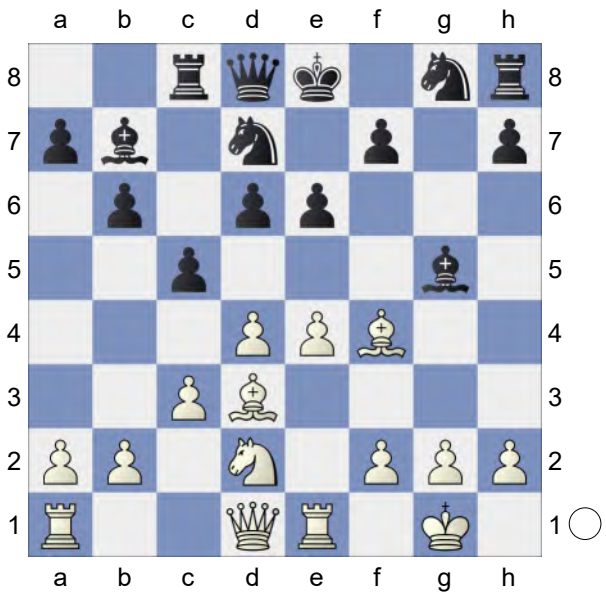
132 **B22**
□ **Delchev,Aleksander** **2634**
■ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2731**
EU-chT (Men) 13th (8.1) 14.11.2001
[Tsesarsky,Ilya]

1.e4 Tsesarsky Tsesarsky,I Tsesarsky,I **1...c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bd3 Be7**

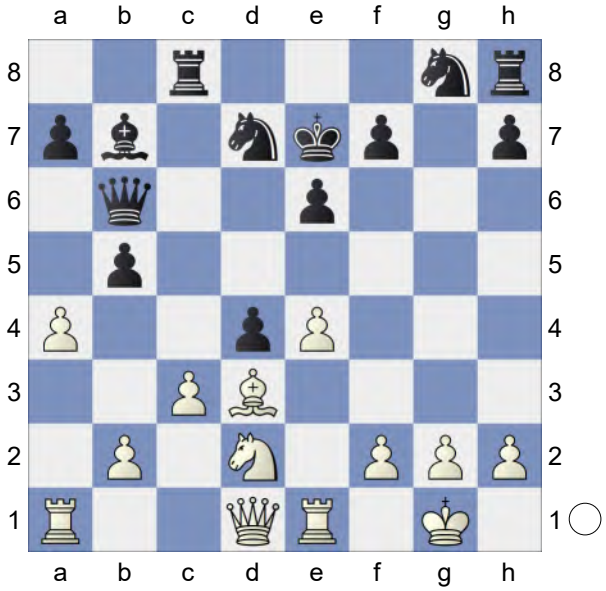


6.0-0 b6 7.Bf4 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Rc8 9.Re1 g5 10.Nxg5
[10.Bg3 g4 11.dxc5= 0-1 Kantsler,B-Avrukh,B/Tel Aviv ISR 2001/The Week in Chess 336 (56) bxc5± Equality after 12.e5 d5 *(12...gxf3 13.exd6)*]
10...Bxg5

(Diagram)

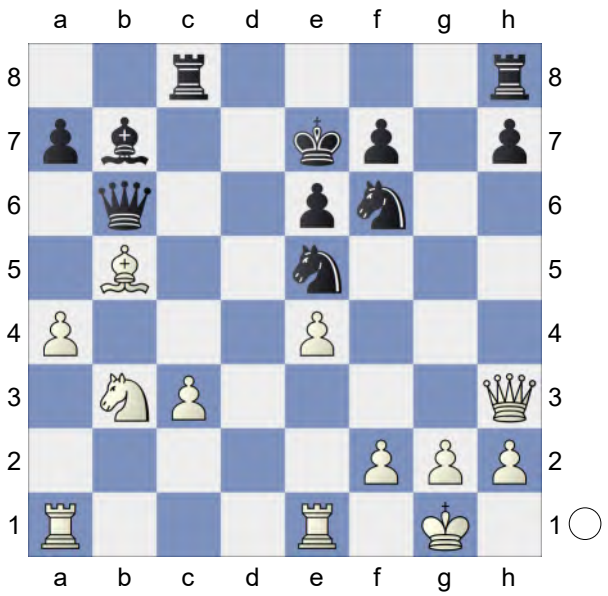


11.Bxd6 Be7 12.Nc4
[12.Bg3]
12...b5 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 **14.Nd2** Black equalizes also in another variations. **14...Qb6 15.a4 cxd4**

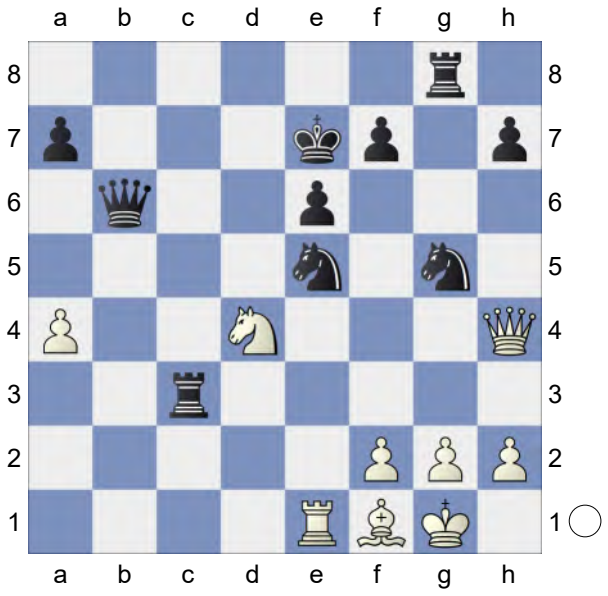


16.Bxb5 Ne5 17.Qh5 dxc3 18.bxc3
[Or 18.Qxe5 cxd2 19.Qg5+ Nf6 20.e5= dxe1Q+ 21.Rxe1 Kd8 22.Qxf6+ Kc7 23.Qxf7+ Kb8]
18...Rc5 Ivanchuk,Vassily: 'N' **19.Nb3 Nf6 20.Qh3 Rcc8**

(Diagram)

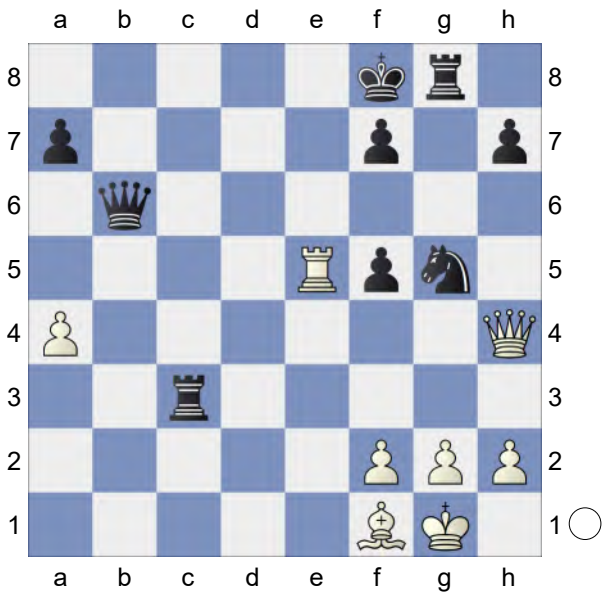


Ivanchuk,Vassily: '!' **21.Nd4 Rhg8**
Ivanchuk,Vassily: '=' **22.Bf1**
White occupied the only open line "c", but Black doesn't yield it: **22...Bxe4 23.Rxe4 Nxe4 24.Re1 Rxc3 25.Qh4+ Ng5**



26.Nf5+ exf5 27.Rxe5+ Kf8

(Diagram)



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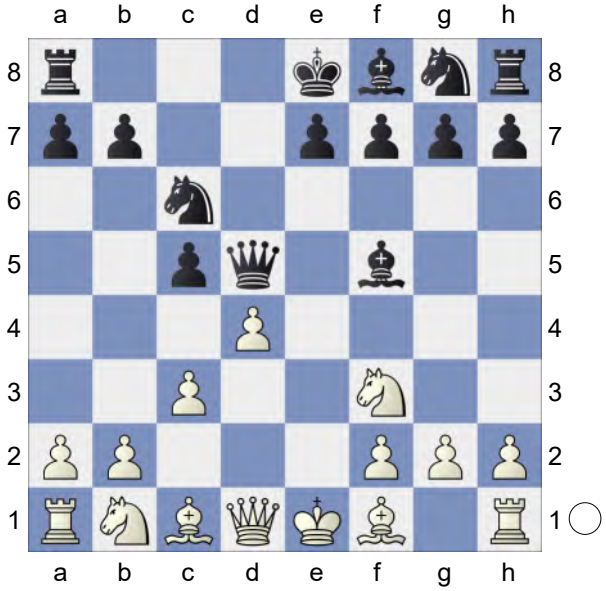
133 **B22**
□ **Howell,David** **2633**
■ **Wang,Yue** **2697**
Hastings Masters 2011-12 (5.1) 01.01.12
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 ChessBase **1...c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5!?**
A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players. ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: '!?' Collins, Sam: 'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players.'' Tadic,Branko: '* Collins, Sam: 'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players.'''*'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players. ChessBase: 'Collins, 'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players. ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: '!?' Collins, Sam: 'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players.'' Tadic,Branko: '*'' Sam: '!?' Collins, Sam: 'A variation I had never seen before I tuned in to the Hastings live coverage and saw David Howell a pawn down for nothing in this game. The move has about 100 games in the database, though mostly between lower-rated players.''' Tadic,Br: '



' Tadic,Br: '{#} Tadic,Branko: '*''' **6.Na3** Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!''Collins, Sam: 'Tadic,Branko: '?!'' Tadic,Br: '?!'

[6.dxc5 is always a critical move in these 2...d5 positions. After Qxd1+ *(6...Qxc5* is more compliant and allows White rapid development with *7.Be3* , when the bishop is definitely worse on f5 than on g4 Tadic,Branko: ', when the bishop is definitely worse on f5 than on g4' Tadic,Branko: ', when the bishop is definitely worse on f5 than on g4 Collins, Sam: ', when the bishop is definitely worse on f5

than on g4'') 7.Kxd1 the white king is confined to the centre, but the normal adverse outcomes from a pin by a bishop on g4 (winning back material with interest, or ruining White's kingside pawns) do not arise. The position looks dynamically balanced, but I think playing Black is more comfortable. M.Godena (2540) - A. Rombaldoni (2425), Bratto 2009 continued Tadic,Branko: 'the white king is confined to the centre, but the normal adverse outcomes from a pin by a bishop on g4 (winning back material with interest, or ruining White's kingside pawns) do not arise. The position looks dynamically balanced, but I think playing Black is more comfortable. M.Godena (2540) - A.Rombaldoni (2425), Bratto 2009 continued' Tadic,Branko: 'the white king is confined to the centre, but the normal adverse outcomes from a pin by a bishop on g4 (winning back material with interest, or ruining White's kingside pawns) do not arise. The position looks dynamically balanced, but I think playing Black is more comfortable. M.Godena (2540) - A.Rombaldoni (2425), Bratto 2009 continued Collins, Sam: 'the white king is confined to the centre, but the normal adverse outcomes from a pin by a bishop on g4 (winning back material with interest, or ruining White's kingside pawns) do not arise. The position looks dynamically balanced, but I think playing Black is more comfortable. M.Godena (2540) - A.Rombaldoni (2425), Bratto 2009 continued'' e6 (other options are available like castling queenside or playing the pawn to e5 but I quite like Rombaldoni's measured approach) Tadic,Branko: '(other options are available like castling queenside or playing the pawn to e5 but I quite like Rombaldoni's measured approach)' Tadic,Branko: '(other options are available like castling queenside or playing the pawn to e5 but I quite like Rombaldoni's measured approach) Collins, Sam: '(other options are available like castling queenside or playing the pawn to e5 but I quite like Rombaldoni's measured approach)'' 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Nbd2 Nd5 10.Nb3 and now I like 0-0-0 *(* rather than the game's *10...Nxe3+ 11.fxe3 0-0-0+ 12.Ke1 e5* when after *13.Ng5! Bg6 14.Bc4* White was on top and went on to win in 30 moves. Tadic,Branko: 'White was on top and went on to win in 30 moves.' Tadic,Branko: 'White was on top and went on to win in 30 moves. Collins, Sam: 'White was on top and went on to win in 30 moves.'') 11.Ke1 e5 with continuing compensation, since playing by analogy with the Godena game is a shot in the dark: Tadic,Branko: 'with continuing compensation, since playing by analogy with the Godena game is a shot in the dark:' Tadic, Branko: 'with continuing compensation, since playing by analogy with the Godena game is a shot in the dark: Collins, Sam: 'with continuing compensation, since playing by analogy with the Godena game is a shot in the dark:'' 12.Ng5?! Bg6 13.Bc4 Be7⩲]

[6.Be3 is the move I like best. Black has a very wide range of options here (castling queenside, two moves with the e-pawn, developing a knight

to f6) and as this line gains popularity these will likely be tested in sufficiently high-level games. A recent highly-rated encounter (perhaps Wang Yue's inspiration in entering this line) continued Tadic,Branko: 'is the move I like best. Black has a very wide range of options here (castling queenside, two moves with the e-pawn, developing a knight to f6) and as this line gains popularity these will likely be tested in sufficiently high-level games. A recent highly-rated encounter (perhaps Wang Yue's inspiration in entering this line) continued' Tadic,Branko: 'is the move I like best. Black has a very wide range of options here (castling queenside, two moves with the e-pawn, developing a knight to f6) and as this line gains popularity these will likely be tested in sufficiently high-level games. A recent highly-rated encounter (perhaps Wang Yue's inspiration in entering this line) continued Collins, Sam: 'is the move I like best. Black has a very wide range of options here (castling queenside, two moves with the e-pawn, developing a knight to f6) and as this line gains popularity these will likely be tested in sufficiently high-level games. A recent highly-rated encounter (perhaps Wang Yue's inspiration in entering this line) continued' Collins, Sam: 'is the move I like best. Black has a very wide range of options here (castling queenside, two moves with the e-pawn, developing a knight to f6) and as this line gains popularity these will likely be tested in sufficiently high-level games. A recent highly-rated encounter (perhaps Wang Yue's inspiration in entering this line) continued'' cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.cxd4 Bxb1 9.Qa4+! 0.15/21 *(9.Rxb1± 0.57/22 e6 10.Qa4+ Kd8 11.f3)* 9...Kd8= 10.Rxb1 *(10.Bc4!? Qxg2 11.Qa5+ b6 12.Qd5+ Qxd5 13.Bxd5±)* 10...Nf6 11.f3! Qe6 12.Kf2 Qf5 and now the spectacular double-rook sacrifice 13.d5? Tadic,Branko: 'was only good enough for a draw:' Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'was only good enough for a draw:" *(13.Re1 Ng4+ 14.Kg1 Nxe3 15.Rxe3 e6 16.Bd3 Qg5 17.Kf2* is clearly better for White*)* was only good enough for a draw: Tadic, Branko: 'was only good enough for a draw: Collins, Sam: 'was only good enough for a draw:'' 13...Qxb1 14.Qa5+ ChessBase: 'repeats immediately but White wants to play for a few more moves' ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: 'repeats immediately but White wants to play for a few more moves" Kc8! 15.Be2!? *(15.Qc5+ Kd8 16.Qa5+* repeats immediately but White wants to play for a few more moves *)* 15...Qxh1 16.Qc3+ Kd8 17.Qa5+ Ke8 18.Bb5+ Nd7 19.Bxd7+! Kxd7 20.Qb5+ Kd8 21.Qa5+ Kd7 and a draw was agreed in view of perpetual check in S. Vysochin (2529) - A. Areshchenko (2694), Kiev 2011. Tadic,Branko: 'and a draw was agreed in view of perpetual check in S.Vysochin (2529) - A. Areshchenko (2694), Kiev 2011.' Tadic,Branko: 'and a draw was agreed in view of perpetual check in S. Vysochin (2529) - A. Areshchenko (2694), Kiev 2011. Collins, Sam: 'and a draw was agreed in view of

perpetual check in S.Vysochin (2529) - A. Areshchenko (2694), Kiev 2011."]

[The first move I checked in this position was Tadic,Branko: 'The first move I checked in this position was' Tadic,Branko: 'The first move I checked in this position was Collins, Sam: 'The first move I checked in this position was'' 6.Nbd2 , aiming to put a bishop on c4 without allowing a check on e4. Unfortunately Black has the precise Tadic,Branko: ', aiming to put a bishop on c4 without allowing a check on e4. Unfortunately Black has the precise' Tadic,Branko: ', aiming to put a bishop on c4 without allowing a check on e4. Unfortunately Black has the precise Collins, Sam: ', aiming to put a bishop on c4 without allowing a check on e4. Unfortunately Black has the precise'' Qe6+! , when after 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.cxd4 Bd3! 10.Nf3 Qxe2+ 11.Qxe2 Bxe2 12.Kxe2 I prefer Black.]

6...cxd4 7.Bc4

[7.Nb5 -1.05/20 7.Nxd4 0.04 0-0-0!]

[7.Nxd4 simplifies Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Qxd4 9.cxd4 Rd8 10.Bd2]

7...Qe4+ 8.Kf1 ChessBase: 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N' Tadic,Branko: 'N' 'N''Collins, Sam: 'ChessBase: 'N' 'N' 'N'' Collins, Sam: 'ChessBase: 'N' 'N' 'N' Tadic,Branko: 'N'" Tadic,Br: 'N'. Black is slightly better.

[The standard trick ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: 'The standard trick'' Tadic,Branko: ''The standard trick ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam:'The standard trick ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: 'The standard trick'' ChessBase: 'The move known to theory is'' 'The standard trick''' 'ChessBase: 'The move known to theory is' Tadic, Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'ChessBase: 'The move known to theory is'" 8.Be3 , when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: ', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after'' Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: ', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after'' Tadic,Branko: '', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after ChessBase: 'Collins, Sa', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: ', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after'' ChessBase: 'the idea being that'' m: ', when Black can't capture since White takes on f7 and forks on g5, still leads to a displacement of the white king after''' 'ChessBase: 'the idea being that' Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'ChessBase: 'the idea being that'" e6! Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: '!" Tadic, Branko: 'Collins, Sam: '!' '!' '!'' *(8...dxe3?* 1.28/19 8...e6 -0.57 Tadic, Branko: '?' '?''Collins, Sam: 'is not possible as it loses the queen to Tadic,Branko: '?''' Tadic,Br: '?' is not possible as it loses the queen to Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'is not possible as it loses the queen to'' *9.Bxf7+! Kxf7 10.Ng5+* Tadic,Branko: '+-' '+-''Collins, Sam: 'Tadic,Branko:

'+-''' Tadic,Br: '+-') 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 . This looks perfectly comfortable for Black. S.Kristjansson (2472) - A.Rombaldoni (2309), Reykjavik 2009 continued Tadic, Branko: 'Collins, Sam: '. This looks perfectly comfortable for Black. S. Kristjansson (2472) - A.Rombaldoni (2309), Reykjavik 2009 continued'' Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: '. This looks perfectly comfortable for Black. S.Kristjansson (2472) - A.Rombaldoni (2309), Reykjavik 2009 continued' Collins, Sam: '. This looks perfectly comfortable for Black. S.Kristjansson (2472) - A.Rombaldoni (2309), Reykjavik 2009 continued'' Nf6 11.Ng5 Qh4! 12.g3 Qh6 Tadic,Branko: ' ∓' '∓"Collins, Sam: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ∓''' Tadic,Br: ' ∓' 13.h3 Qg6! 14.g4 Be4 -0.42/20 *(14...Nd5∓* -0.85/20 *15.Qe2 Be4)* 15.f3 -1.15/20 *(15.Nxe4∓* -0.42/20 *Qxe4 16.Rg1)* 15...Bxa3∓ 16.bxa3 Bc2 17.Qe2 Nd5 with a clear advantage for Black, who went on to win in 37 moves. Tadic,Branko: 'with a clear advantage for Black, who went on to win in 37 moves.' Tadic,Branko: 'with a clear advantage for Black, who went on to win in 37 moves. Collins, Sam: 'with a clear advantage for Black, who went on to win in 37 moves."]

8...e6! 9.Nb5 d3

[9...Rc8 -0.16/20 9...dxc3 -1.08 10.Qa4! is okay for White Tadic, Branko: 'is okay for White' Tadic, Branko: 'is okay for White Collins, Sam: 'is okay for White"]

[9...dxc3 is also playable, based on a stunning resource: 10.Nc7+ Ke7 11.b3! Ba3+ would now be deadly. Rd8 12.Ba3+ Kf6 13.Qc1 and now Rd1+! 14.Qxd1 Bxa3 when the c-pawn is a significant asset. However, it only seems enough for a marginally better endgame for Black: Tadic, Branko: 'when the c-pawn is a significant asset. However, it only seems enough for a marginally better endgame for Black:' Tadic,Branko: 'when the c-pawn is a significant asset. However, it only seems enough for a marginally better endgame for Black: Collins, Sam: 'when the c-pawn is a significant asset. However, it only seems enough for a marginally better endgame for Black:'' 15.Nb5 c2 16.Qd2 c1Q+ 17.Rxc1 Bxc1 18.Qxc1 Qb1 19.Qxb1 Bxb1 20.Nd6 Nge7 21.Nxb7 Nf5 and White should not lose.]

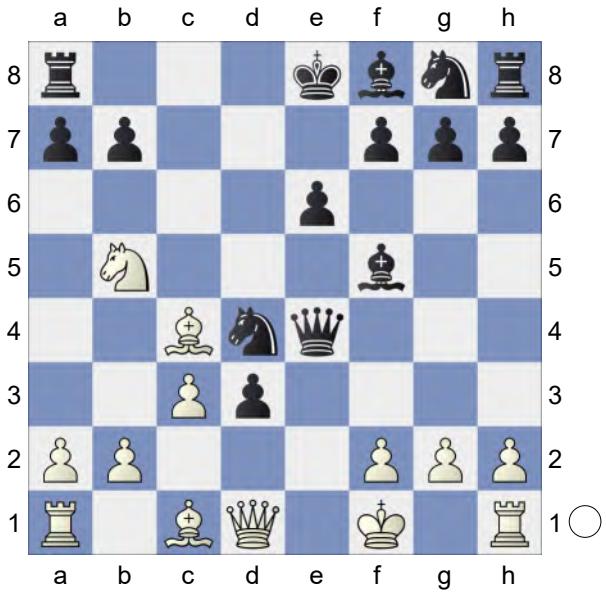
[9...dxc3 seems wilder. 10.Nc7+ Ke7 11.b3 Rd8]

10.Nfd4 -0.94/20

[10.b3∓ -0.44/20 Rd8 11.Be3]

10...Nxd4 -0.48/23

[10...Rd8∓ -0.94/20 Hoping for ...a6. 11.Nc7+ Kd7]



11.cxd4 -0.90/20

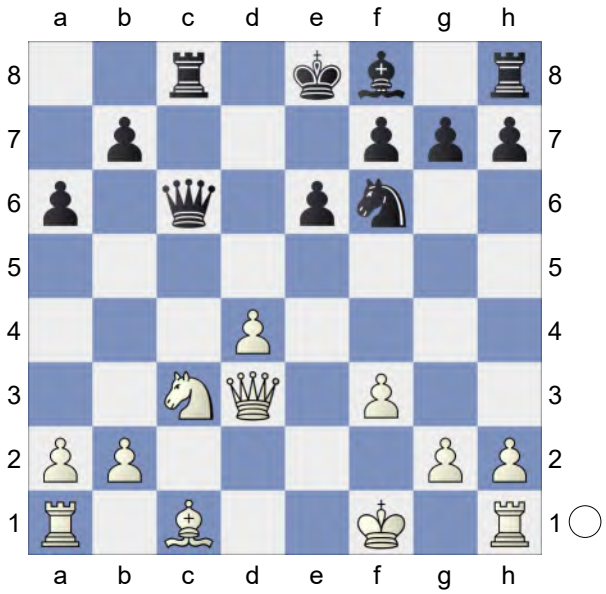
[11.Nxd4 0-0-0 12.f3 Qe5 13.Bxd3 Bc5 ...Rxd4 is the strong threat. 14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Be3 Bxd4 16.cxd4 would be a position where White could book himself in for 100+ moves of suffering if the black king had castled short. With the black king on the queenside there are always some chances, but it is hardly surprising that David did not want to go in for this. Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'would be a position where White could book himself in for 100+ moves of suffering if the black king had castled short. With the black king on the queenside there are always some chances, but it is hardly surprising that David did not want to go in for this.'' Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'would be a position where White could book himself in for 100+ moves of suffering if the black king had castled short. With the black king on the queenside there are always some chances, but it is hardly surprising that David did not want to go in for this.' Collins, Sam: 'would be a position where White could book himself in for 100+ moves of suffering if the black king had castled short. With the black king on the queenside there are always some chances, but it is hardly surprising that David did not want to go in for this." Nf6∓]

[11.Nxd4∓ -0.48/23 0-0-0 12.f3]

11...Rc8∓ 12.f3

[Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'Better was" Better was 12.Nc3 Qxd4 13.Bb5+ Kd8 White must now prevent ...a6. 14.Be3 Qd6 And now ...a6 would win. 15.Qf3 Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'with an unclear position. '' with an unclear position.]

12...Qc6 13.Bxd3 Bxd3+ 14.Qxd3 a6 15.Nc3 Nf6



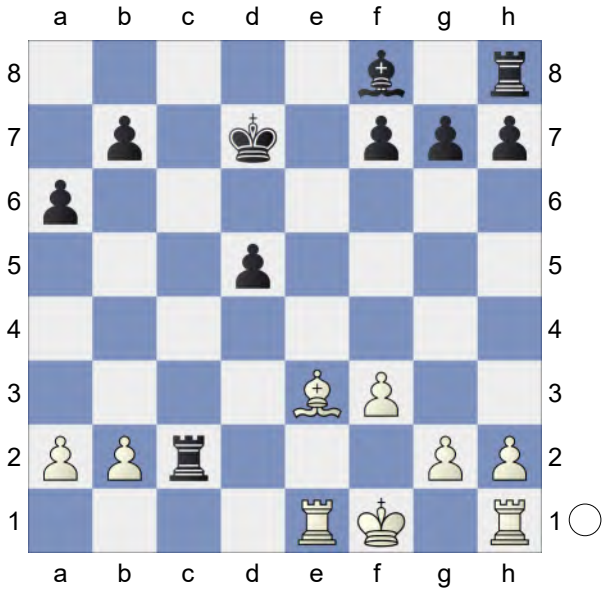
Tadic,Branko: ' ∓' '∓"Collins, Sam: 'Tadic, Branko: ' ∓'" Tadic,Br: ' ∓' **16.d5N** -1.40/22 A despondent move. ChessBase: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: '?' Collins, Sam: 'A despondent move.'' Tadic,Branko: 'A despondent move. ChessBase: '?!' '?!' '?!' ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: 'A despondent move. ChessBase: '?!' '?!' '?!' ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: '?' Collins, Sam: 'A despondent move.'' ChessBase: 'Despair? It is hard to see what attracted White to this move." '?' Collins, Sam: 'A despondent move.'' 'ChessBase: 'Despair? It is hard to see what attracted White to this move.' **16...Nxd5**

[16...exd5 17.Bg5 Be7 18.Re1]

17.Nxd5 Qxd5 Tadic,Branko: 'Collins, Sam: 'ChessBase: 'Black is more than happy to exchange into a pawn-up endgame.'' 'ChessBase: 'Black is more than happy to exchange into a pawn-up endgame.' **18.Qxd5 exd5** The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position

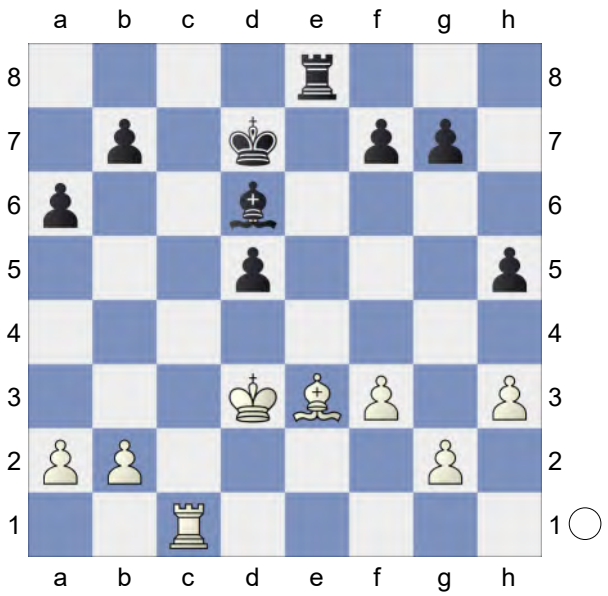
is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier. ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: ' ∓' Collins, Sam: 'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier.'' Tadic,Branko: 'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier.' Tadic,Branko: 'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier. ChessBase: 'Collins, S'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier. ChessBase: 'Collins, Sam: ' ∓' Collins, Sam: 'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier.'" am: ' ∓' Collins, Sam: 'The rest of the game is not central to our theme. However, Wang Yue has great technique and smoothly converted his extra pawn. It's too early to say whether this position is winning or just "excellent winning chances for Black". Either way, White has to deviate earlier.'" **19.Be3 Rc2 20.Re1 Kd7**

[20...Rxb2? 21.Bc1+ Kd7 22.Bxb2+-]

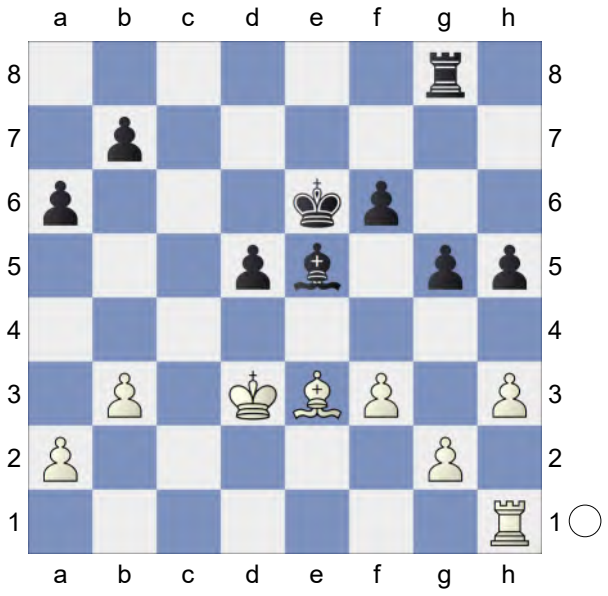


Black is more active. **21.Re2 Rxe2 22.Kxe2** Endgame. KRB-KRB **22...Bd6 23.h3 Rc8 24.Rc1** Inhibits Rc2+. **24...Re8 25.Kd3 h5**

(Diagram)

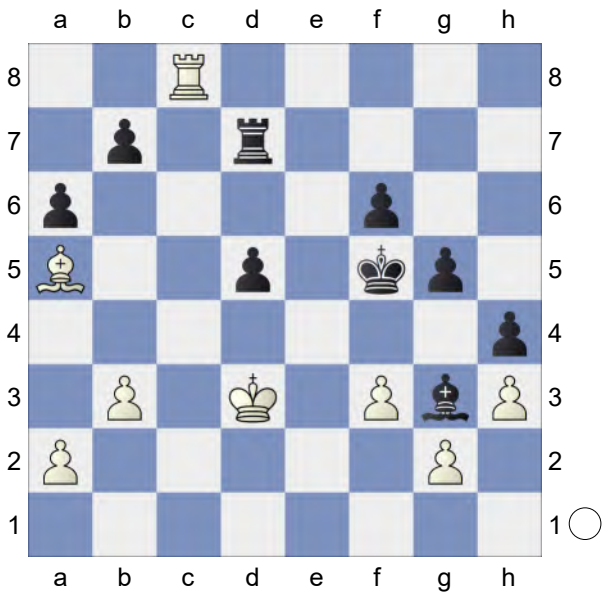


26.Rc2 f6 -0.67/20
[Black should try 26...h4∓ -1.07/19
27.Bg5 Bg3]
27.Re2 -1.12/21
[27.Bf2∓ -0.67/20 is superior.]
27...Be5 28.b3 g5 29.Re1 Rg8 30.Rh1 Ke6

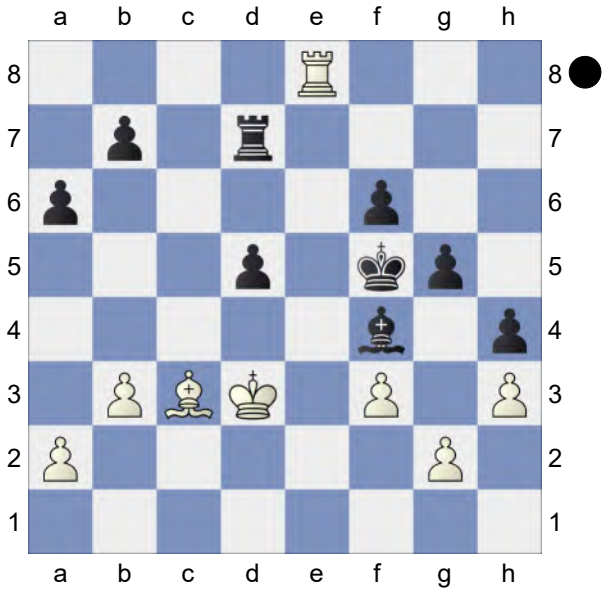


31.Bd2 Bg3 32.Rc1 Kf5 33.Rc5 Rd8 34.Ba5 Rd7 35.Rc8 h4

(Diagram)

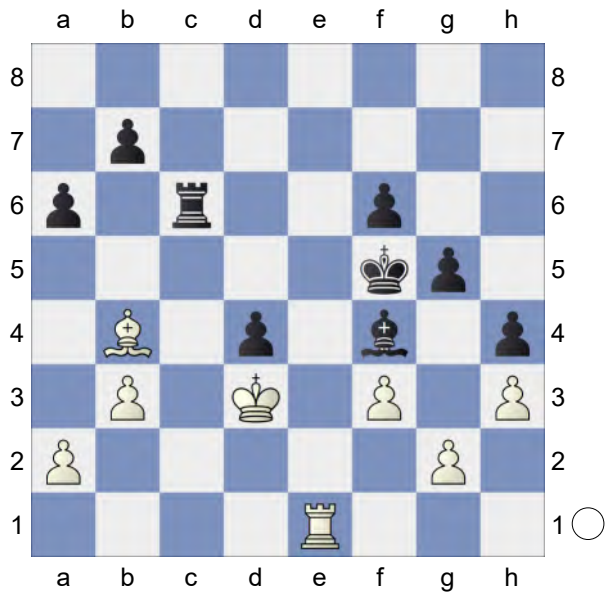


36.Re8 -1.17/22
[White should play 36.Bd2 -0.78/22]
36...Bf4 37.Bc3

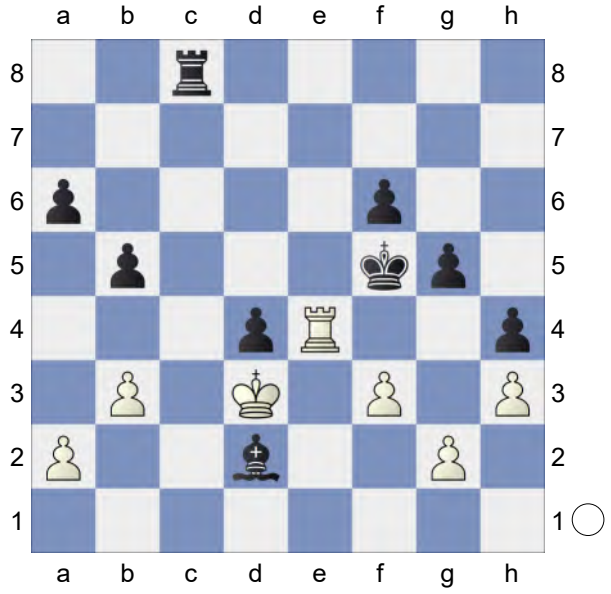


d4! 38.Bb4
[38.Bxd4? Be5 39.Rc8 Bxd4-+
(39...Rxd4+? 40.Ke3-+)]
38...Rc7 39.Re4 Rc1 aiming for ...Be3.
40.Re1 Rc6

(Diagram)

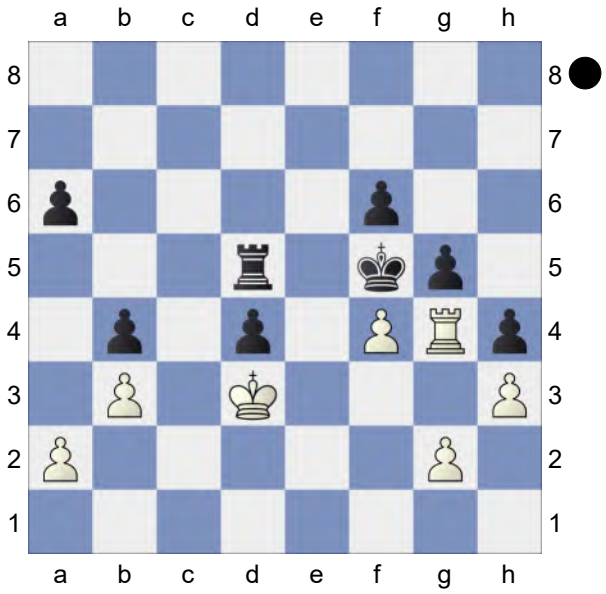


41.Re4 Be5 42.Bd2 b5 -0.61/26
[42...Ke6∓ -1.32/23 43.Re1 Rc8]
43.Re2∓ Rc8 44.Re1 -1.26/22
[⌓44.Bb4 -0.81/24]
44...Bf4 -0.08/22
[44...a5∓ -1.26/22 45.a3 Bd6 46.Bxa5 Bxa3]
45.Re4 -1.58/26
[Better is 45.Bb4!= -0.08/22]
45...Bxd2∓



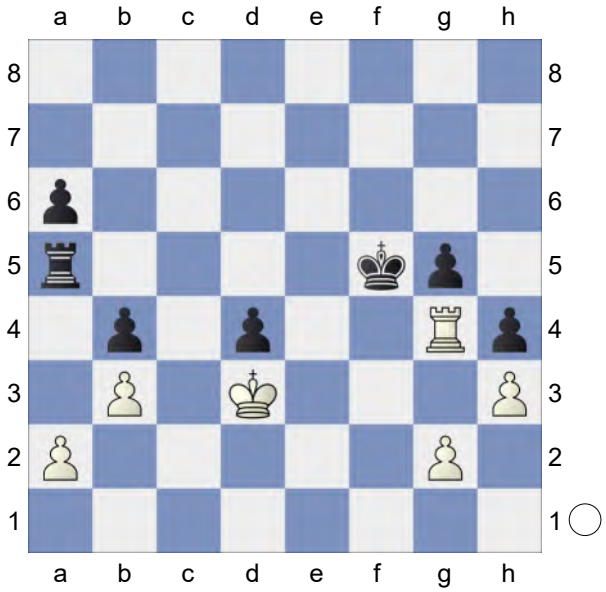
46.Kxd2 KR-KR **46...Rd8 47.Kd3** -2.08/25
[47.a3∓ -1.55/26]

47...b4!-+ 48.Rg4
[48.Rxd4? Rxd4+ 49.Kxd4 Kf4-+]
48...Rd5! 49.f4 -2.67/26
[49.Rxd4? Rxd4+ 50.Kxd4 Kf4-+]
[⌓49.Kc4 -1.82/25 Ra5 50.Kxb4 Rxa2 51.Kc4]



49...Ra5!
[49...gxf4 50.Rxh4 Ke5 51.Rh8=]
50.fxg5 fxg5
[50...Rxa2 51.g6 Ke5 52.g7 *(52.Rxd4 Rxg2 53.Re4+ Kd5±)* 52...Ra1 53.g8Q *(53.g8R Ra3+-)* 53...Rd1+ 54.Ke2 Rc1 55.Qe8+ *(55.Rxh4 d3+* Decoy *56.Kxd3 Rd1+ 57.Ke2 Rd6 58.Qg3+ Ke6 59.Qg4+ f5 60.Rh6+ Ke5)* 55...Kd5 56.Qd7+ *(56.Rxh4 Rc2+ 57.Kd1 Rc7 58.Qd8+ Kc6 59.Rxd4 Kb7 60.Rxb4+ Kc6 61.Rc4+ Kb7 62.Rxc7+ Kb6 63.Qd6+ Kb5 64.Qc5#)* 56...Ke5 57.Qxd4+ *(57.Rxh4 Rc2+ 58.Kd1 Rxg2 59.Rxd4 Rg1+ 60.Ke2 Rg2+ 61.Kf3 Rg3+ 62.Kxg3 f5 63.Qd6#)* 57...Ke6 58.Re4+ *(58.Rxh4 Rc2+ 59.Ke3 Rc7 60.Qb6+ Ke5 61.Qxc7+ Ke6 62.Re4+ Kd5 63.Rd4+ Ke6 64.Qd7+*

Ke5 65.Re4#; 58.Qe3+ Kf7 59.Qxc1 f5 60.Qc7+ Kf6 61.Qg7+ Ke6 62.Rg6+ Skewer *Kd5 63.Kd3 f4 64.Qd4#)* 58...Kf7 59.Qd7+ *(59.Rxh4 f5 60.Rh7+ Ke6 61.Rh6+* Skewer *Kf7 62.Qf6+ Ke8 63.Rh8+ Kd7 64.Rh7+ Ke8 65.Qh8#)* 59...Kg6 60.Rg4+ *(60.Rxh4 f5 61.Rh7 Rc2+ 62.Kf3 Rc7 63.Qxc7 Kf6 64.Rh6+* Skewer *Kg5 65.Qg7#)* 60...Kh6 61.Qg7+ Kh5 62.Qh8#]

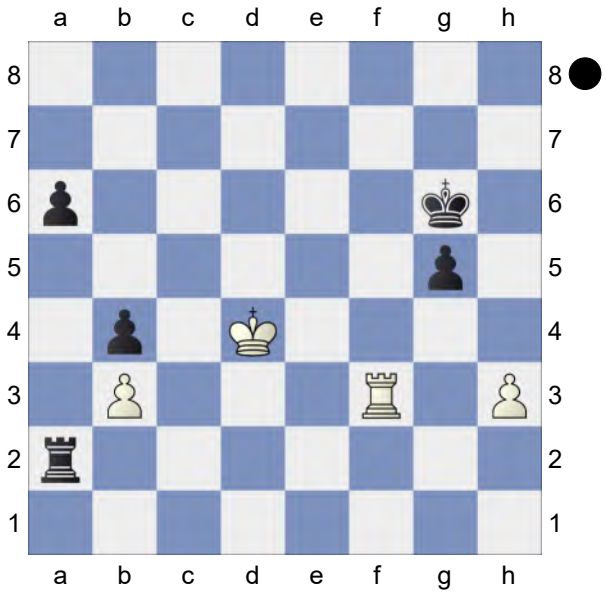


51.g3 hxg3

[Weaker is 51...Rxa2 52.gxh4 gxh4 53.Rxh4=]

52.Rxg3 Rxa2 53.Rf3+ Kg6 54.Kxd4

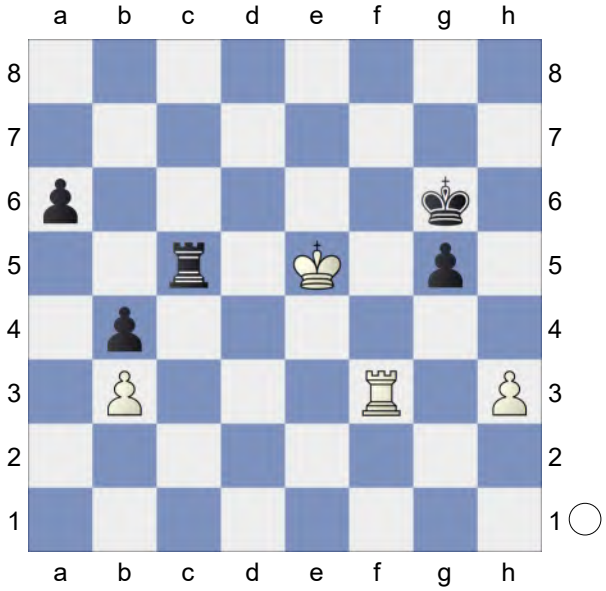
(Diagram)



Rc2 55.Ke5? -5.37/29 White does not recover from this.

[55.Rf8∓ -1.05/25]

55...Rc5+

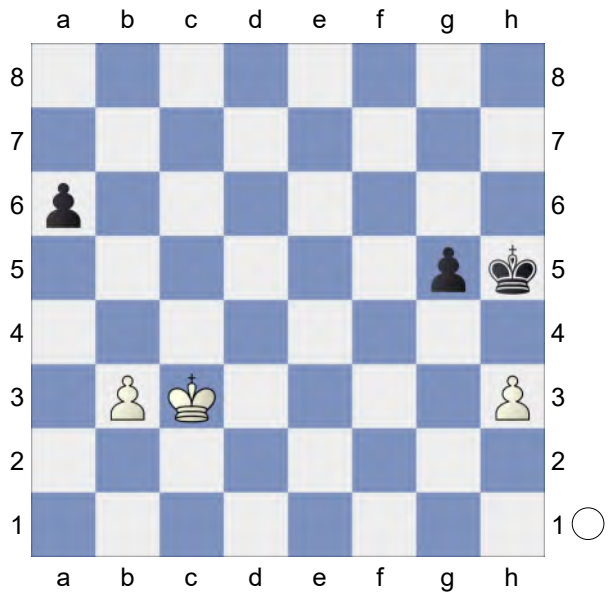


56.Kd4 Rc3 57.Rxc3 -#26/24

[57.Rf1-+ -5.17/24]

57...bxc3 58.Kxc3 Kh5

(Diagram)



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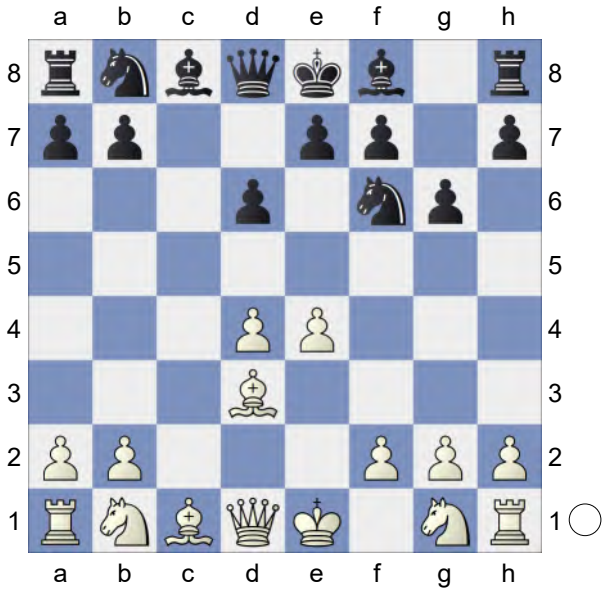
Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.09 (flawless)

0-1

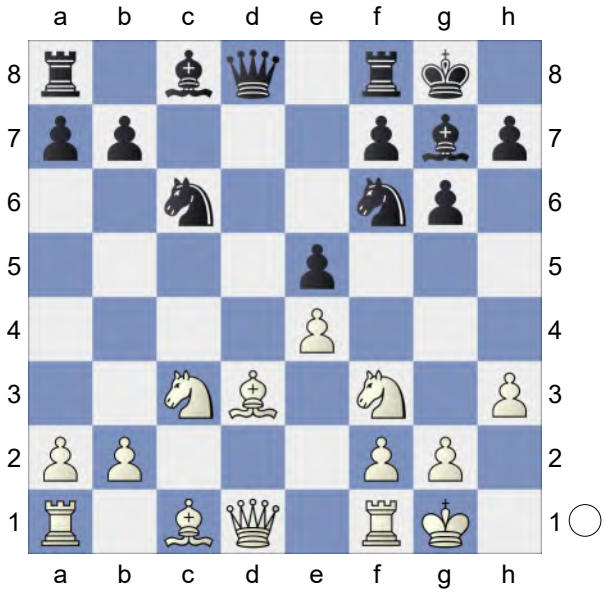
134 **B07**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2630**
■ **Akopian,Vladimir** **2600**
59/347 Groningen 1993
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems

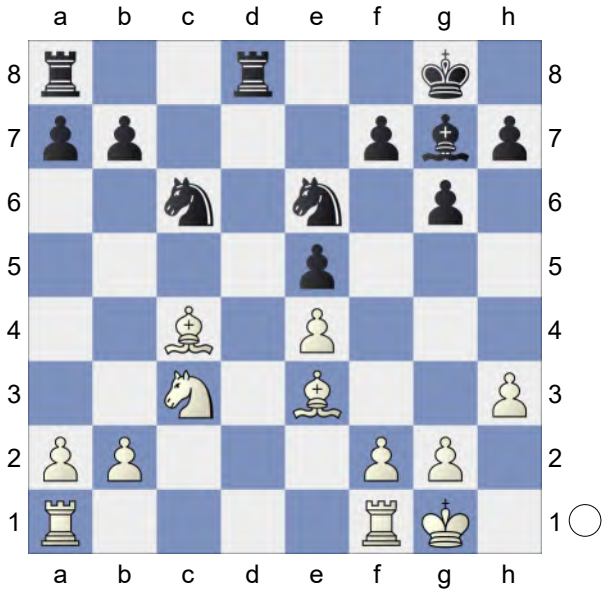
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3 cxd4 5.cxd4 g6



6.Nf3 Bg7 7.h3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nc3 0-0



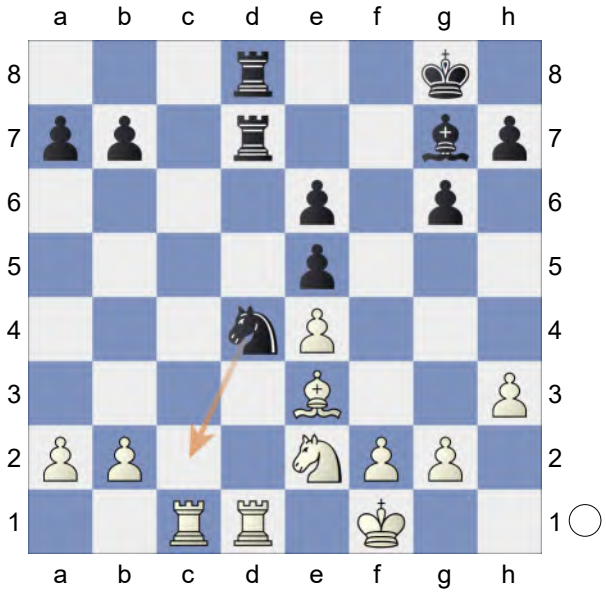
11.Be3 Nh5 12.Bc4 Nf4 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Ng5 White is slightly better.
14...Be6 15.Nxe6 Nxe6



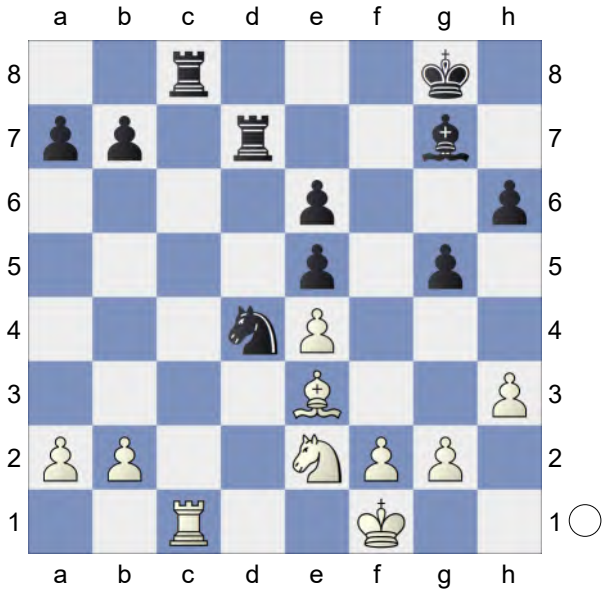
16.Rac1 Ncd4 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Kf1 Rd7N

[19...Kf7 20.Ne2 Ke8 21.Bg5 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rd7 23.Rc8+ Kf7 24.Nc1 Nc6 25.Be3 Bf8 26.Ke2 Bd6 27.Nd3 Rc7 28.Ra8 b6 29.a3 Rb7 30.a4 Bb8 31.b4 Bd6 32.b5 Rb8 33.Rxb8 Nxb8 34.a5 1-0 (60) Emms,J-Hunt,A (Game 34) Isle of Man]

20.Ne2 Rcd8



21.Bg5 Rf8 22.Rd3 h6 23.Be3 g5 24.Rdc3 Rfd8 25.Rc8 Rxc8



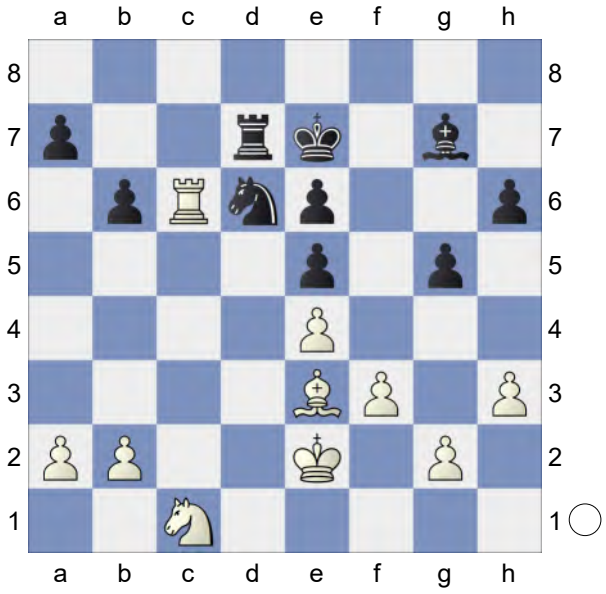
26.Rxc8+ Kf7 27.Nc1 Nb5 28.f3 0.34/20

[28.Nb3± 0.84/22]

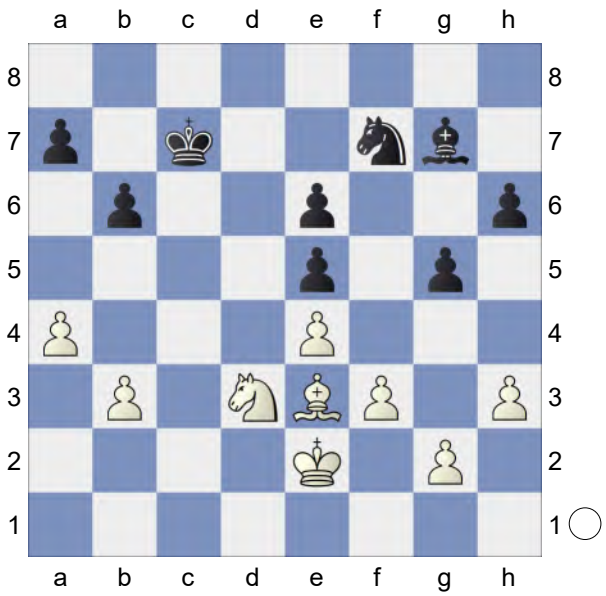
28...b6 0.72/22

[28...Nd4!± 0.34/20 deserves consideration.]

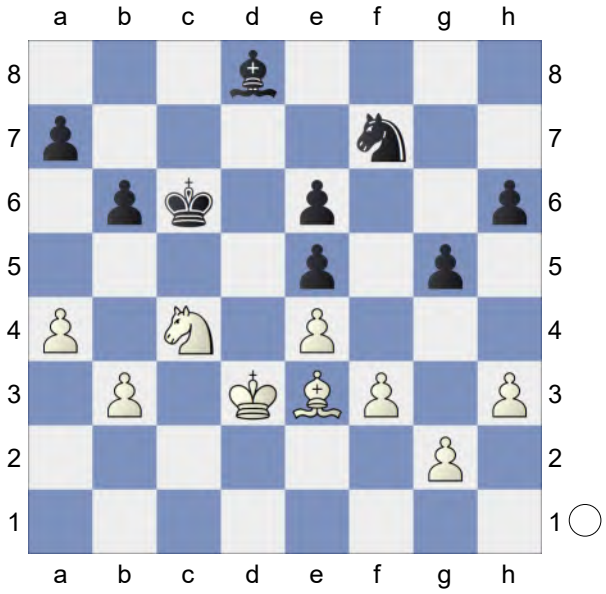
29.Ke2± Nd6 30.Rc6 Ke7



31.a4 Rb7 32.Nd3 Threatens to win with a5! **32...Kd7 33.Rc2** White has more active pieces. **33...Rc7 34.Rxc7+ Kxc7±** Endgame. KBN-KBN **35.b3 Nf7**



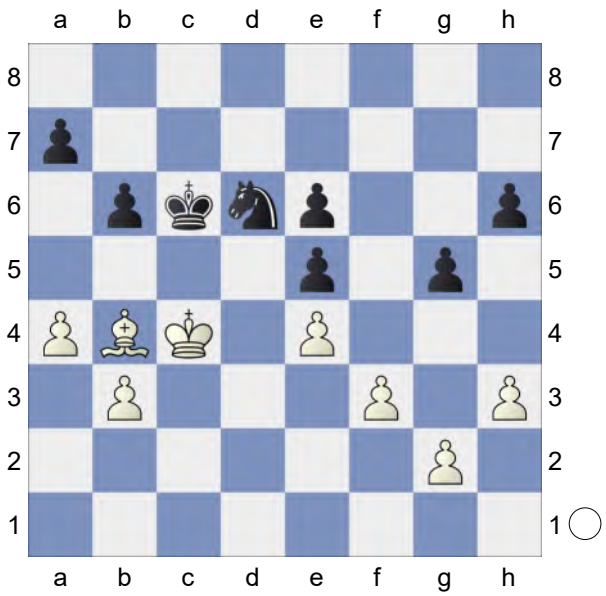
36.Kd2 Bf8 37.Kc3 Kc6 38.Nb2 Bd6 39.Nc4 Bc7 40.Kd3 Bd8



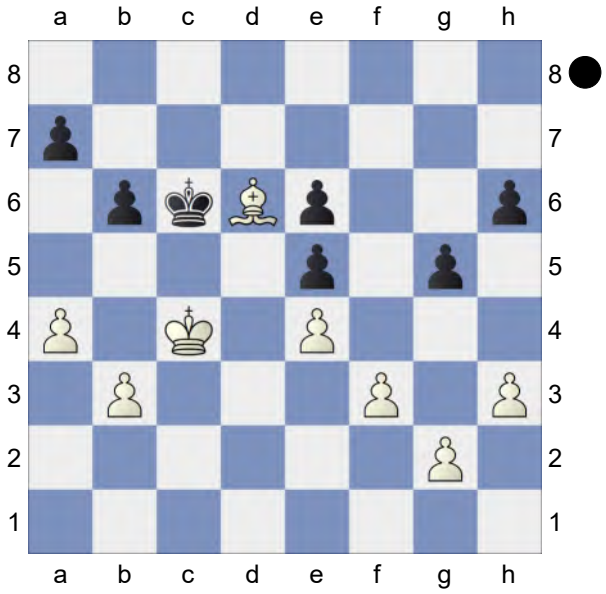
41.Bd2 Be7 42.Bc3 Bd6 43.Nxd6 Kxd6± KB-KN **44.Bb4+ Kc6 45.Kc4 Nd6+?** 7.84/27

[45...a5± 0.89/26 46.Bf8 h5]

(Diagram)

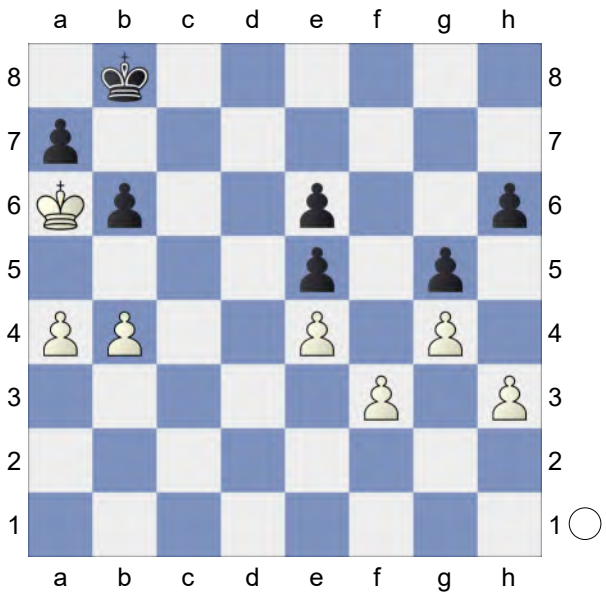


A mistake that costs the game.
46.Bxd6+-

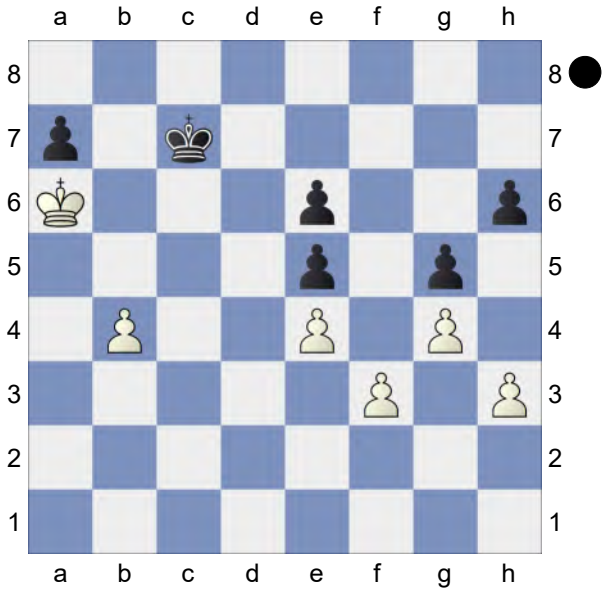


Deflection. White is clearly winning.
46...Kxd6 KP-KP **47.Kb5 Kc7 48.Ka6 Kb8 49.g4 Ka8 50.b4 Kb8**

(Diagram)



51.a5 bxa5 52.Kxa5
[Worse is 52.bxa5 Ka8=]
52...Kc7 53.Ka6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
1-0

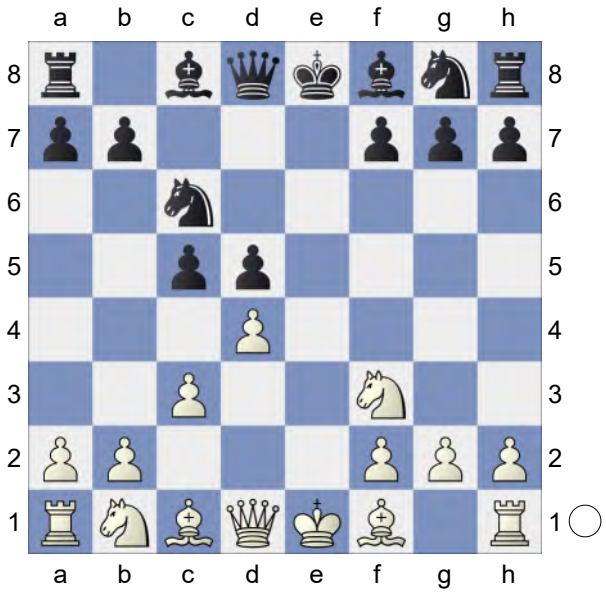
135 **C09**
□ **Jones,Gawain C B** **2624**
■ **Socko,B** **2628**
Schachbundesliga 2011-12 (13) 18.03.12
[Collins,Sam]

C09: French Tarrasch: 3...c5 4 exd5 exd5 5 Ngf3 Nc6

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 Of course. Socko is a regular French defence player, so he can happily play this variation against the c3-Sicilian. **3.d4 d5 4.exd5**

[4.e5 would lead to the Advance French, which Gawain doesn't play. His normal repertoire against the French is the Tarrasch, which can lead to similar positions (after 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5) to those reached in the game.]

4...exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6

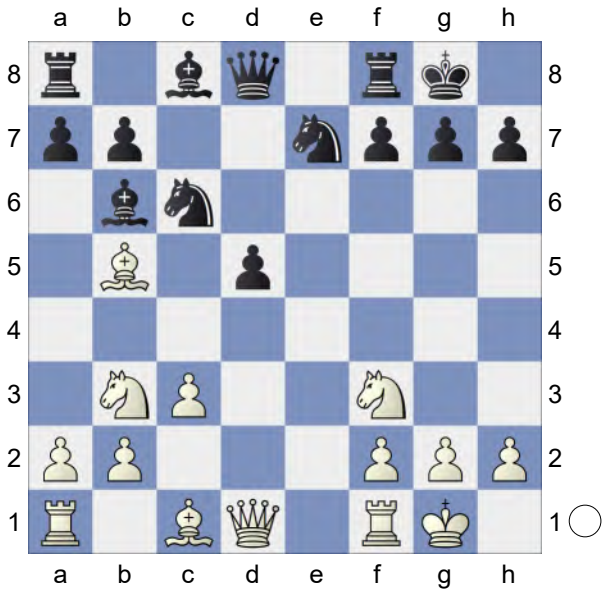


6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Nbd2 0-0N

[9...a6 10.Bd3 Ba7 *(10...Bg4 11.Nb3 Bd6 12.Re1 Qc7 13.h3 Bh5 14.Be3 0-0-0 15.Nbd4 Ne5 16.Be2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Kb8 18.b3 Nb6 19.Be3 Rhe8 20.Rc1 Bf4 21.Bxf4 Qxf4 22.a4 Nbc8 23.b4 Nd6 24.b5 a5 25.Qb3* 1-0 (65) Emms,J-Rossiter,P (Game 33) London 1999*)* 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Be3 Bb8 14.Nbd4 0-0 15.Be2 Re8 16.Qa4 Bh5 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.g3 Ba7 19.Kg2 Bg6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Bxa7 Rxa7 22.Bd3 Rb8 23.Bxg6 Nxg6 24.Re2 ½-½ (43) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Berkes,F (2596) 4NCL 2005-6 Birmingham ENG (1)]

[9...Bg4 10.Nb3 Bd6 11.Be2 0-0 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Re8 14.Nfd4 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Qb6 16.Bxe7 Rxe7 17.Ned4 Rd8 18.Nf5 Re6 19.Qc2 Be5 20.Rad1 a5 21.g3 Bf6 22.Rfe1 a4 23.Nbd4 Nxd4 24.Nxd4 0-1 (65) 9.0-0 ♗d7 10. ♗b3_67473 (2385)-Hantel,T (2490) 116/173 Gibraltar 2013 (5)]

10.Nb3 Bb6



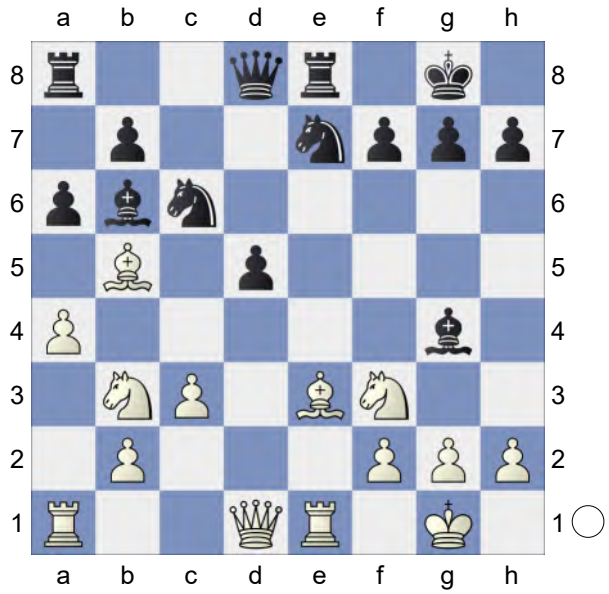
11.Re1 Bg4 12.Be3 Re8 13.a4

[Gawain's attempted improvement on the 13.h3 of Howell - Short (covered in a previous update). A thematic plan for Black in such structures is to put his queen on b6 and then start harassing the b3-knight (and the b2-

pawn) by pushing his a-pawn. To anticipate this by seizing queenside space is thematic. However, just how good White's chances are in the resulting positions is debatable. The queen on b6 will now be hitting a knight on b3 without any pawn cover. Hence White will probably have to play a5 to kick the queen away from its strong post. Once this is done, the a5-pawn will be attacked by two black pieces (the knight on c6 and the queen on the d8-a5 diagonal) and White will have to allow a queenside weakness, either on a5 or (after b4) on c3. The current game is a good illustration of this script playing out.]

13...a6

[The position after 13...Nf5 was agreed drawn in R.Rabiega (2490) - K.Van der Weide (2375), Beriner Sommer 1997. After 14.Bxb6 Rxe1+ 15.Nxe1 Bxd1 16.Bxd8 Bxb3 the computer assesses the position as drawn. I can't see a way for White to exploit his bishop pair.]



...Bxf3 would now be deadly. **14.Bd3**

[Similar play to that in the game arose in D.Rosandic (2385) - O. Cvitan (2520), Zadar 1995 after 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15.Be2 Ng6 16.a5 Qc7 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Red8 19.Qe2 Rd6 20.g3 Nge5 21.Bg2 g6 22.Red1 Rad8 . Black is perfectly mobilised and has no problems, though of course it is difficult for him to generate any winning chances. After 23.Rd2 Nc4 24.Rxd5 Rxd5 25.Bxd5 N4xa5 0.84/22 *(25...Rxd5=* 0.01/23 remains equal. *26.Qxc4 Qd8)* 26.Nxa5 a draw was agreed.]

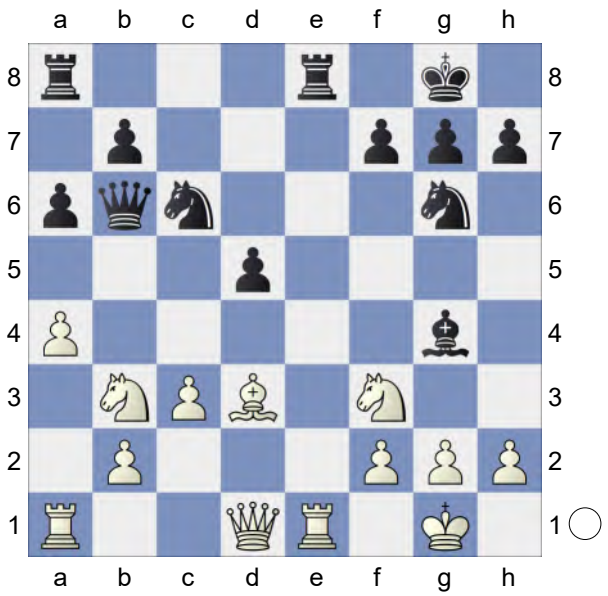
14...Ng6! This feels like the right square once the bishop has gone to d3 - now Black has ideas of ...Ne5 (with or without a preliminary exchange on f3). The position is equal. **15.Bxb6**

[15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nce5 17.Qe2 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Ne5 19.Qc2 Nc4 and Black is very comfortable.]

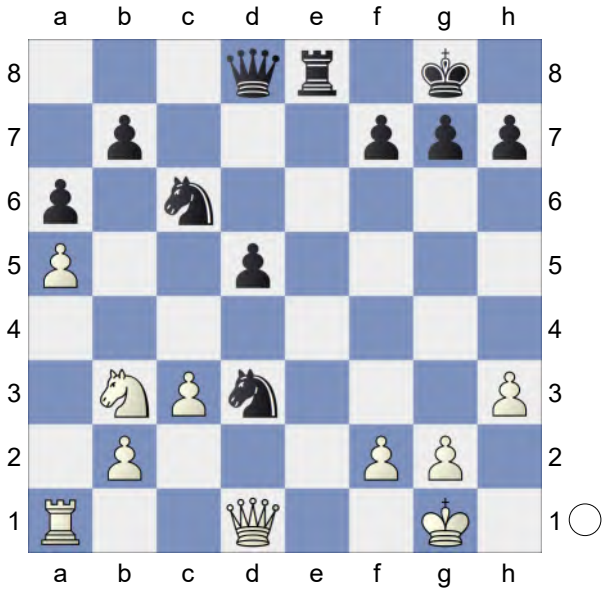
15...Qxb6

[The more forcing 15...Rxe1+ is also possible: 16.Nxe1 *(16.Qxe1 Qxb6 17.Nbd4 Nf4* is fine for Black*)* 16...Bxd1 *(16...Qxb6 17.Qc2 Nce5* is more ambitious*)* 17.Bxd8 Bxb3 18.Bb6 Re8 and Black can't be worse.]

(Diagram)

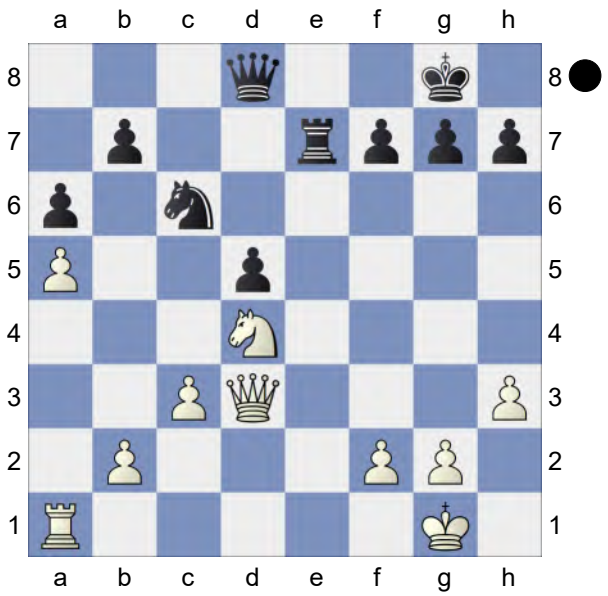


16.Rxe8+ Rxe8 17.a5 Qd8
[Sounder than 17...Bxf3 0.82/25 17...Qd8 0.04 18.axb6 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 when Black has given White some chances on the queenside, though he should still be fine after Nge5]
18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nge5 20.Qd1 Nxd3

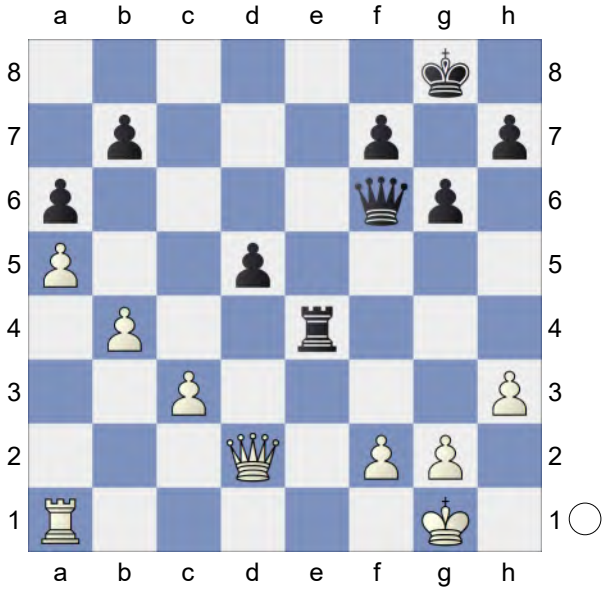


21.Qxd3 Re7 22.Nd4

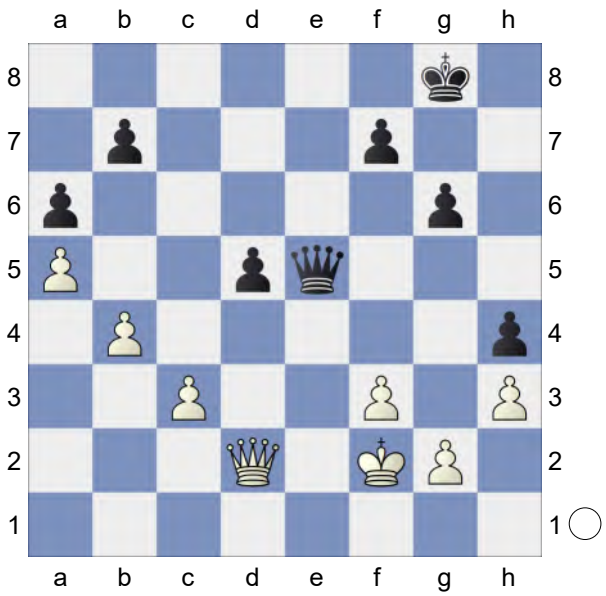
(Diagram)



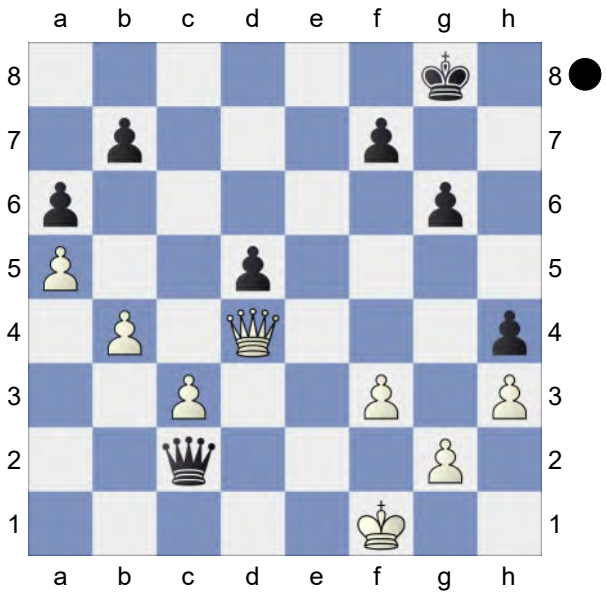
Threatens to win with Nxc6. **22...Nxd4**
[22...Ne5 is also equal.]
23.Qxd4= Endgame. KQR-KQR **23...g6**
24.b4 Shoring up the a-pawn, but now there is a weakness on c3 which balances the weakness on d5. **24...Re4**
25.Qd2 Qf6



26.Rd1 Qf5 Black is far too active to have any problems here. **27.f3**
[27.Qxd5? is the wrong capture. Re1+ 28.Rxe1 Qxd5-+]
27...Re5 28.Re1 h5 29.Rxe5 Qxe5 KQ-KQ **30.Kf2 h4**



31.Qe3 Qf5 32.Qd4 Qc2+ 33.Kf1 Qc1+ 34.Ke2 Qc2+ 35.Kf1



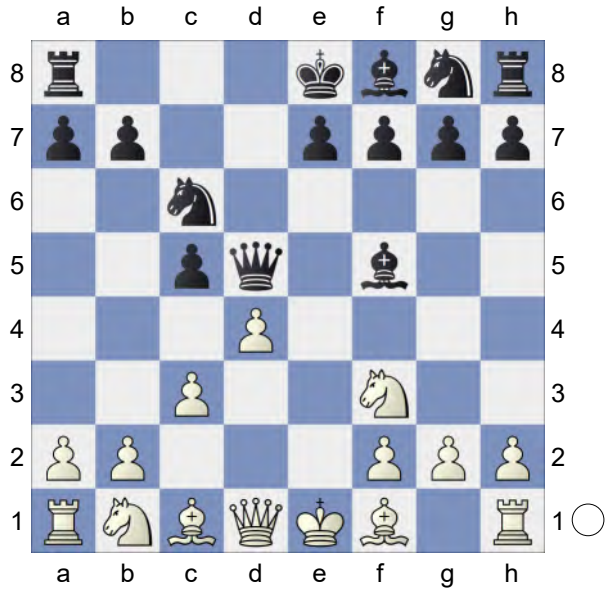
Another game which confirms my assessment that this line poses a major headache for White to get any class of an advantage. It will remain uncommon since few players can handle both the Sicilian and the French, but for those with both in their repertoire it remains a very solid choice, with the only downside that Black's winning chances are even more limited than White's. An even fight not without its subleties.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

½-½

136 **B22**
□ **Salgado Lopez,Ivan** **2622**
■ **Antipov,Mikhail Al** **2520**
Qatar Masters op (9) 04.12.2014
[Dave Smerdon]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5



6.dxc5!? An interesting try to avoid the main tactical complications of the 5...Bf5 variation. With best play, the game should end in a draw, but Black has a few ways to go wrong before then - starting immediately...

[6.Na3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Kf1 e6 9.Nb5 d3 10.Nfd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Rc8 12.f3 Qc6 13.Bxd3 Bxd3+ 14.Qxd3 a6 15.Nc3 Nf6 Trkaljanov,V (2633)-Skorpik,M (2697) London 1861]

[6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bxb1 8.Rxb1 e6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Bf4 Bd6 11.Be5 Bxe5 12.dxe5 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1 Nd5 14.Bb5 Ke7 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Rbc1 Rab8 17.b3 Rhc8 18.Rc2 a5 19.g3 Rb4 20.Rc5 a4 0-1 (53) 4.♘gf3 b6 5.g3 (1631)-Kravtsiv,M (1579) TCh Zlatibor SCG 2006 (4)]

6...Qxc5N 0.65/19 A horrible move. Black often has to choose between ...Qxd1+ and ...Qxc5 in the 2.c3 d5 lines, but almost never is it a good idea to take on c5 when there is a black knight on c6. Without the option to retreat to c7, the black queen becomes an easy target.

[6...Qxd1+ is forced. The game should now end in a draw with best play, though Black has traditionally done very well from here. I suspect white players simply haven't known what they were doing. 7.Kxd1

A) 7...0-0-0+ 8.Ke1 e5 9.b4 *(9.Be3 Nge7 10.Nbd2 Nd5 11.Nb3 Nxe3 12.fxe3 f6 13.Be2 Be7 14.Nfd2 Kc7 15.Rd1 Nb8 16.Bf3 Na6 17.Ne4 Rxd1+ 18.Kxd1 Be6 19.Kc2 Rd8 20.Rd1 Rxd1 21.Kxd1 g6 22.g4 Bd5 23.Ke2 f5* ½-½ (35) Geronimi,V (2318)-Vajic,G (2356) corr 15.Pokal/E 2003 (4.2) *)*

A1) 9...Nf6 10.Bb5 -0.15/19 *(10.Bb2 Nd5 11.Nbd2 Be7⩱ Against Ng5; ⌓10.Bd2* 0.23/19 *)* 10...Nd5= 11.Bd2?!

A1a) 11...e4! 12.Bxc6 exf3 13.Bxd5 Rxd5 14.gxf3 g6!∓ -0.01/21 *(14...Be7∓* -0.41/22 *15.Na3 Re8)*;

A1b) 11...Be7 12.Na3 e4 0.27/20 *(12...Nf4* -0.10/19 might be stronger.*)* 13.Nd4= Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bf6⩱ 1/2-1/2 (49) Fiebig, T (2402) - Nielsen, P (2662) Germany 2012;

A2) 9...e4 10.Nfd2 Nf6 11.Nc4 Nd5⩱ 0-1 (47) Todic, Z (2275) -

Mista, A (2579) Paracin 2013;

B) 7...Nf6 8.Bb5 0-0-0+ 9.Ke1 e5 10.Be3 Nd5 11.Nbd2?! -0.39/20 *(11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nxe5= - see below.; 11.Bxc6= -0.01/20 bxc6 12.Nxe5)* 11...f6 12.Nb3 Be7 13.Nfd2 Rd7∓ 0-1 (41) Spence, D (2218)-Sebag, M (2501) Caleta 2014;

C) 7...e5 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Bb5 *(9.b4!?N Nd5 10.Bc4 0-0-0 11.Kc1 Be7⩱)*

C1) 9...Nd5 leads to a forced draw: 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Nxe5 Nxe3+ 12.fxe3 b4 would now be deadly. 0-0-0+! *(12...Bxc5 13.Nxc6 Bxe3 14.Nd2! Bg4+ 15.Nf3! 0-0 16.h3!±)* 13.Ke1 *(13.Nd2 Bxc5 14.Re1 Rhe8 15.Nxc6 Rd3 16.Nd4 Bg6!= 1/2-1/2 (26) Dzhumaev, M (2549)-Fedorov, A (2591) Kazan 2013)* 13...Re8 *(13...Bxc5* 1.17/22 13...Re8 0.01 *14.Nxf7 Bxe3 15.Nxh8 Rxh8 16.Nd2 Re8* White must now prevent ... Bh6+. *17.Nc4±)* 14.Nxf7 Rxe3+ 15.Kf2 *(15.Kd2 Rd3+ 16.Kc1 Rg8 17.b4 Re3!* Prevents Re1 *18.Kd2 Rd3+!=; 15.Kd2!? Rd3+□ 16.Kc1=)* 15...Bxc5 (-> ...Rd3+) 16.Nxh8 Rxc3+ 17.Ke2 Re3+ 18.Kd2 aiming for Rf1. Rd3+ 19.Kc1 Threatens to win with Nc3. Be3+ 20.Kc2 g4! is the strong threat. Rd5+! 21.Kc3 Rc5+ 22.Kb4 Rb5+ 23.Kc3=;

C2) 9...0-0-0+ 10.Kc1 Nd5 11.b4

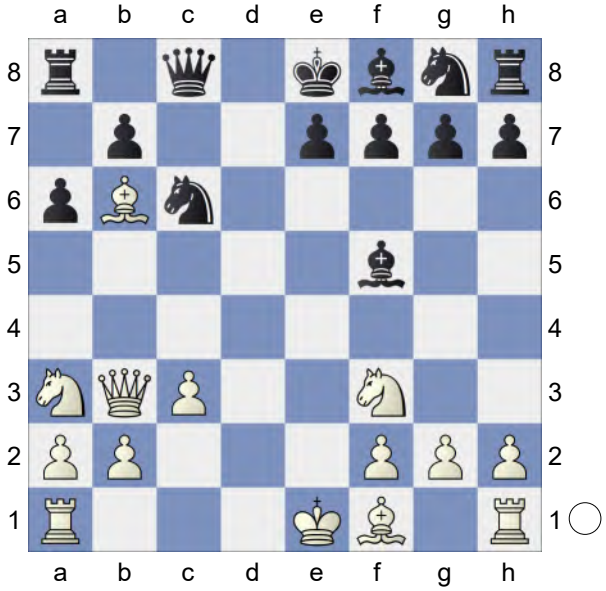
C2a) 11...Bxb1?! 1.77/21 1 1 . . . f 6 0 . 5 3 12.Rxb1 Strongly threatening Bxc6. Nxc3 13.Bxc6 Nxb1 *(13...bxc6* 2.44/23 13...Nxb1 1.90 *14.Rb3+-)* 14.Nxe5 bxc6 15.Kxb1±;

C2b) 11...f6 12.Kb2 g5 13.Rd1± 1-0 (40) Rausis, I (2450)-Maus, S (2395) Gausdal 1989]

[6...Nf6?! is also a weak option. 7.Qxd5 Nxd5 8.Nbd2 e5 9.Bc4 0-0-0 10.Nb3±]

[6...Qxd1+= 0.15/21 7.Kxd1 Nf6]

7.Be3± Qa5 8.Qb3!± White is slightly better. **8...Qc7 9.Na3 a6 10.Bb6 Qc8**



11.0-0-0 Nf6 12.Nc4 White is much more active. **12...g6**

[12...e6 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Be7 Prevents Rd8+ 15.Rd8+!±]

13.Ng5 Threatening mate with Nd6+!

13...Be6

[13...e6 14.f3! And now g4 would win. h6? 1.67/21 *(14...h5±* 1.15/20) 15.Nxf7!+- Kxf7 16.g4+-]

[13...Bh6? #5/12 13...Be6 1.10 14.Nd6+!+-]

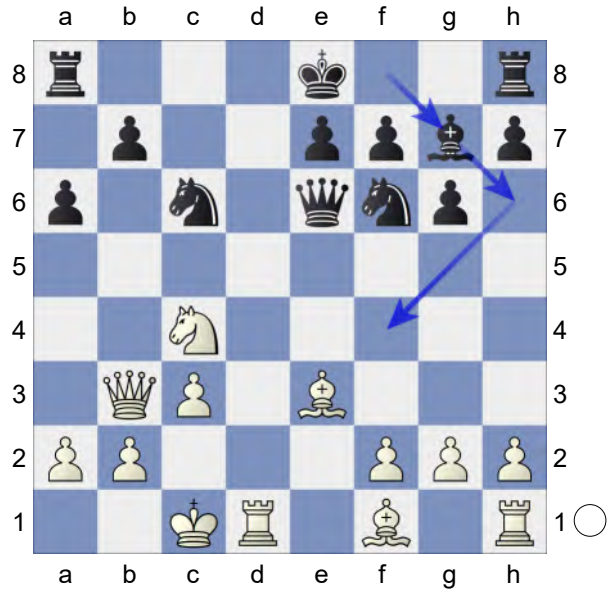
14.Nxe6→ Black is in trouble. **14...Qxe6**

15.Be3?!

[Just 15.g3 was good enough. Black

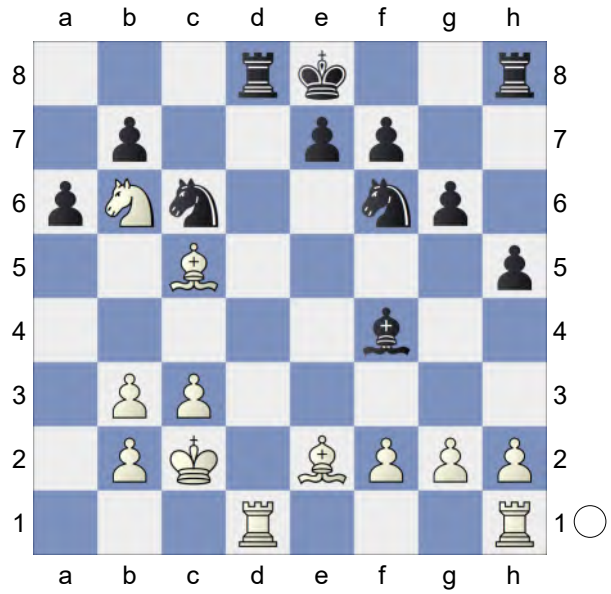
is paralysed. Bg7 16.Bg2 Hoping for Rhe1. 0-0 17.Rhe1 Qf5 18.f4+-]

15...Bg7



16.Nb6 Qxb3 17.axb3 Rd8 18.Be2 Prevents Ng4 **18...h5** White is much, much better in this endgame. **19.Kc2! Bh6 20.Bc5! Bf4**

[20...Ne4 21.Rxd8+ *(21.b4±)* 21...Kxd8 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Rd7+ Kb8 24.Bxe7 Re8 25.Bf3 Rxe7 26.Rxe7 Nxe7 27.Bxe4±]



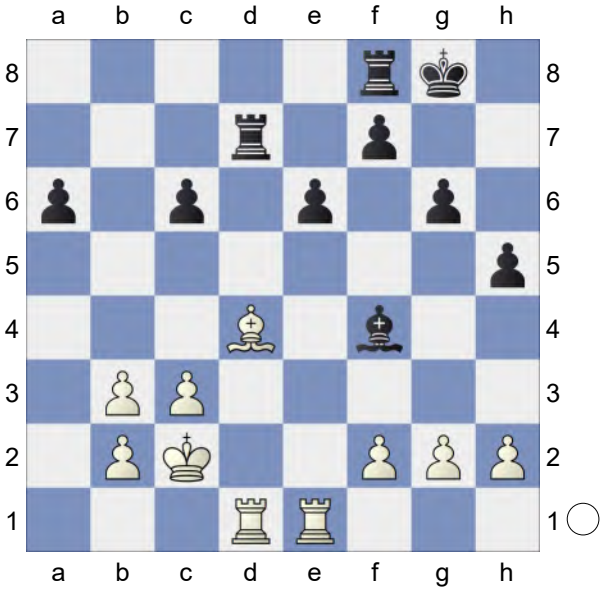
21.Bf3 Nd7 1.83/25

[21...Rxd1± 1.28/23 22.Rxd1 *(22.Bxd1 Ne4±; 22.Kxd1 h4±)* 22...Bxh2]

22.Nxd7 Rxd7 23.Rhe1 e6 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Bd4 1.35/22

[Better is 25.Ra1+- 1.86/21]

25...0-0



26.Bf6 Dodges Rfd8 **26...Rb7** 1.82/23

[26...Rd5± 1.16/21 is a better defense.]

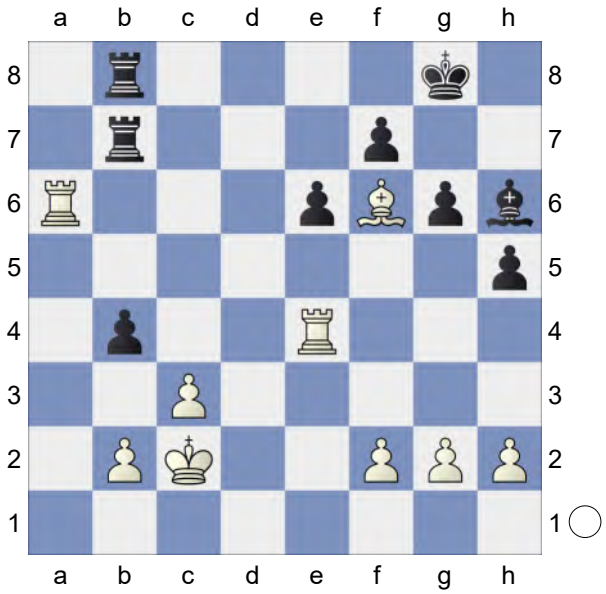
27.Re4+- Bh6 28.Rd6 Rfb8 29.b4 c5 1.64/22 **30.Rxa6**

[30.bxc5 Rxb2+ 31.Kd3 Rxf2=]

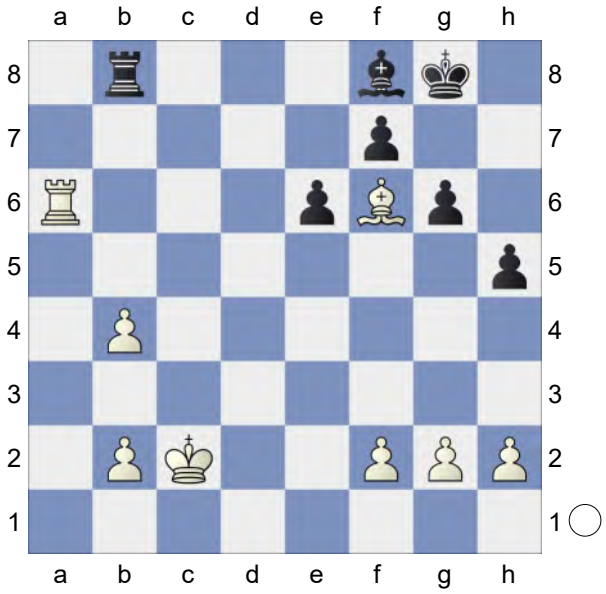
30...cxb4 2.26/22

[⌓30...Bg7 1.82/22 31.Bxg7 Kxg7]

(Diagram)

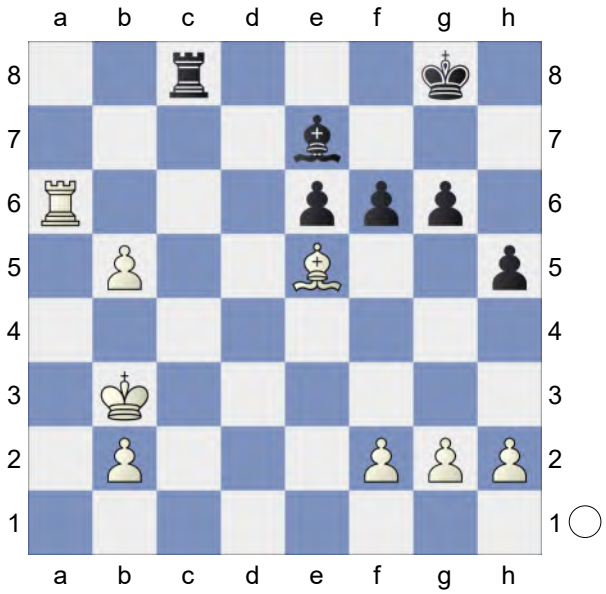


31.Rxb4 Rxb4 32.cxb4 Endgame. KRB-KRB **32...Bf8**

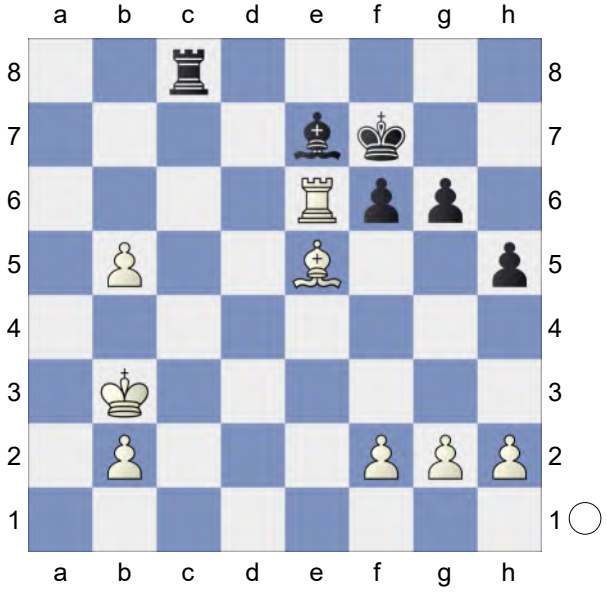


33.Be5! Rc8+ 2.98/21
[33...Rxb4± 1.58/21 might work better. 34.Ra8 Rg4]
34.Kb3 Be7 35.b5 f6

(Diagram)

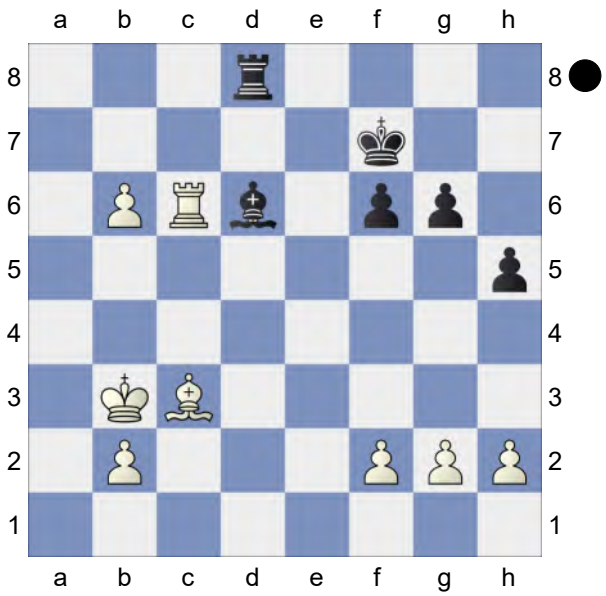


36.Rxe6 Kf7



37.Rc6
[37.Rxe7+ Kxe7 38.Bd4 Kd6=]
37...Rd8 6.80/23
[⌓37...Rxc6 4.34/21 38.bxc6 Ke6]
38.Bc3 Bd6 39.b6

(Diagram)

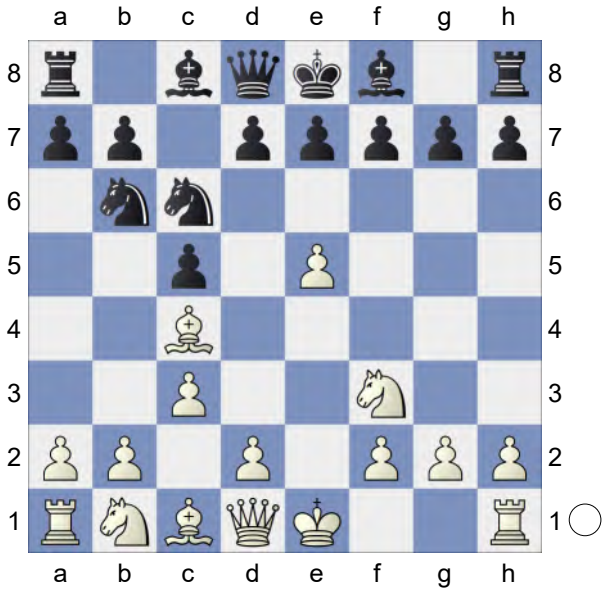


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.31

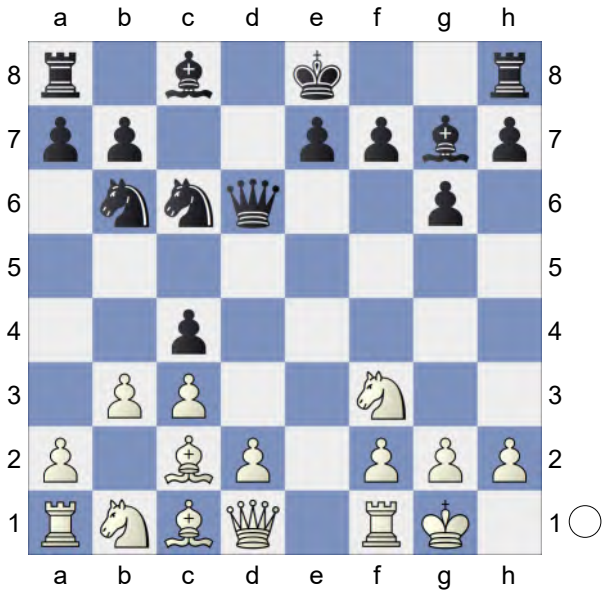
1-0

137 **B22**
□ **Christiansen,Johan Sebastian** **2618**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**
NIC Classic Prelim rapid (10) 25.04.2021
[Collins,Sam]

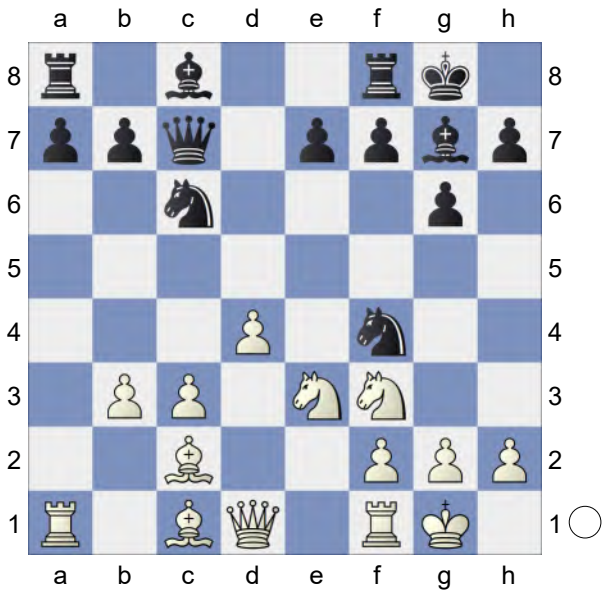
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 c4 8.Bc2 Qxd6 9.0-0 g6 10.b3 Bg7



11.Na3 cxb3 12.axb3 Nd5 A very rare move which was only tried once before.
[In his Chessable course, Christiansen covers 12...0-0 13.d4 following J. Van Foreest - D.Dubov, Tata Steel 2020 (1-0 in 47). *(13.Nc4 Nxc4 14.bxc4 Be6 15.Qe2 Qc5 16.Ra4 Na5 17.d4 Qc7 18.Bd3 Rac8 19.Bf4 Qxf4 20.Rxa5 Qc7 21.Rxa7 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Qxc4 23.Qxe7 Qxc3 24.Rxb7 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 Qxd4 26.Rd7 Qc5 27.Qxc5 Rxc5* ½-½ (31) Rasmussen,P (2633)-Pires, A (2750) 57/(88) Mangalia 1992 (1.2) *)*]
13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Ne3N 0.14/18
[14.Be4± 0.64/19 Nf6 15.Bxc6+ bxc6 16.Re1 0-0 17.Ba3 27) 4.Nf3 Nc6 Main Line with-8.Bc2 Qxd6 9.O-O g6 #2]
14...Nf4 The position is equal. **15.d4 0-0**



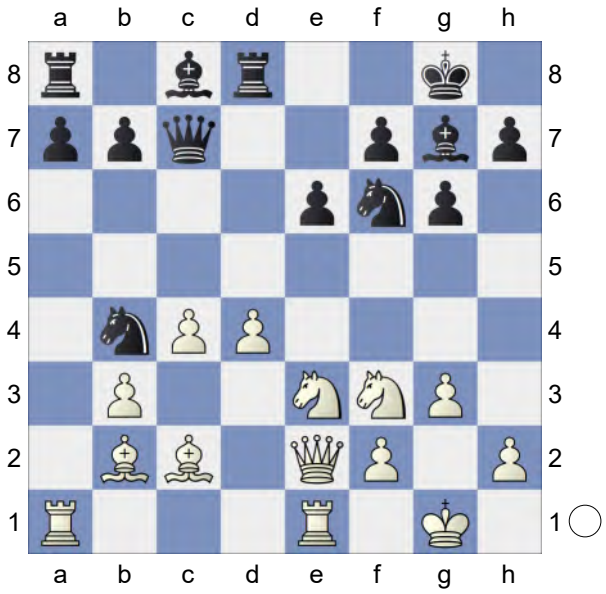
16.g3
[16.b4 N.Zhukova - V.Cmilyte, Mallorca 2004 (1/2-1/2 in 60) allows Black to complicate matters with e5!? 17.d5 Rd8 . Even this looks better for White but I prefer Christiansen's approach of immediately ejecting the f4-knight. *(17...Nxb4* 0.68/22 17...Rd8 0.31 *18.cxb4 e4*

Strongly threatening ...exf3! *19.Ra2 And now d6 would win. exf3 20.Qxf3±)*]

16...Nh5 17.Re1 Rd8 18.Qe2

[18.b4!? is promising, followed by bringing the bishop to the ideal b3-square.]

18...Nf6 19.Bb2 e6 20.c4 Nb4



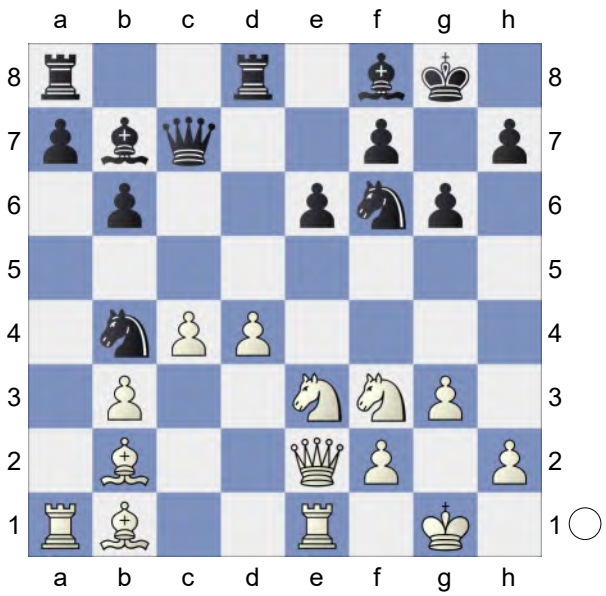
21.Bb1 b6= Firouzja has managed to get a fresh position with mutual chances, and goes on to outplay Christiansen.

22.Ba3?!

[22.Bc3= keeps the bishop on a better square.]

22...Bf8 23.Bb2 Bb7

(Diagram)

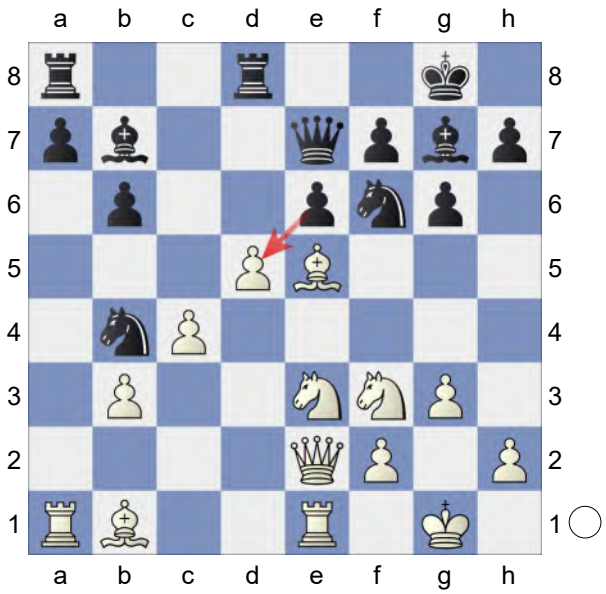


24.d5! Bg7 25.Be5? -0.32/23

[25.dxe6 fxe6∞]

[25.dxe6± 0.36/21 fxe6 26.Ng5]

25...Qe7∓



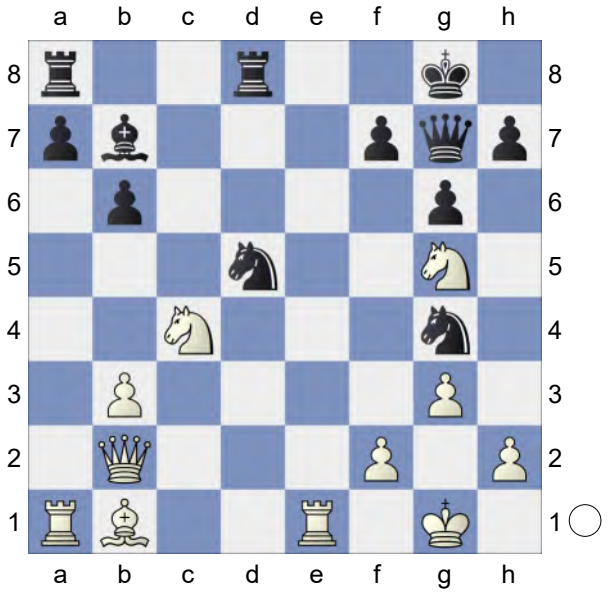
26.Qb2? exd5 27.cxd5 -1.04/20

[27.Ng4 Nxg4 28.Bxg7 Qd7-+ is no improvement.]

[27.Ng4∓ -0.61/23 was preferrable. Nxg4 28.Bxg7]

27...Nbxd5∓ This position looks dangerous for Black from a distance, but in fact White has no compensation and his f3-knight is hanging in many

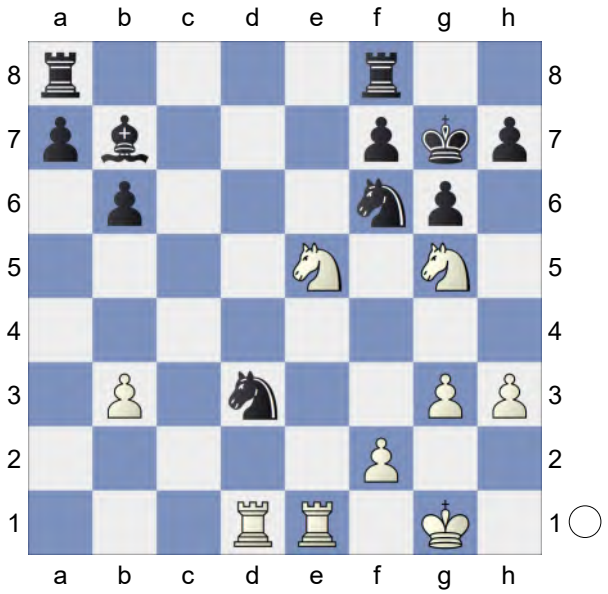
lines. **28.Nc4 Qf8 29.Ng5 Ng4 30.Bxg7 Qxg7**



31.Qxg7+ Kxg7 Black is a pawn up for nothing and went on to win. **32.h3 Ngf6 33.Ne5 Rf8 34.Bd3 Nb4 35.Rad1** -1.87/22

[35.Bc4∓ -1.14/20 was worth a try. Nc2 36.Bxf7 Rxf7 *(36...Bc8 37.f4∓)* 37.Ngxf7]

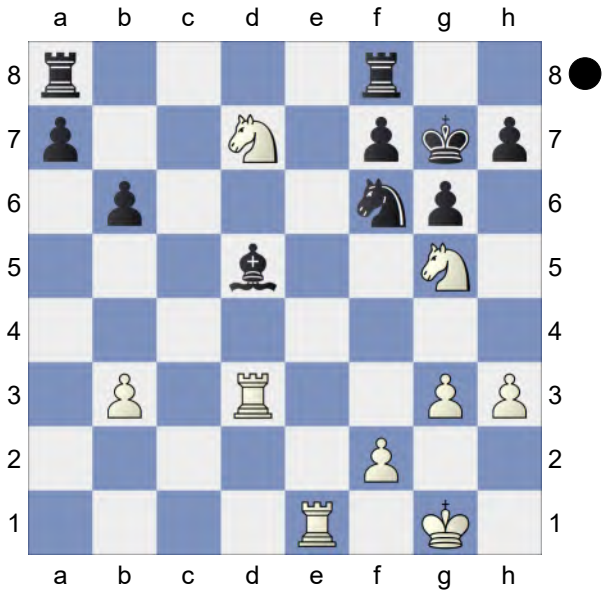
35...Nxd3-+



36.Rxd3 Bd5 -1.15/21

[Black should try 36...h6-+ -1.73/19 37.Ngxf7 Rxf7 38.Nxf7 Kxf7]

37.Nd7∓



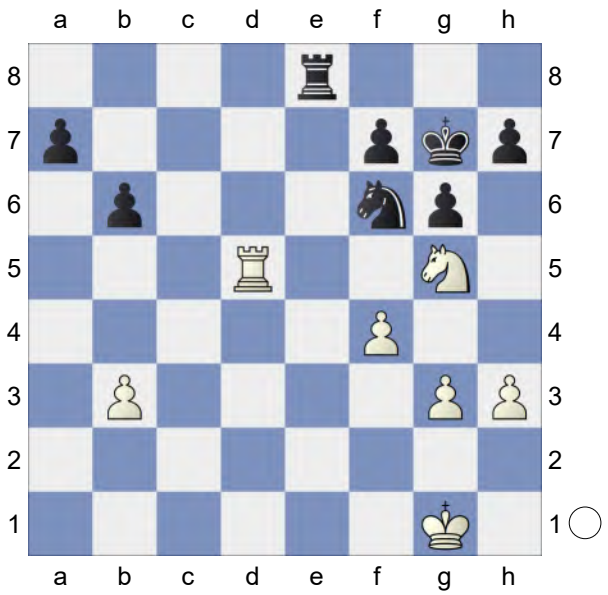
Deflection **37...Rfe8 38.Rxe8** -1.61/24

[38.Ra1∓ -1.18/21 Nxd7 39.Rxd5]

38...Rxe8-+ 39.f4 Black must now prevent Nxf6.

[39.Nxf6? Re1+ 40.Kh2 Rh1#]

39...Nxd7 40.Rxd5∓ Endgame. KRN-KRN **40...Nf6**



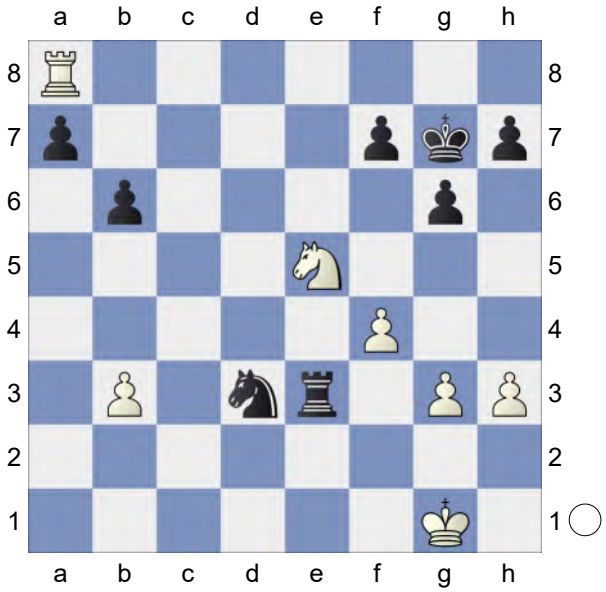
41.Rd3 Re2 42.Nf3 Ne4 Black is more active. **43.Ne5** -1.58/22

[⌓43.Rd7 -1.20/22]

43...Nc5 44.Rd8 Re3

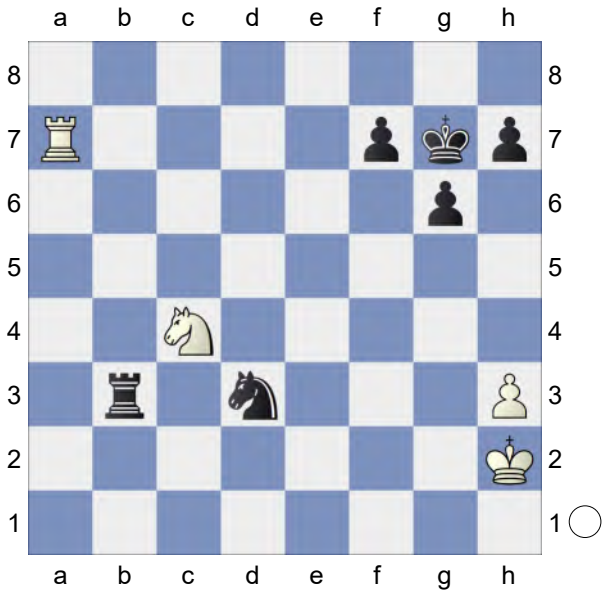
[44...Nxb3 45.Rd7∓]

45.Ra8 -2.10/25
[45.b4∓ -1.26/24 might work better. Rxg3+ 46.Kh2]
45...Nd3-+
[45...Nxb3 46.Kf2 Rc3 47.Rxa7=]
[45...Rxb3 46.Rxa7 Rxg3+ 47.Kh2=]
[45...Rxg3+ 46.Kh2 Rxb3 47.Rxa7∓]

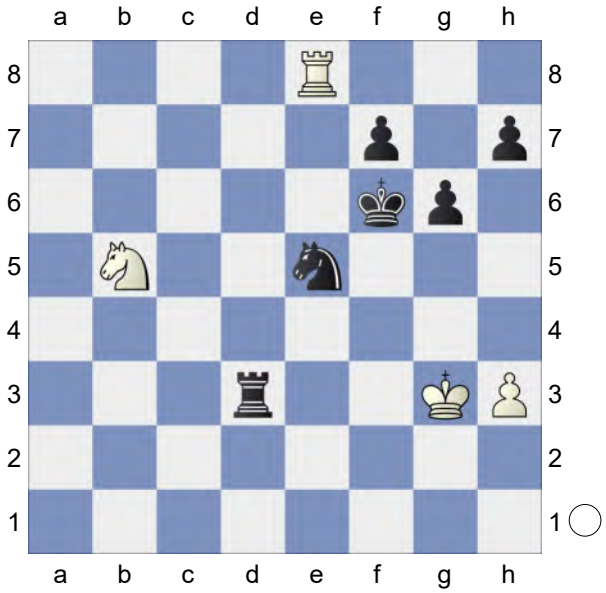


46.Nc4 -3.28/26
[⌓46.Rxa7 -2.15/27 Nxe5 Discovered Attack *(46...Rxg3+ 47.Kh2∓)* 47.fxe5]
46...Rxg3+ 47.Kh2 Rf3 48.Rxa7 Rxf4 49.Nxb6 Rb4 50.Nc4 Rxb3

(Diagram)

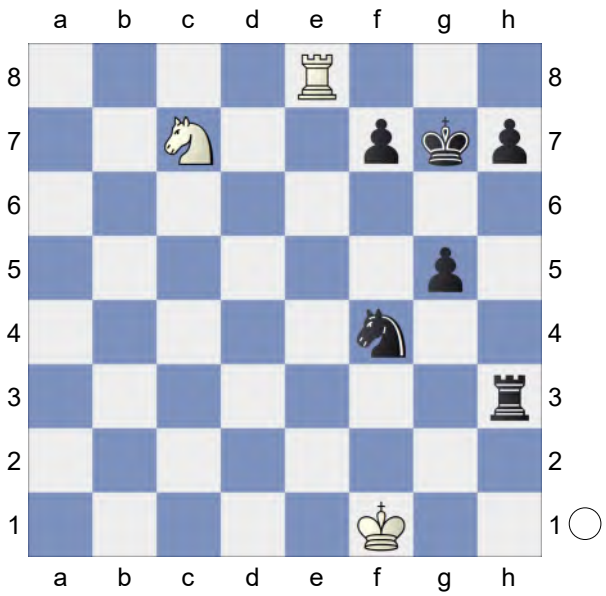


51.Nd6 Ne5 52.Re7 Kf6 53.Re8 Rb4 54.Kg3 Rd4 55.Nb5 Rd3+

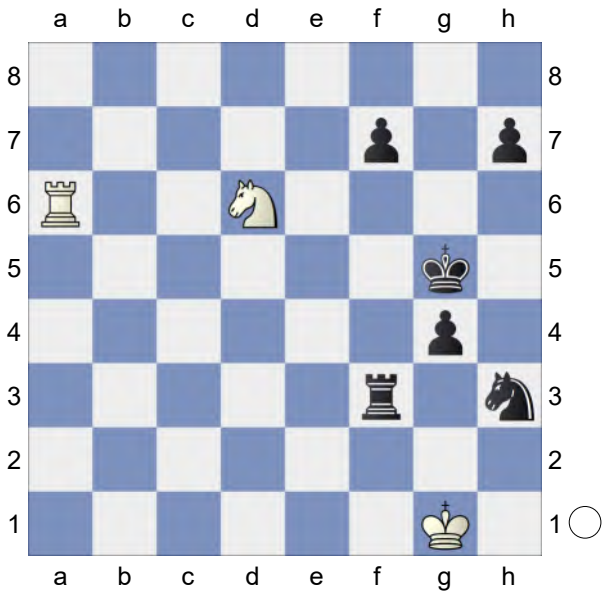


56.Kg2 g5 Threatens to win with ...Ng6.
57.Rh8 Kg7 58.Re8 -5.74/24
[58.Ra8 -3.39/26 is a better defense.]
58...Ng6 59.Nc7 Nf4+ Deflection
60.Kf1 Rxh3

(Diagram)

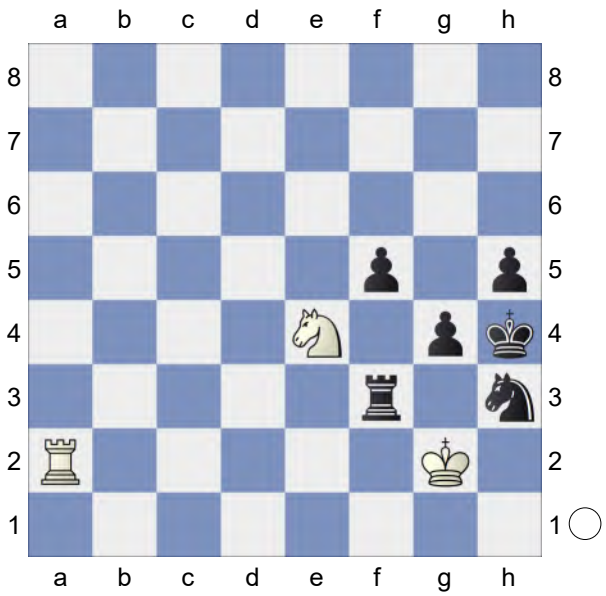


61.Ra8 Rf3+ 62.Kg1 g4 63.Ne8+ Kg6 64.Ra6+ Kg5 65.Nd6 Nh3+



66.Kg2 Kh4 67.Ne4 Inhibits Rf2+. **67...Nf4+ 68.Kg1 h5 69.Ra2 Nh3+ 70.Kg2 f5**

(Diagram)

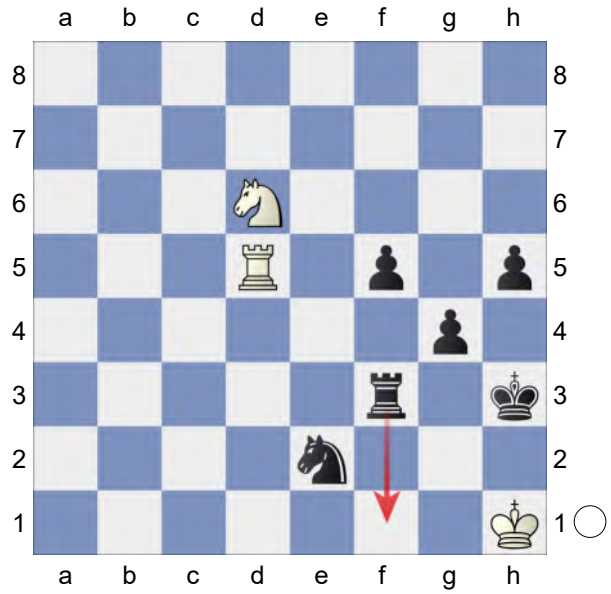


71.Nd6 Nf4+ 72.Kg1 Ne6 -4.58/19
[⌓72...g3 -16.74/24 73.Nxf5+ Kh3 74.Rb2 g2 75.Ne3 Rxe3 76.Kf2 Rg3 *(76...Nd3+* leads to mate. *77.Kxe3 Nxb2 78.Ke4 g1Q 79.Kd5 h4 80.Ke6 Kg3 81.Kf7 h3 82.Kf6 h2 83.Kf5 h1Q 84.Kg6 Qc6+ 85.Kh7 Qa7+ 86.Kh8 Qe8#)* 77.Rb1 Kg4 78.Rg1 Nh3+ Deflection, Double Attack 79.Ke1 Nxg1 80.Kd1 Ne2 81.Ke1 g1Q+ *(81...g1R+ 82.Kd2 Nf4 83.Kc2 Re1 84.Kd2 Re2+ 85.Kd1 Rg1#)* 82.Kd2 Qf1 83.Kc2 Qc1#]

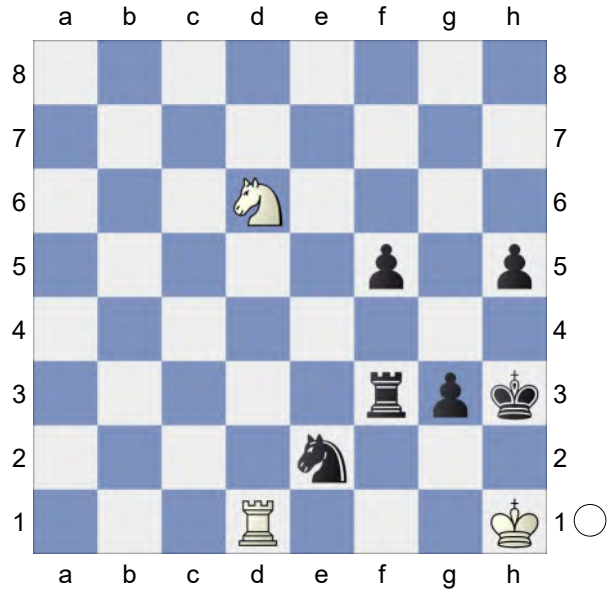
73.Ra5 -10.97/21
[⌓73.Re2 -4.58/19 Nf4 74.Nxf5+ Kg5 75.Nd4 Nxe2+ 76.Nxe2 h4 77.Nd4 h3 78.Nxf3+ gxf3 79.Kf2 h2 80.Kxf3 h1Q+ *(80...h1R* gets mated. *81.Ke4 Rd1 82.Ke5 Rd8 83.Ke4 Kf6 84.Kf3 Kf5 85.Ke3 Rd7 86.Kf3 Re7 87.Kg3 Re3+ 88.Kf2 Kf4 89.Kg2 Rf3 90.Kh2 Rf2+ 91.Kh1 Kg4 92.Kg1 Kg3 93.Kh1 Rf1#)* 81.Ke3 Qd5 82.Kf2 Qd3 83.Kg2 Kf4 84.Kh2 Qe2+ 85.Kg1 Kg3 86.Kh1 Qh2#]

73...Nd4 (-> ...Ne2+) **74.Rd5 Ne2+**

75.Kh1 Kh3



76.Rd1 g3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.15 (very precise)

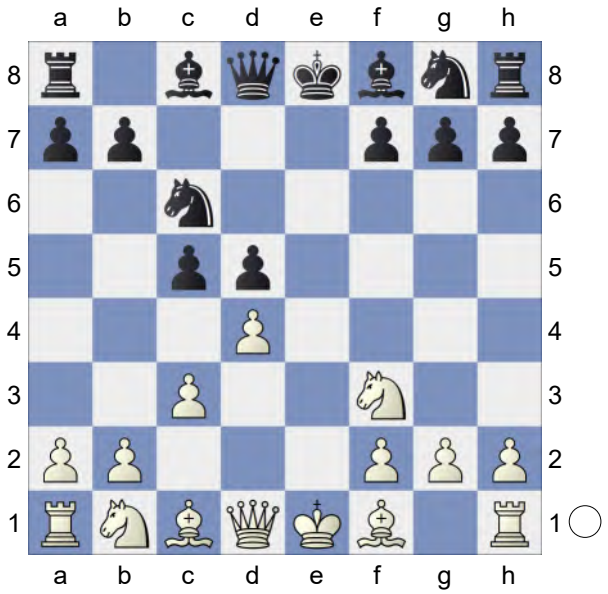
0-1

138 **B22**
□ **Baklan,Vladimir** **2618**
■ **Polzin,R** **2470**
TCh-AUT 2006-7 (11) 11.03.2007
[Andrew Martin]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5

A move which is regarded by many as Black's most solid choice of all against the 2 c3 Sicilian. My impression is that White obtains a risk-free edge **4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6**



A pawn structure is reached, familiar to those who play the French Tarrasch. Yet White's next move proves this a superior setting, as the Bishop on c1 is unimpeded. **6.Be3 c4 7.b3** Before Black can gain space there.

7...cxb3 8.axb3 Bd6 9.Bd3 Bg4N

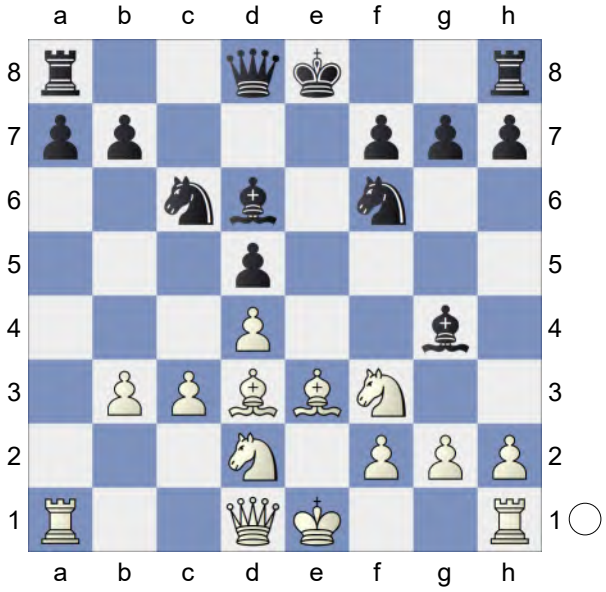
[9...h6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bxe5 13.Bxa7 0-0 14.Bb6 Bxh2+ 15.Kh1 Qxb6 16.Rxa8 Bc7 B 22/13 2000]

[9...Nge7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nh4 Qc7 12.Kh1 Ng6 13.Qh5 Be6 14.Nd2 Nce7 15.Ndf3 f6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Bxg6 Nxg6 18.Qxg6 Qd7 19.Nh4 Rfc8 20.Bd2 Bf8 21.Rfe1 Re8 22.f3 a5 23.g4 Bf7 24.Qd3 ½-½ (28) Tonoian,A (2455)-Seryshev,V (2365) 92/(398) Moscow 2004 (6)]

10.Nbd2

[10.0-0 Nf6 11.Bg5! 0-0 12.Re1 h6 13.Bh4 Bf4!? so that the Knight on b1 has to go to a less active square. 14.Na3 a6 15.Nc2 Bg5 16.Bxg5 hxg5 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 g6 19.Ne3 Qd6 20.g3 Kg7 21.Ng4 *(21.Qf5!* is interesting now, securing an advantage for White, I think: *Rh8 22.Qxg5 Ne7 23.Qe5±)* 21...Ne4 22.Ne5 Nxc3 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.Bxg6 Nb5 25.Bb1 Rfe8 26.Rd1 Qf6 27.Kg2 Qxf3+ 1/2-1/2 Macieja, B-Movsesian, S/Zagan 1997]

10...Nf6



11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1

[Or 12.Bg5 a familiar move, obtaining the usual tiny edge:

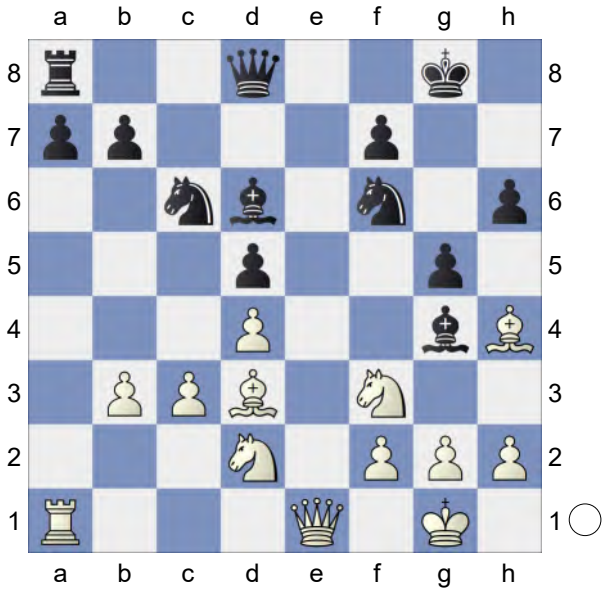
A) 12...Rc8 13.Re1 Bb8 0.65/19 *(13...h6=* 0.26/18 is superior. *14.Bh4 g5)* 14.Qb1 h6 15.Bh4± Shaw, J-Bellin, J/Kilkenny 2000;

B) 12...Bh5 13.Re1 Bg6 14.Nf1

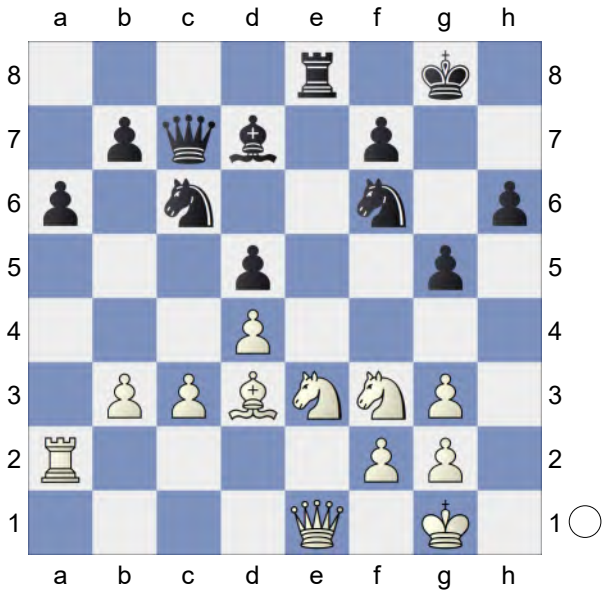
Rc8 15.Ne3 Bb8 1.21/18 *(15...Be7± 0.61/19)* 16.Ng4± Qd6 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Bh4 a6 19.Bg3 Qd7 20.Bxb8 Nxb8 21.c4 0.23/20 *(*White should try *21.Qd2±* 0.81/19 *)* 21...Nc6= 22.c5 Nb4 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Qd2 Nc6 25.Qh6 Rfe8 26.h3 Re4± Puigdemont, J-Vidarte Morales, A/Barcelona 1996]

[12.h3 Bh5 13.Bg5 is another way. h6 14.Bh4 Bg6 15.Qb1 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 g5 17.Bg3 Nh5 18.Bxd6 Qxd6± Perez Aleman, P-Lezcano Jaen, P/Las Palmas 1993 One gains the impression that if Black has to weaken his Kingside with ...g7-g5 then white must be a least a little better, with both d5, f5 and g5 to aim at.]

12...Re8 Take your pick whether you prefer the IQP and free piece play or the more compact White formation. **13.Bg5** White has an edge. **13...Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 h6 15.Bh4 g5**



It happened again. White is better but has he got the firepower left to prove it? In practice these types of position fizzle out. **16.Bg3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Qc7 18.Nf1± Re8 19.Ne3 a6 20.Ra2 Bd7**

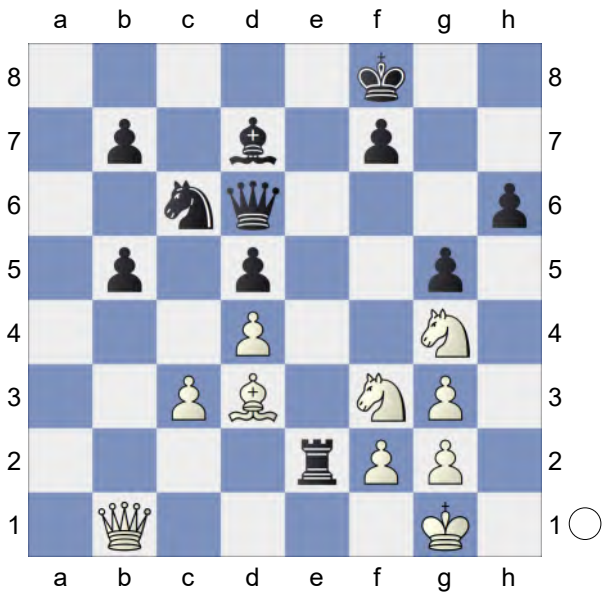


21.Re2 My problem in playing Black would be to find some play which is actually going to win the game. Not many like the ' neutralising ' approach. I suppose in view of the rating difference, Black is content to be solid and await events. **21...Kf8! 22.b4!?** Was there any need for this so quickly?

[I quite like the flexible 22.Qd2 and if Ne4 0.95/21 then *(22...a5± 0.59/21)* 23.Qc2 Nf6! 24.Qa2 and the game continues with Black holding the fort, but still a little worse.]

22...Qd6 23.Qb1 Ng4 24.b5 axb5 25.Nxg4 With every piece exchanged, Black's burden decreases. **25...Rxe2**

(Diagram)



26.Bxe2

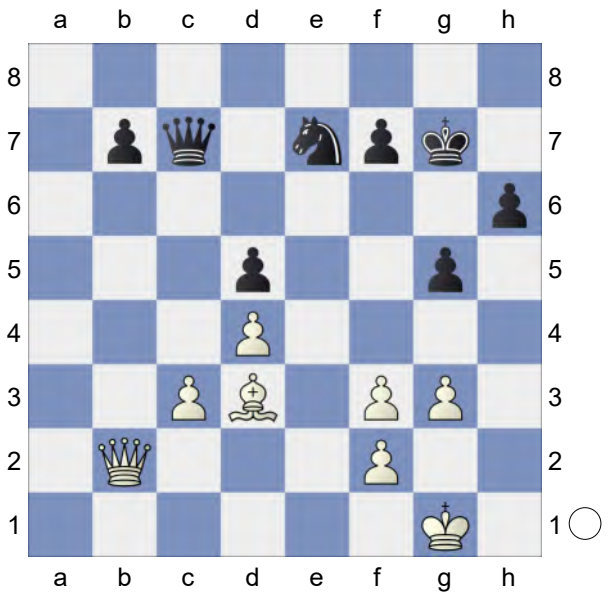
[Not 26.Ne3? Rxe3 27.fxe3 Qxg3 28.Bxb5 Kg7∓]

26...Bxg4 27.Bxb5 Bxf3 28.gxf3

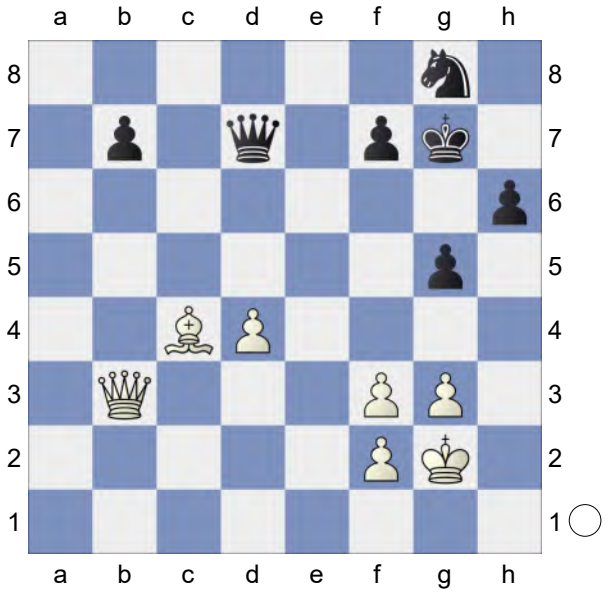
Endgame. KQB-KQN **28...Kg7!=**

[28...Qa3 0.59/25 28...Ne7 0.19 29.Qh7! Qxc3? 1.53/24 *(29...Qd6 30.Qh8+ Ke7 31.Kg2 Qe6 32.Qa8 Nd8 33.Qb8±; 29...Qd6±* 0.67/28) 30.Qxh6+± Ke7 31.Qxg5+ would not be so effective.]

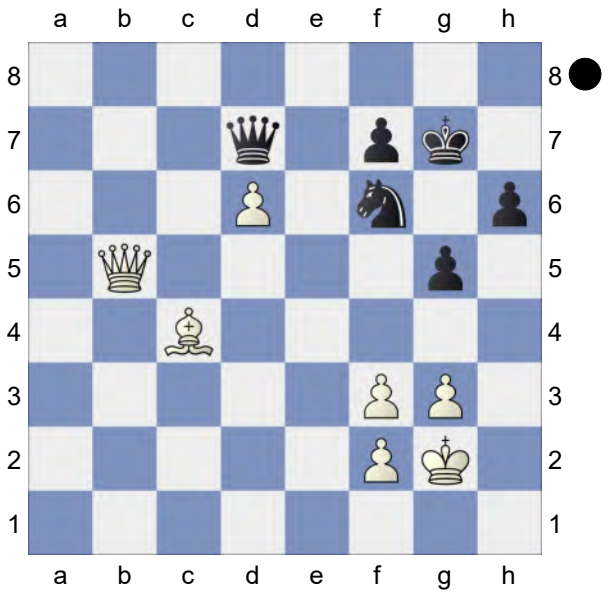
29.Qb2 Ne7 30.Bd3 Qc7



31.Qb3 Qd7 As predicted, the game tends towards a draw. **32.Kg2 Ng8 33.Bb5 Qd6 34.c4 dxc4 35.Bxc4 Qd7**



36.d5 Nf6 37.d6 b5! 38.Qxb5



The game and the notes say it all. Not especially interesting from Black, but when he's happy with a draw , why not? Let White make the running.

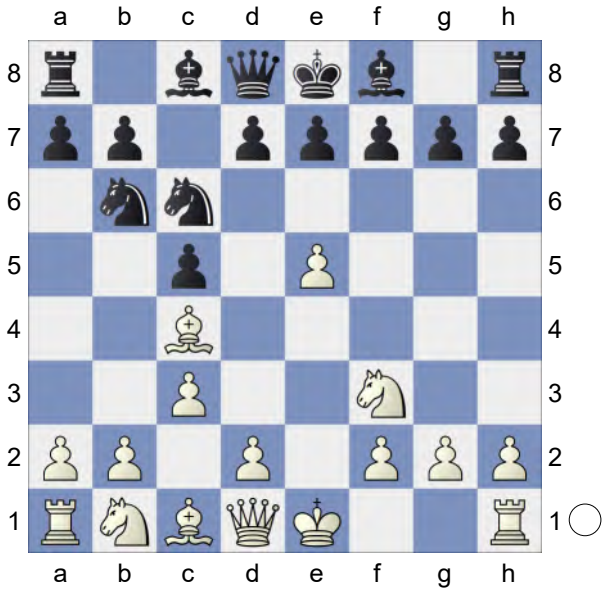
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

½-½

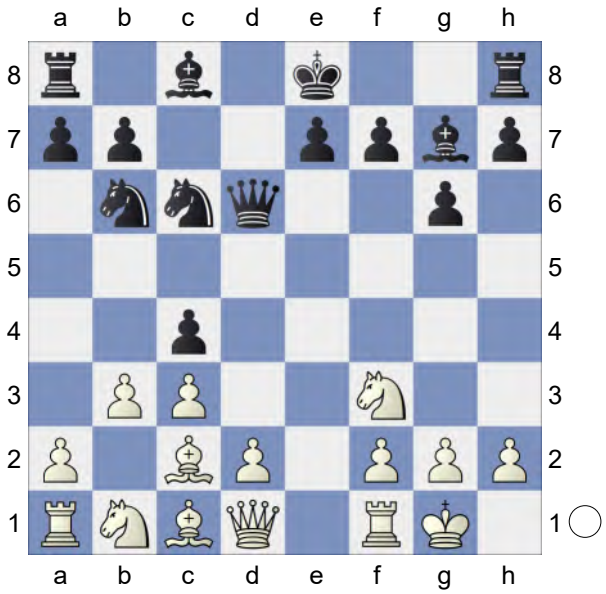
139 **B22**
□ **Dolmatov,Sergey** **2610**
■ **Fogarasi,Tibor** **2500**
66/154 Passau 1996
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

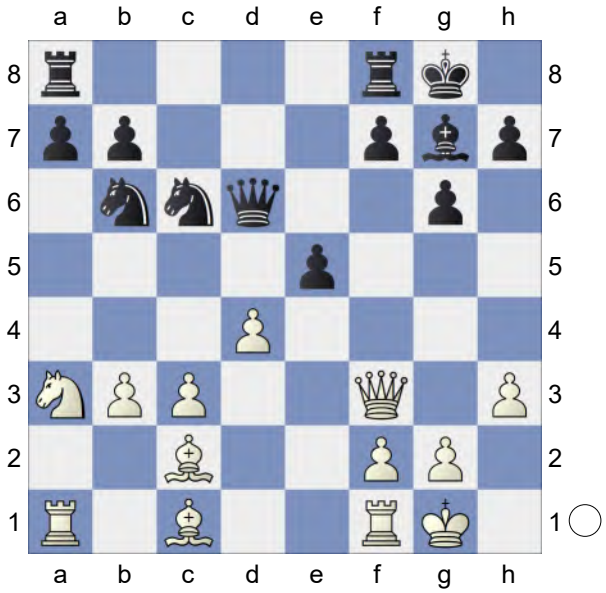
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



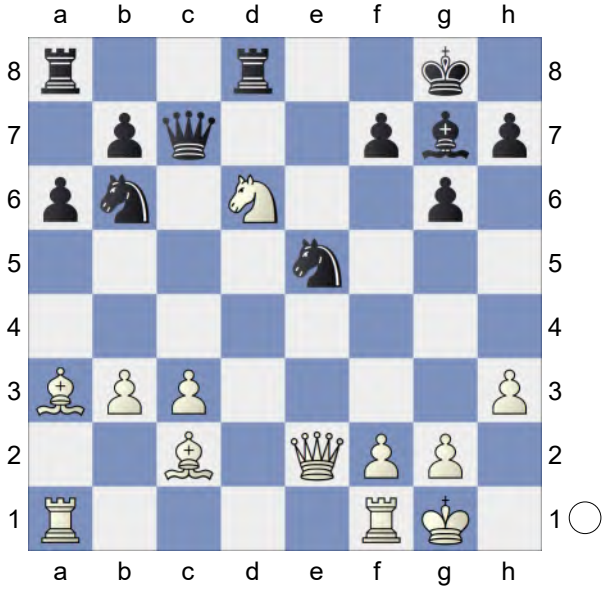
6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 g6 8.b3 d5 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.0-0 Bg7



11.Na3 cxb3 12.axb3 0-0 13.d4 Bg4 14.h3 Bxf3 White has an edge. **15.Qxf3 e5**

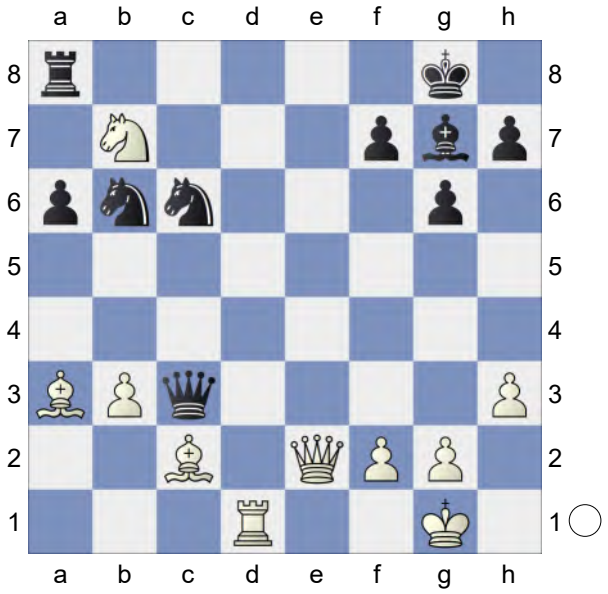


16.Nb5 Qd7 17.Ba3
[17.Rd1!?]
17...Rfd8 18.dxe5 -0.45/22
[18.Rfd1= 0.21/20]
18...Nxe5∓ 19.Qe2 a6 20.Nd6 Qc7
[20...Nd5!?]



21.Rad1 aiming for f4.
[21.Rfd1!?]
21...Qxc3 22.Nxb7 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nc6 0.65/22

[Black should try 23...Rc8= 0.01/21]



24.Nd8!± Qe5

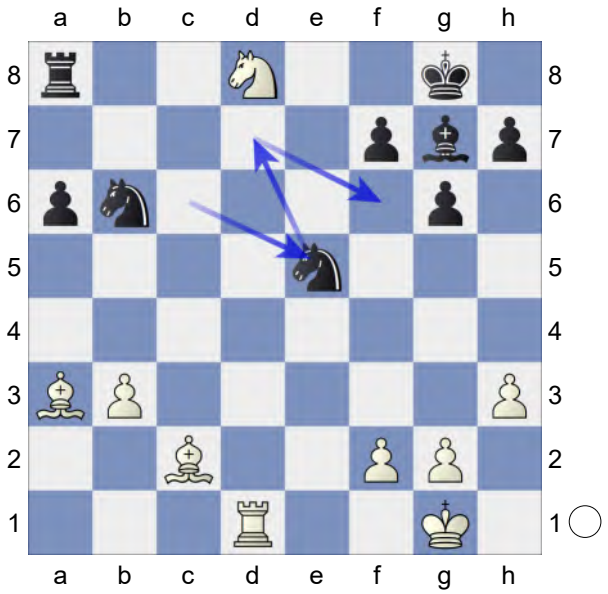
[24...Rxd8? 25.Rxd8++- *(25.Qxa6? Ra8-+; 25.Qxa6?* is the wrong capture. *Ra8-+)*]

[24...Ne5 25.f4]

25.Qxe5

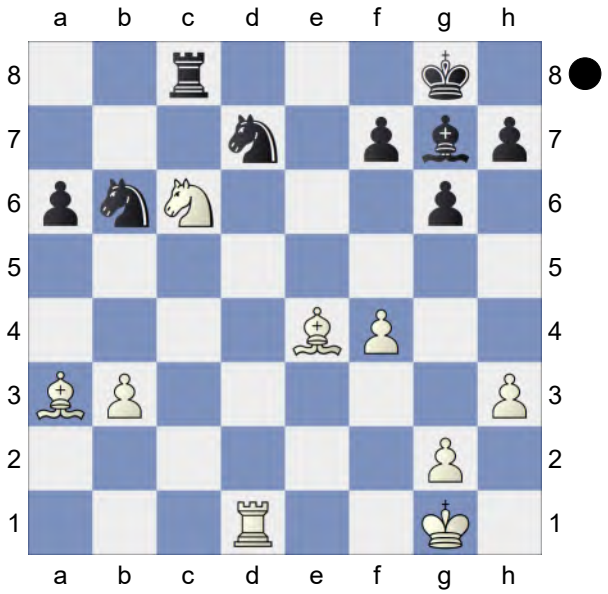
[25.Nxc6? too greedy. Qxe2 26.Rc1 Bh6-+]

25...Nxe5



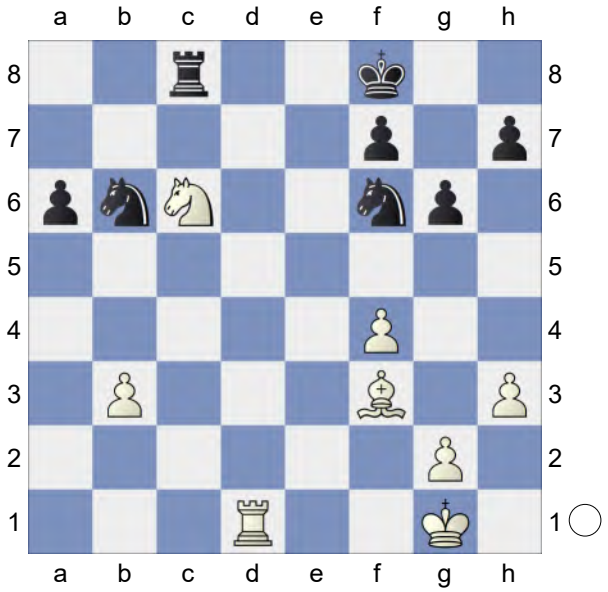
26.Be4N Rc8 27.f4 Ned7 28.Nc6

(Diagram)



And now Ne7+ would win. White is much more active. **28...Bf8 29.Bxf8 Kxf8**

30.Bf3 Nf6

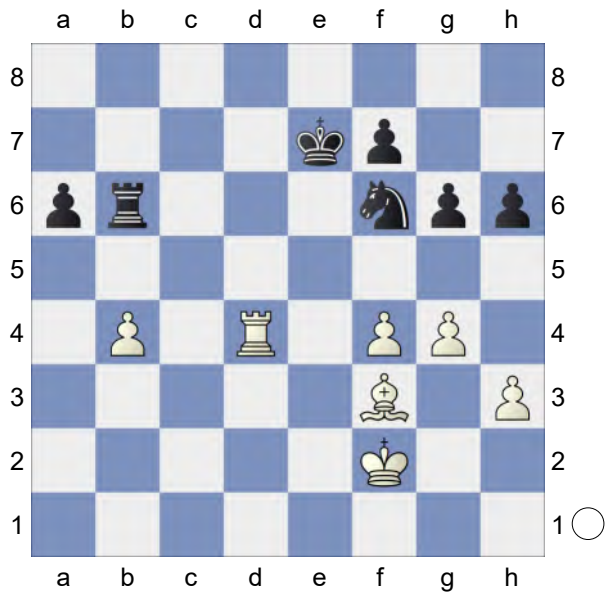


31.Kf2 Nbd5 The position is equal.

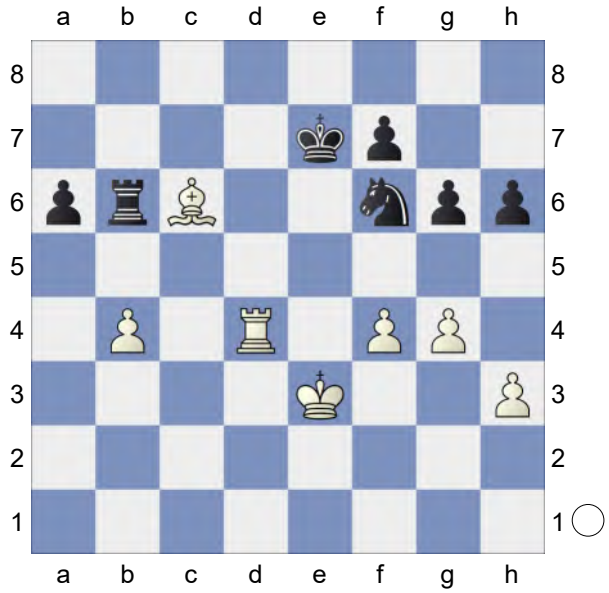
32.Rxd5 Rxc6= Endgame. KRB-KRN

33.Rd4 Rb6 34.b4 Ke7 35.g4 h6

(Diagram)



36.Ke3 Rb5 37.Bc6 Rb6 38.Bf3 Rb5 39.Bc6 Rb6

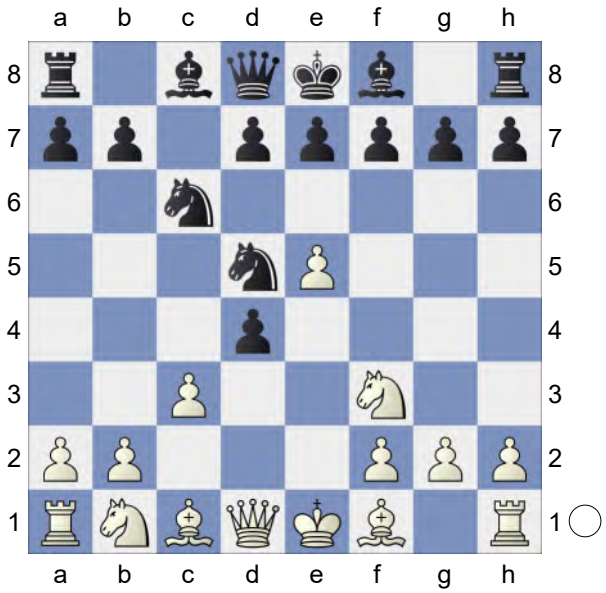


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise) .
Loss on time!?

1-0

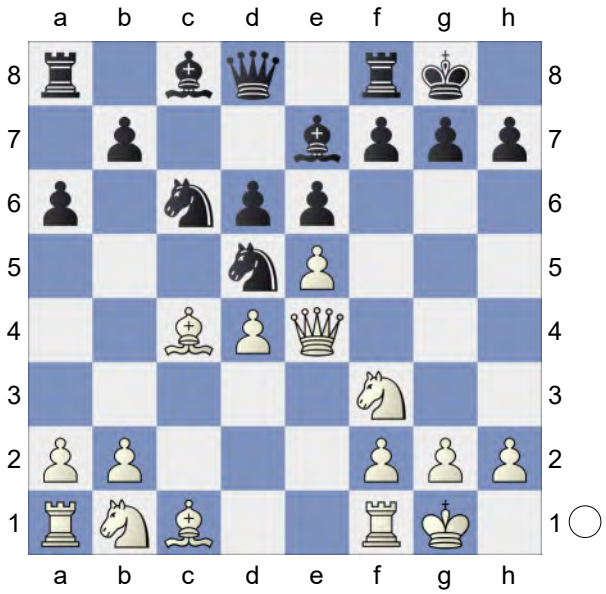
140 **B22**
□ **Lutz,Christopher** **2610**
■ **Adams,Michael** **2716**
Frankfurt-West Masters rapid (14) 2.7.99
[Mueller,Karsten]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6

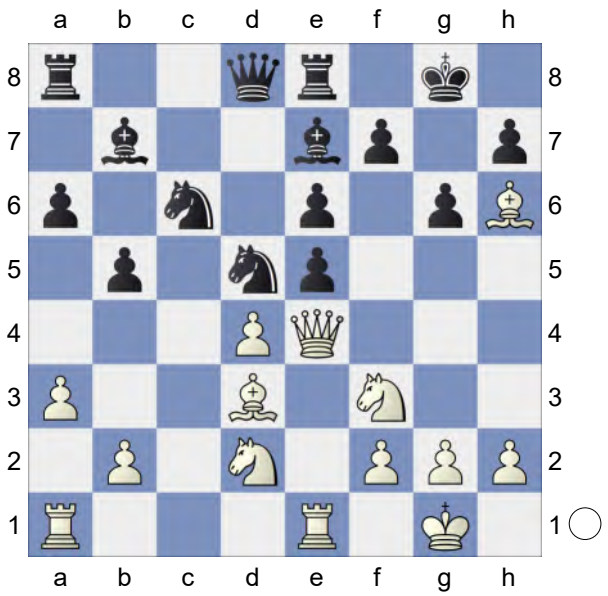


6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Qe4 a6
[10...Bd7= 11.Bd3 *(11.Re1 Rc8 12.Nbd2 b5 13.Bb3 Na5 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Bxd5 exd5= 16.Qxd5?! Bc6 17.Qg5? Qxg5-+ 18.Nxg5 Rfe8)* 11...f5 12.exf6 Nxf6]

(Diagram)



11.Re1
[11.Bd3 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6]
11...b5
[11...Qc7 12.Bd3 f5= 13.exf6?! Nxf6]
12.Bd3 g6
[12...f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Qxc6]
13.Bh6± (Jacoby,G. in CBM 57)
13...Re8 14.a3
[14.Nbd2 dxe5 15.dxe5 Ndb4 16.Bb1 Bb7 17.Qf4!= Nd5 18.Qg3! Bf8 19.Bxf8! Rxf8 20.Ne4! Ra7 21.h4 *(21.Nfg5)* 21...Nce7 22.Nd6 Nc8 23.Nxb7 Rxb7 24.h5? Nce7+- 25.hxg6 *(25.Be4)* 25...hxg6 26.Ng5 Kg7 27.Be4 Rh8 28.Rad1 Rd7 29.Qg4 Rh5 30.Nxe6+ fxe6 31.Qxe6 Rh6 32.Rd3 g5 33.Qg4 Nc6
A) 34.Red1 Nxe5 35.Rxd5 Rxd5 *(35...Nxg4 36.Rxd7+=)* 36.Rxd5 Nxg4 37.Rxd8 Re6 38.f3 Nf6;
B) 34.e6 Ne5 35.Rxd5 Rxd5 36.Qf5 Rc5 37.b4 Nf3+ *(37...Qd2 38.Rf1 Qxb4 39.Qxg5+ Ng6)* 38.Qxf3 Rc7+- 39.Qg3 Rxe6 40.Qh3 Rh6 41.Qg3 Re6 42.Qg4 Qf6+-]
14...Bb7 15.Nbd2 dxe5



16.dxe5 Nb6 17.Bb1

[17.Rad1 Ich habe zwar keinen Weg für Weiß gefunden, daß Endspiel zu gewinnen, doch sollte es möglich sein. In der Parie verteidigt sich Adams gut, bis ihm kurz vor Schluß der entscheidende Fehler unterläuft. Nb4 18.Qxb7 Nxd3 19.Ne4 Nc4]

17...Qc7 18.Qg4 Rad8

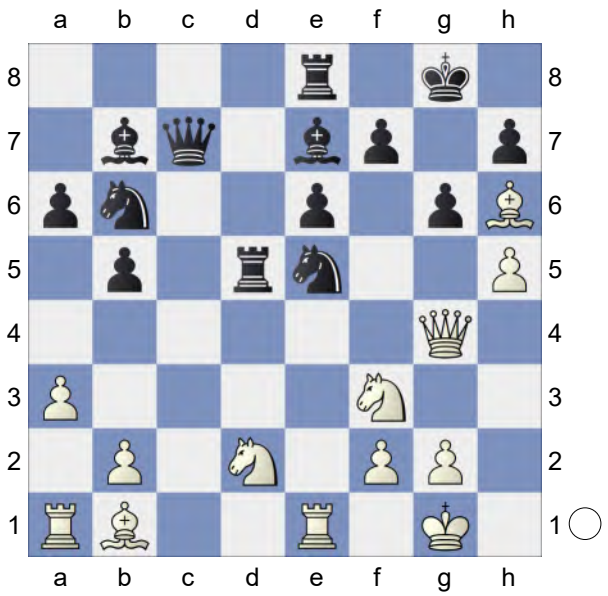
Schwarz versucht, Linien für seine Türme zu öffnen und leitet damit das folgende Handgemenge ein. **19.h4 Rd5**

[19...Nd7 20.Qg3 Nc5 21.h5]

[19...Bf8 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Ne4]

20.h5!? der Isolani opfert sich, damit die weißen Figuren den schwarzen König besser angreifen können. **20...Nxe5**

(Diagram)

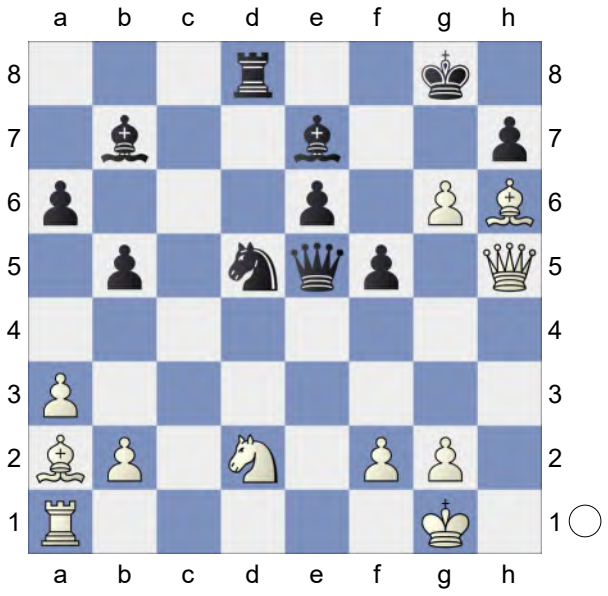


21.Nxe5 Rxe5 22.Rxe5 Qxe5 23.hxg6 f5

[23...hxg6 24.Bxg6?!]

[23...Bd6 24.Nf1 Nd5 *(24...hxg6 25.Bxg6)* 25.gxf7+ Kxf7 26.Bxh7]

24.Qh5 Rd8 25.Ba2 Nd5?

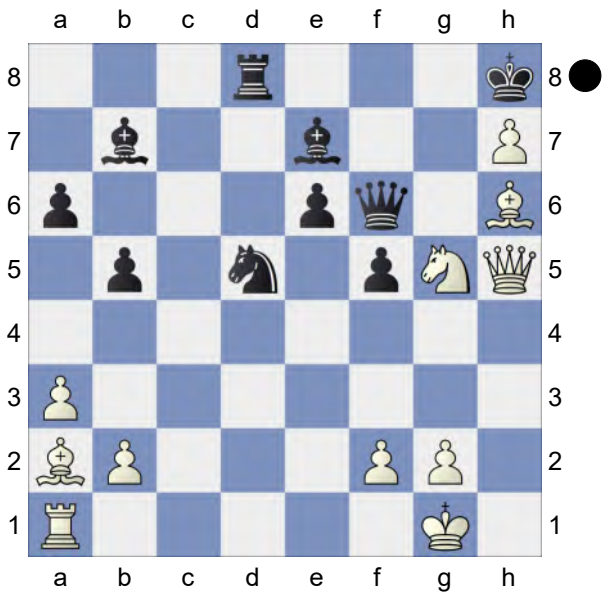


26.Nf3 Qf6

[26...Qxb2 27.Re1 Qxa2 28.gxh7+ Kh8 29.Qg6]

27.gxh7+ Kh8 28.Ng5

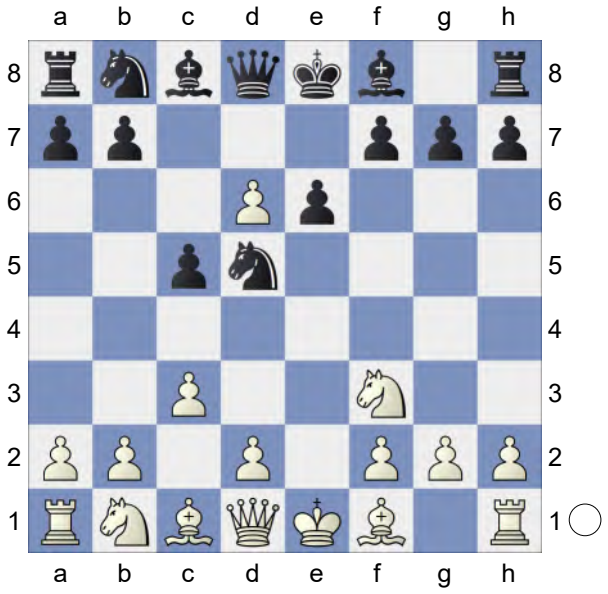
(Diagram)



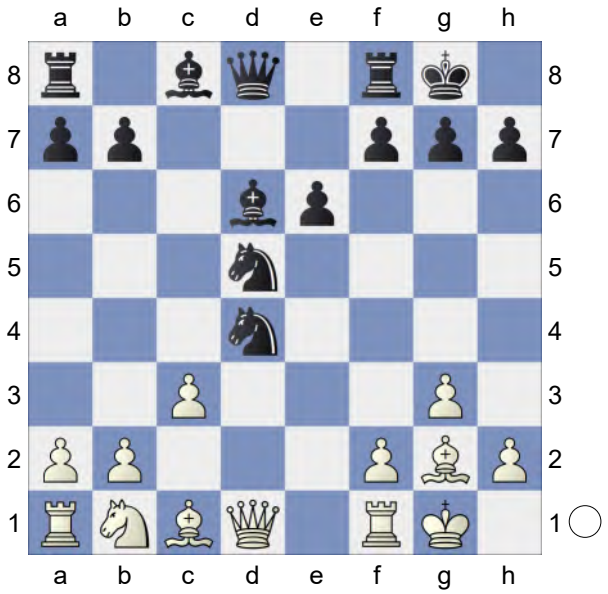
1-0

141 **B22**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu 2608**
■ **Visakh,Narayanan Rajeswari 2516**
Biel HTO 54th (7) 02.08.2021
[Collins,Sam]

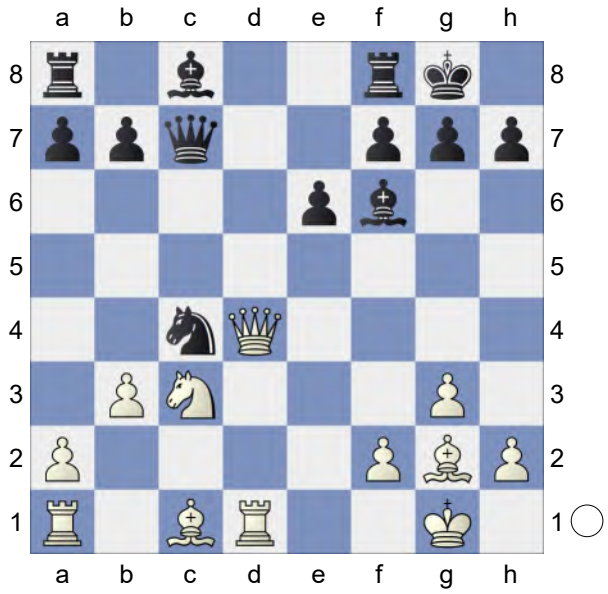
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 e6



6.g3 Bxd6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4



11.Qxd4 Qc7 12.c4 This position is a point of intersection between two Chessable repertoires, recommended for White by Johan Sebastian Christiansen and for Black by Sam Shankland (who suggests 12... Nf6). **12...Nb6 13.Nc3**
[13.Nd2 Rd8 14.Qe4 Bb4 15.Nb3 Qxc4 16.Bf4 Qxe4 17.Bxe4 e5 18.Be3 f5 19.Bg5 Re8 20.Bd3 Be6 21.Rfc1 Rec8 22.a3 Bxb3 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.axb4 e4 25.Ra3 Bd5 26.Bf1 a6 27.Be3 Nd7 0-1 (75) Schmidt (1875)-Terada,Y (2145) Dublin 1993 (4)]
13...Nxc4 14.Rd1 Be7 15.b3 White is slightly better. **15...Bf6N**
[Thus far the players have followed Christiansen's analysis, which continued 15...Nb6 16.Bf4 Qc5 17.Qxc5 Bxc5 18.a4± with more than enough compensation for White. The game continuation is even worse for Black]



16.Qxc4 Qxc4 Remove Defender
17.bxc4 Bxc3 18.Rb1 This position is characteristic of closed openings with a fianchetto such as the Catalan, the Fianchetto Grunfeld/KID or some lines of

the English. It's not a matter of "compensation" (White can always regain his pawn), rather White is close to winning due to the overwhelming activity of his pieces. The main thing is to avoid cashing in too early. **18...a5 19.Rb5!**

[For example, 19.Bxb7? -0.01/21 19.Rb5 0.89 Bxb7 20.Rxb7 would be entirely wrong in view of. Threatening c5. Rfc8!" , when after 21.Rdd7 Rxc4 22.Rxf7 Ba1 23.Be3 Ra4= g7 is protected and Black isn't worse.]

19...Bf6 1.41/22

[Black should try 19...e5 0.90/19]

20.Ba3 0.85/24 White is much more active.

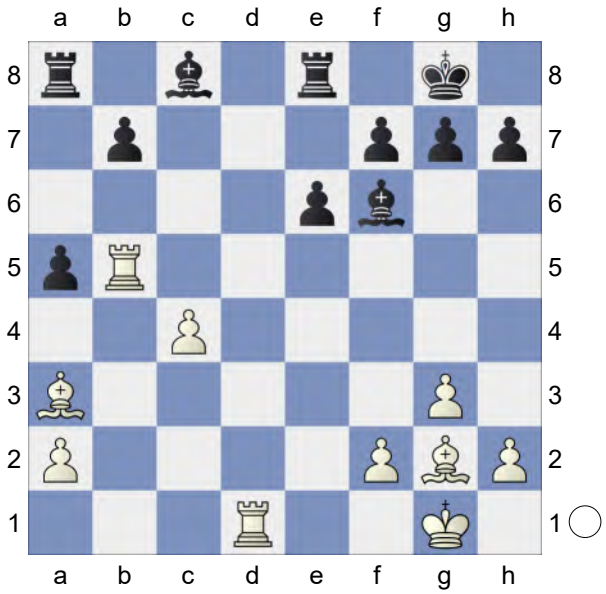
[Of course not 20.Bxb7?! Bxb7 21.Rxb7 Rfc8∓]

[⌓20.c5 1.41/22]

20...Re8?!±

[20...Rd8 gains a tempo. If White continues as in the game with 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 22.Bxb7 Bxb7 23.Rxb7 , Black has some chances to survive after. aiming for Bd6. Rc8 with ideas in some lines of ...f5 followed by ...Bf6-d4.]

(Diagram)



21.c5!

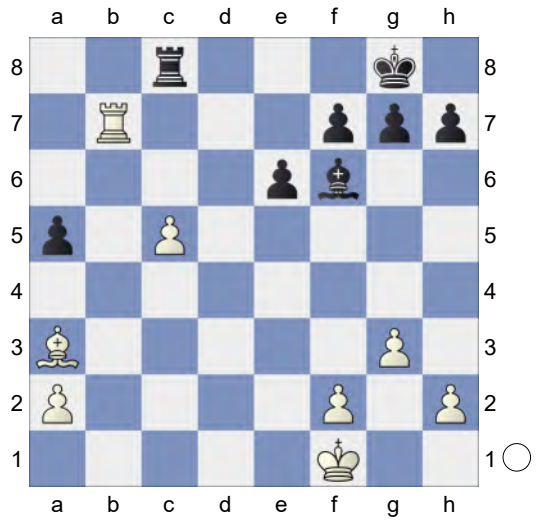
[21.Bxb7 Bxb7 22.Rxb7 Reb8±]

21...Rd8 Repels c6 **22.Rxd8+ Bxd8 23.Bxb7 Bxb7 24.Rxb7** Endgame. The c5-pawn is an asset, plus Pragg has followed conventional GM wisdom (recently taught by Boris Gelfand) that, when converting an advantage, it's often useful to avoid counterplay by exchanging one pair of rooks. KRB-KRB **24...Rc8 25.Kf1 Kf8**

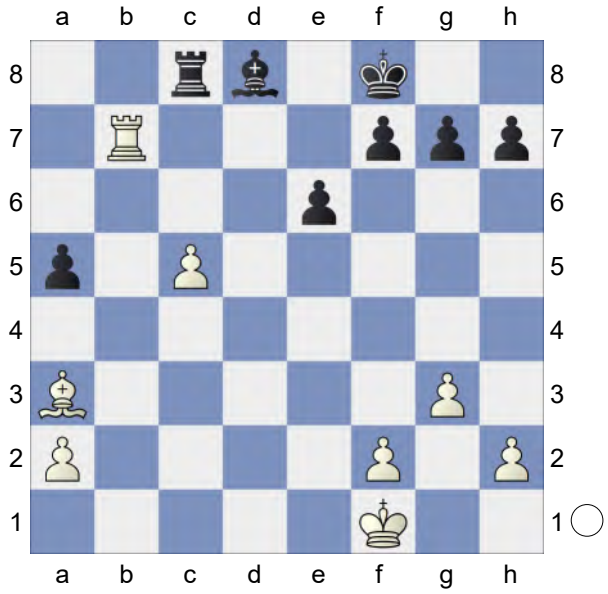
[25...f5 26.Ke2 Bf6 2.71/21 *(⌓26...h5 1.97/20 27.Kd3 f4 28.gxf4 Bh4)* 27.Kd3± and the bishop doesn't reach d4.]

[Changing the move order with 25...Bf6 2.29/22 25...Kf8 1.06

(Diagram)

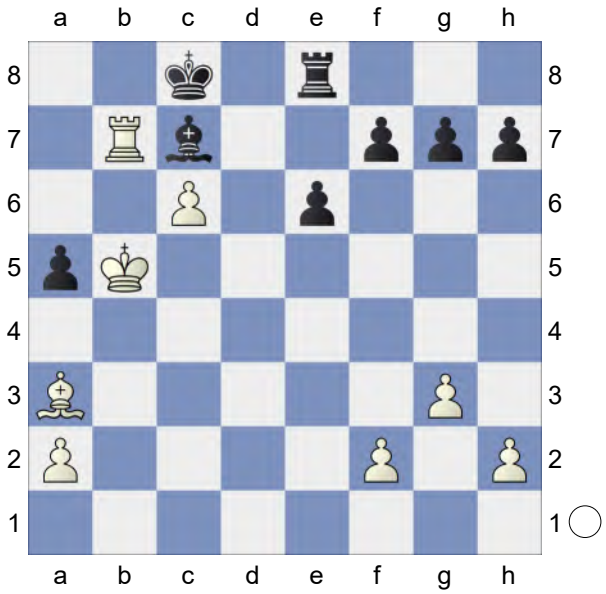


26.Ke2! Bd4 leads to back rank problems after 27.c6!±]

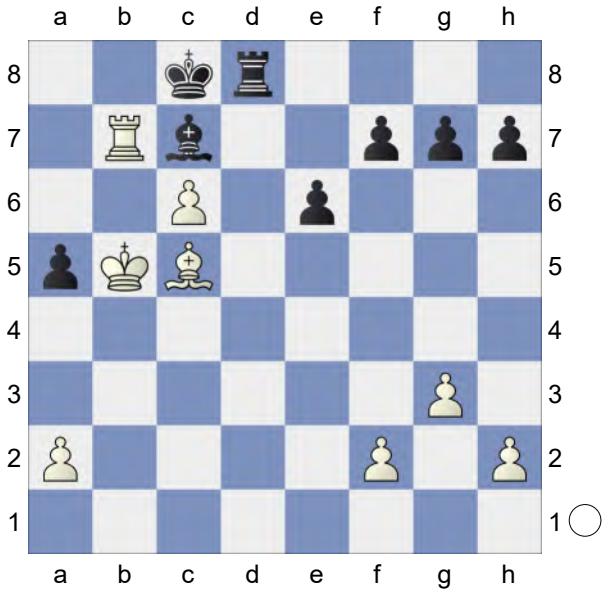


26.Ke2 Ke8 2.16/21
[⌓26...Be7 1.72/21]
27.Kd3+- Bc7 28.Kc4 Threatens to win with Kb5. **28...Kd7 29.Kb5** Strongly threatening c6+. **29...Re8?** 6.65/24
[29...e5 1.67/23 30.f4 exf4]
30.c6+ White is clearly winning. **30...Kc8**

(Diagram)

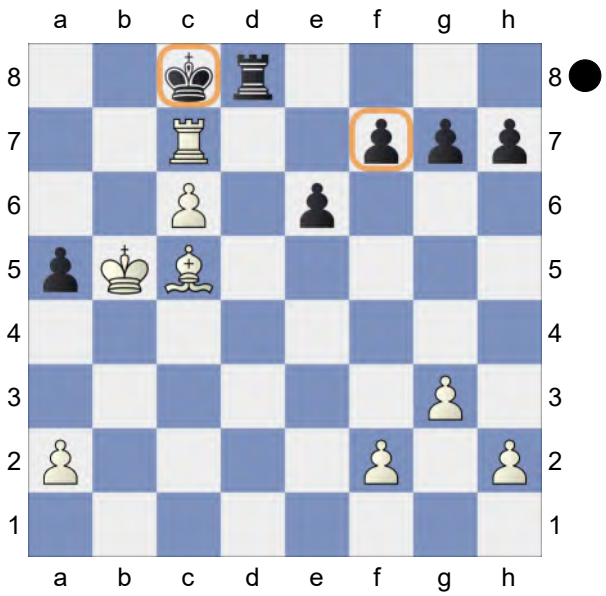


31.Bc5 Rd8



32.Rxc7+!

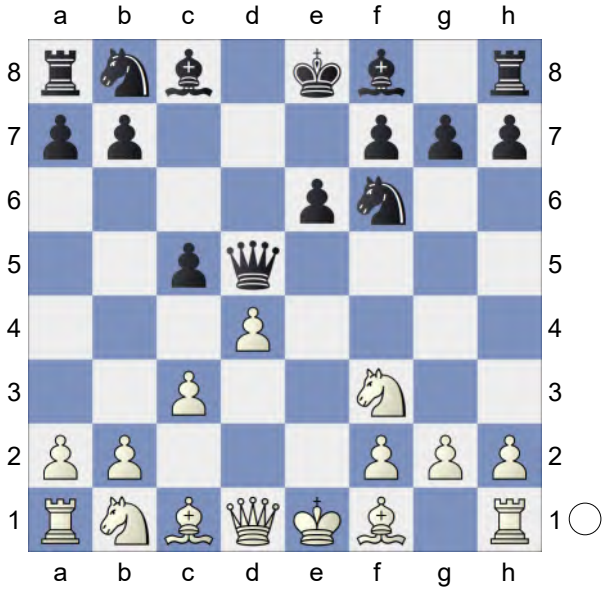
(Diagram)



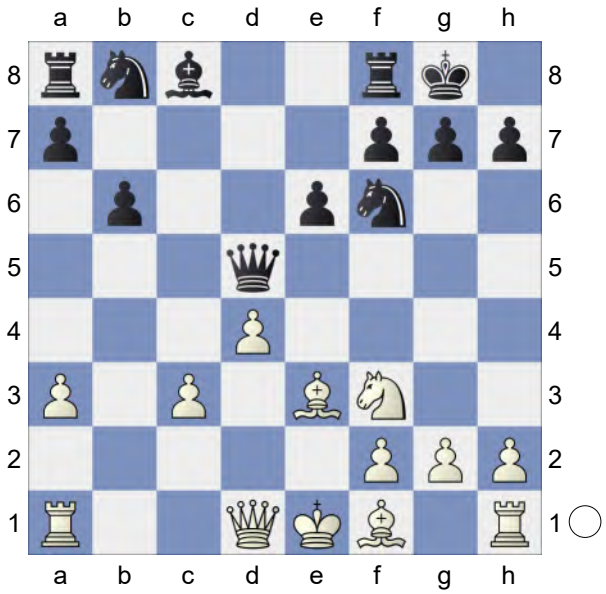
A model technical display by Pragg.
Double Attack.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.50
1-0

142 **B22**
□ **Volkov,Sergey** **2605**
■ **Dvoirys,Semen I** **2585**
RUS-Cup final (10) 08.09.1998
[Ftacnik,Lubomir]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0-0
[8...Qa5 9.Qb3 *(9.Rc1 Qxa2; 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.Bd3 b6; 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Re1 Rfd8 13.a3 Be7 14.Qe2 Be8)* 9...0-0 *(9...Ne4 10.Rc1)* 10.Bd3 b6 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Ne4 Be7]
[8...Bd7 9.a3 *(9.Bd3 Bb5)* 9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 0-0 *(10...Bb5 11.c4)* 11.c4 *(11.Bd3 Bb5)* 11...Qa5+ *(11...Qd6 12.Bd3)*]
9.a3
[9.Bd3 b6 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Ba6]
[9.Be2 Bd7 *(9...b6 10.Ne5)* 10.Ne5 *(10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bb5)* 10...Bc6 11.Bf3 Qa5]
9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 b6
[10...Bd7]



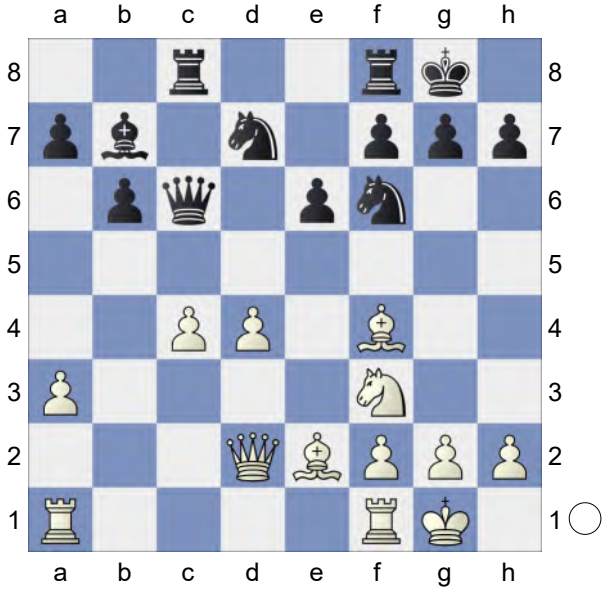
11.c4
[11.Bd3 Ba6=]
11...Qd6
[11...Qa5+ 12.Bd2]
12.Be2
[12.Bd3 Bb7
A) 13.Ne5! ×c4, ♘f4 Bxg2 *(13...Nc6)* 14.Rg1 Bb7? 15.Bh6 g6 16.Bxf8?! Kxf8;
B) 13.0-0 Be4 14.Be2! Nc6]
[12.Qd2 Nbd7 13.Bf4 Qc6 14.Be2 Bb7! 0-1 Epishin,V-Gurevich,I/New York 1993 (46) 15.0-0 Rfe8 16.a4 e5 17.d5 Qc7 18.Be3∓ Ne4 19.Qb2! Δ a5 20.Nd2 Nxd2 21.Qxd2 Ba6 22.Rab1! Qd6 23.Rfc1 Rec8 24.f4]
12...Bb7 13.0-0 Nbd7
[13...Ng4 14.Qd2?! Bxf3 15.Bf4 e5 16.Bxf3 Nc6∓ 17.dxe5 *(17.c5 bxc5 18.dxc5 Qe6 19.Rfe1-+; 17.Bxg4 exf4 18.d5 Na5 19.Qd3= Nb7?!)* 17...Qxd2 18.Bxd2 Ngxe5∓ 19.Bd5?]
14.Qd2 Rac8 15.Bf4 Qc6
[15...Qe7
A) 16.a4→ Bxf3 17.Bxf3 *(17.gxf3 e5)* 17...Rxc4;

B) 16.Qb4 Rfe8 17.Bd6 Qd8 18.a4± Ne4 19.Bf4 Qf6 20.Be3± e5;

C) 16.Rfc1!∞ Rfd8

C1) 17.a4 e5± 18.Bg5 *(18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Qe3 Nfg4)* 18...Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Nc5 20.Bxf6∞ Qxf6 21.dxe5 Qxe5;

C2) 17.Qb4 Qe8 18.a4 Nb8 *(18...Bxf3 19.Bxf3-+ e5 20.Re1)* 19.a5 *(19.Bg5 Bxf3+- 20.Bxf3 Rxd4)* 19...Nc6 20.Qb2+- Nxa5 21.c5]



16.a4 Rfd8!

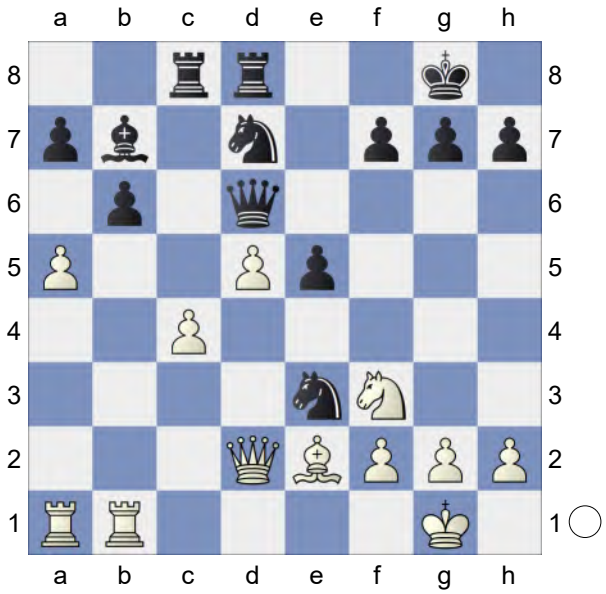
[16...Rfe8 17.a5 Ne4 *(17...e5-+ 18.d5 Qd6 19.Be3∓)* 18.Qe3 Nd6]

17.a5 e5

[17...Ne4 18.Qe3 Nd6 19.d5 exd5 20.Nd4 Qc5 21.Bxd6 Qxd6= 22.Nf5!∓]

18.d5 Qd6 19.Be3 Ng4 20.Rfb1 Nxe3

(Diagram)



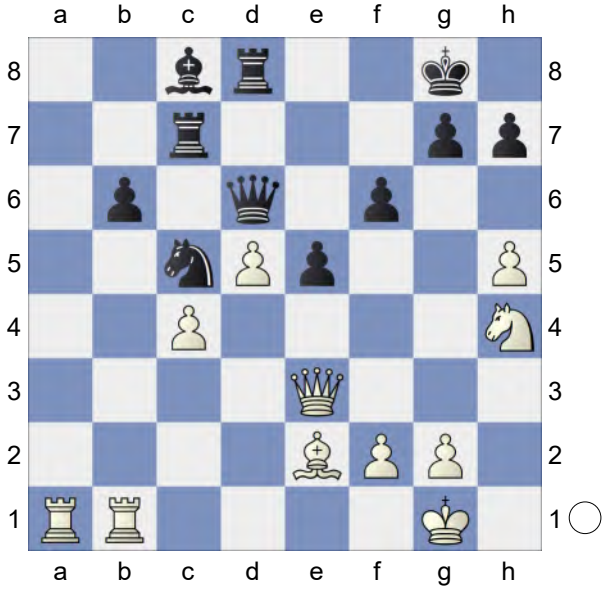
21.Qxe3 f6! The queen is an unpleasant attacker, white's development is far from complete.

[21...Re8 22.Ng5 h6-+ 23.Ne4 Qc7 24.Bg4]

22.h4

[22.Nd2! f5]

22...Nc5 23.h5 Rc7 24.Nh4 Bc8 25.axb6 axb6



26.Ra8 Rf7

[26...f5 27.Nf3 Re7∓]

27.Qc3 f5 28.Nf3!? White is using the special rights of terminally ill patient, he

can afford more since the situation is hopeless anyway. **28...Nd7**

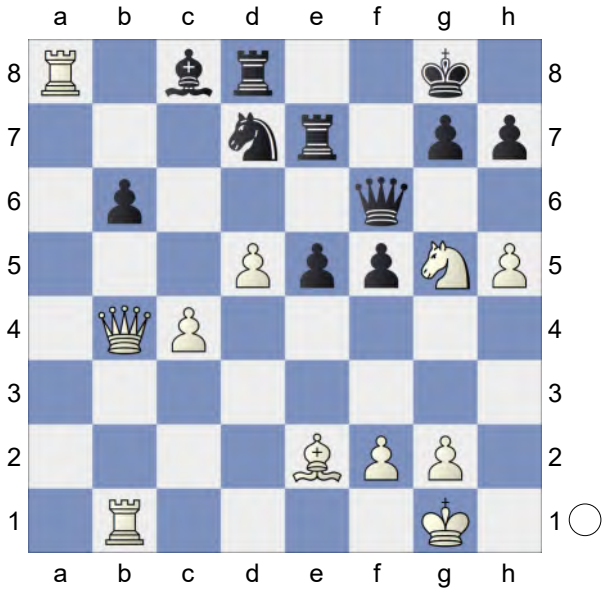
[28...Re7+- 29.Qb2 e4 30.Nd4 Rb7]

29.Ng5! Re7 30.Qb4

[30.Ne6 Rde8 31.h6 g6∓ 32.Qb4?]

30...Qf6

[30...Qxb4 31.Rxb4 h6 *(31...Rde8 32.d6)* 32.Ne6= Rde8! 33.Nc7 Rf8 34.Nb5]

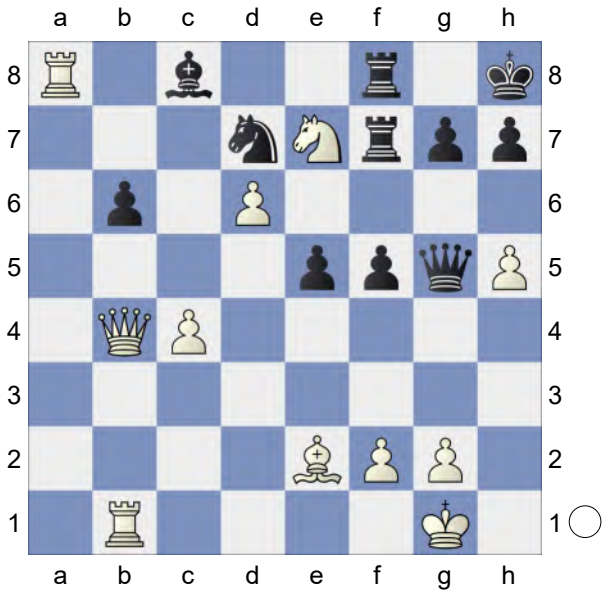


31.Ne6 Rde8? Switching the gear is especially difficult when the player had winning position for a long time. Black had to worry about his safety.

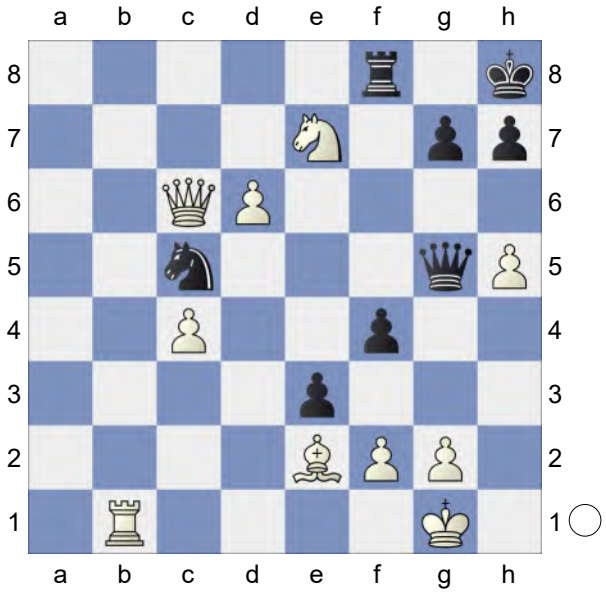
[31...Rxe6 32.dxe6 Qxe6 33.Rd1]

32.Nc7 Rf8?! 33.d6! Ref7! 34.Nd5 Qg5 35.Ne7+ Kh8

(Diagram)

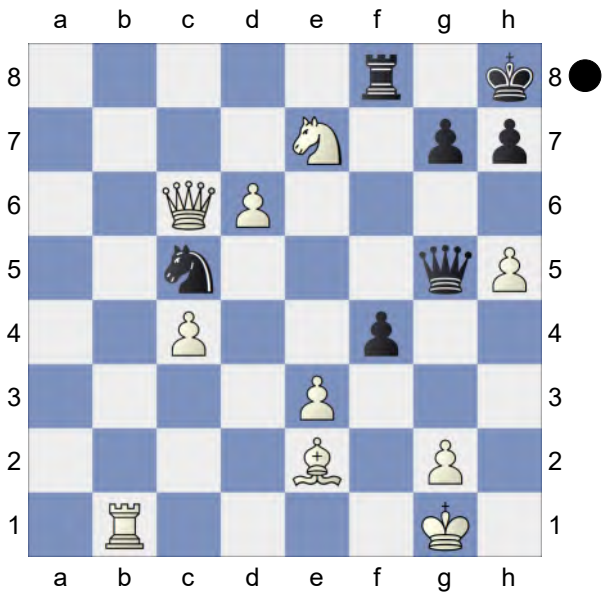


36.Rxc8 e4+- 37.Rxf8+ Rxf8+- 38.Qb5 Nc5 39.Qxb6 f4± 40.Qc6 e3



41.fxe3

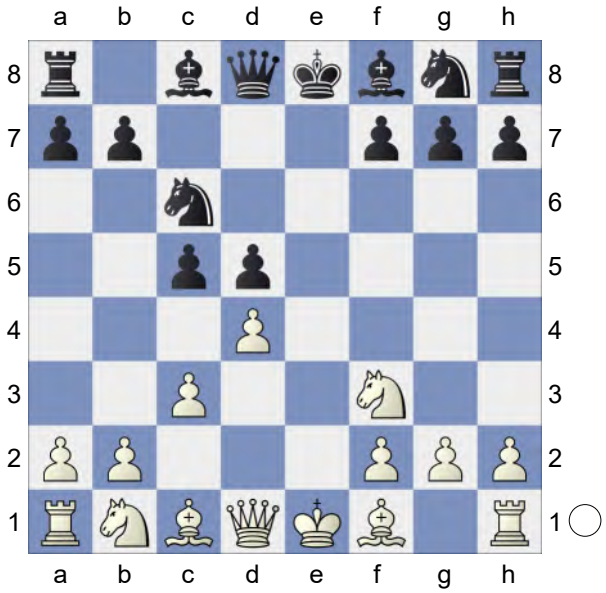
(Diagram)



1-0

143 **B22**
□ **Baklan,Vladimir** **2600**
■ **Lachmayer,Manfred** **0**
20th Open Böblingen (1) 2003
[Andrew Martin]

Here's what happens when you try to cross swords with a Grandmaster in an unusual line.
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5!?
Will it be a Philidor today, a Pirc or Modern? Perhaps a Caro-Kann? And who will choose? I have no problems with Black's move-order but the fatal flaw is that it's very passive. White can build up more or less as he or she pleases. So there might be some mileage in 3...Qc7 against a weaker player but against someone much stronger this opening line cannot be recommended. One must gamble to make a stronger player tremble play wild, risky adventurous chess-that's the way!.
4.exd5 Baklan decides to try to annihilate Black. **4...exd5?! 5.Nf3 Nc6?!**



This I really do not like. Black refuses to recognise the limitations of his opening. Denied the Philidor set-up (4 f4!), he really has to be modest with moves such as **6.Be3! c4 7.b3 cxb3 8.axb3±** White has a big advantage already. He has space and time on his side so he endeavours to open the game. 8 e5! is very strong. **8...Bd6 9.Bd3 Bg4N** Black finally gets the message, but he cannot prevent the following pawn-break.

[9...h6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bxe5 13.Bxa7 0-0 14.Bb6 Bxh2+ 15.Kh1 Qxb6 16.Rxa8 Bc7 B 22/13 2000]

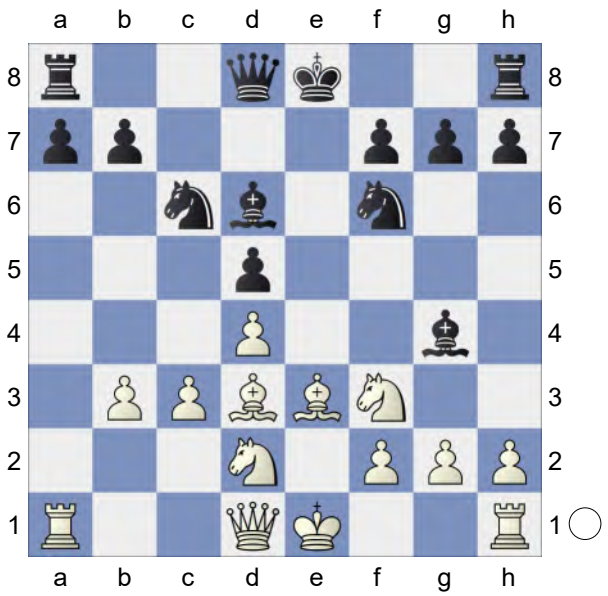
[9...Nge7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nh4 Qc7 12.Kh1 Ng6 13.Qh5 Be6 14.Nd2 Nce7 15.Ndf3 f6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Bxg6 Nxg6 18.Qxg6 Qd7 19.Nh4 Rfc8 20.Bd2 Bf8 21.Rfe1 Re8 22.f3 a5 23.g4 Bf7 24.Qd3 ½-½ (28) Tonoian,A (2455)-Seryshev,V (2365) 92/(398) Moscow 2004 (6)]

10.Nbd2!

[10.0-0 Nf6 11.Bg5 0-0 12.Re1 h6 13.Bh4 Bf4 14.Na3 a6 15.Nc2 Bg5 16.Bxg5 hxg5 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 g6 19.Ne3 Qd6± 19 Savon, V-Lutikov, A/Dubna 1976 It's only a small edge for White after Nd6I like the modest 20.g3 with chances of full equality. Kg7 21.Ng4 *(21.Qf5 Rh8 22.Qxg5 Ne7 23.Qe5)* 21...Ne4 22.Ne5 Nxc3 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.Bxg6 Nb5 25.Bb1 Rfe8 26.Rd1 Qf6 27.Kg2 Qxf3+]

10...Nf6□

(Diagram)

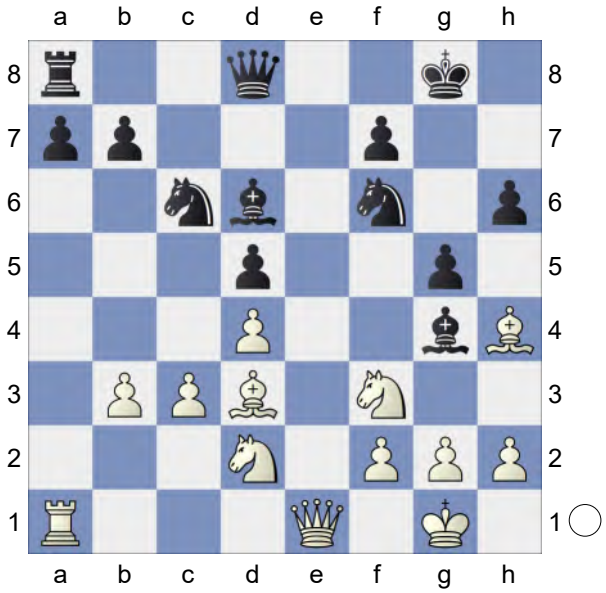


11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 No time is wasted, the hallmark of good attacking play.

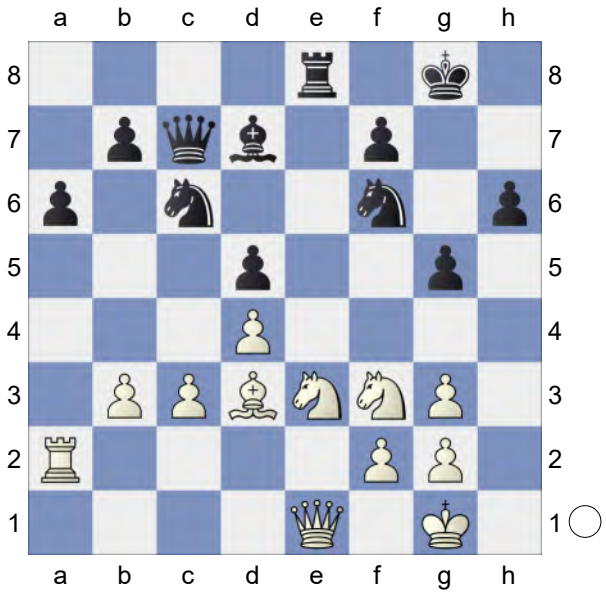
[12.Bg5 Bh5 *(12...Rc8 13.Re1 Bb8∓* Santos, M-Rosa, J/Sao Paulo 2000 It is all working out very well for Black. *14.Qb1 h6 15.Bh4)* 13.Re1 Bg6 14.Nf1 Rc8 15.Ne3 Bb8± 1.13/18 White has been given the run of the game and has notable positional achievements . The c5 square is a notable outpost and Black's King is loose. *(15...Be7±* 0.69/19 might be stronger.*)* 16.Ng4± Provocative! Qd6 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Bh4 a6 19.Bg3 Qd7 20.Bxb8 Nxb8 21.c4 0.22/21 *(21.Qd2±* 0.83/20 *)* 21...Nc6= 22.c5 Nb4 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Qd2 Nc6 25.Qh6 Rfe8 26.h3 Re4]

[12.h3 Bh5 13.Bg5 h6! denies the Bishop on c8 a square and gives White the advantage. 14.Bh4 attempts insistent long-term pressure but now Black has more choice. Bg6 15.Qb1 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 g5 17.Bg3 Nh5 18.Bxd6 Qxd6]

12...Re8 13.Bg5 Rxe1+? I don't know what he thinks he is doing. The following ideas represent a better survival chance but of course, White is much better: **14.Qxe1** Too easy... ... **14...h6 15.Bh4** Preventing 0-0-0 **15...g5**

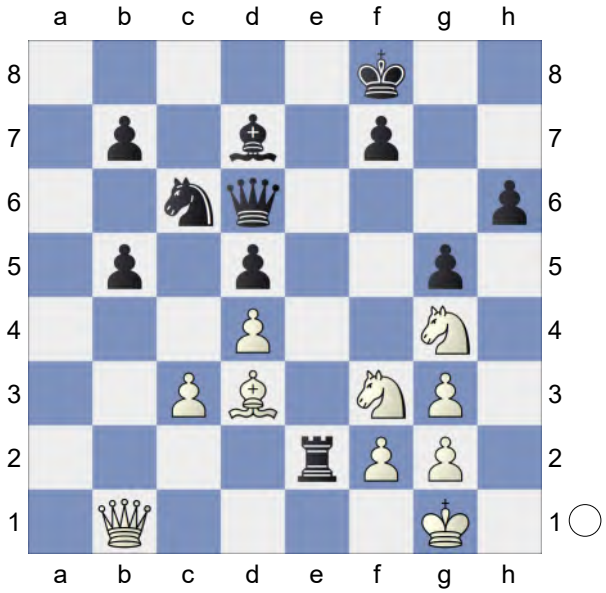


16.Bg3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Qc7 18.Nf1 Such a finish is child's play to Baklan. **18...Re8 19.Ne3 a6 20.Ra2** There will be a further capture on e7 and a check on e5 followed by the removal men. Black's opening idea is suspect. Baklan had the energy necessary to prove it. **20...Bd7**



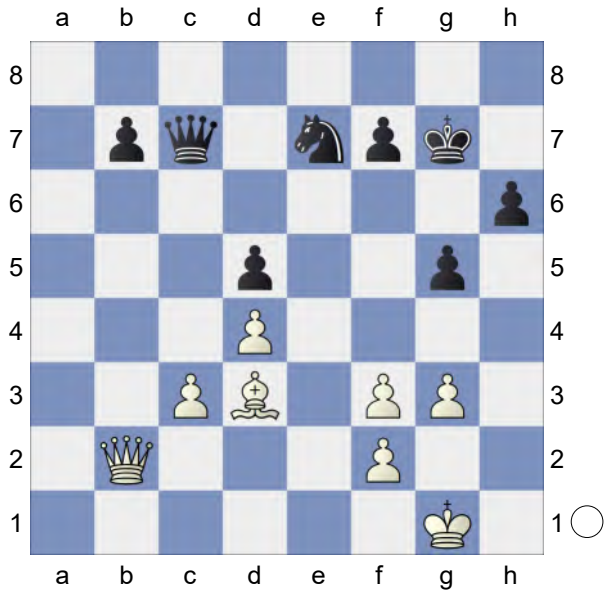
21.Re2 Kf8 22.b4!

[22.Qd2 Ne4 23.Qc2 Nf6! 24.Qa2]
22...Qd6 23.Qb1 Ng4 24.b5 axb5 25.Nxg4 Rxe2

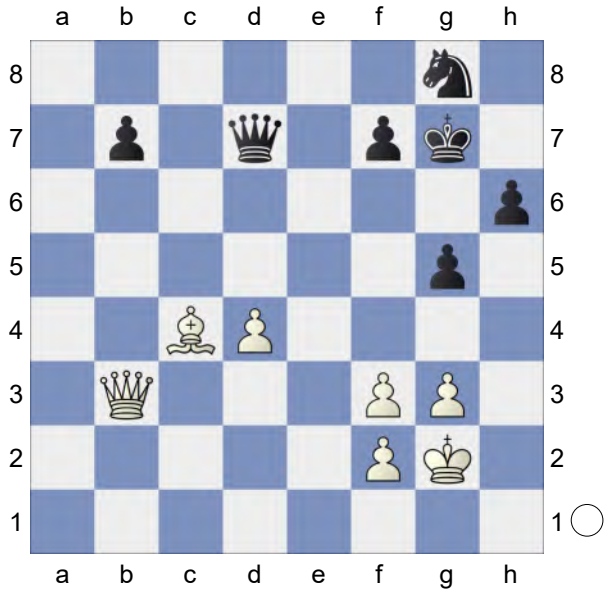


26.Bxe2
[Inferior is 26.Ne3 Rxe3 27.fxe3 b4-+ *(27...Qxg3? 28.Bxb5 Kg7 29.Qf1∓)*]
26...Bxg4 best of all I think. **27.Bxb5! Bxf3 28.gxf3=** Endgame. KQB-KQN
28...Kg7
[28...Qa3 0.87/26 28...Ne7 0.19 29.Qh7 Yes, he has no other way to survive apart from to set up the Hippopotamus. The Queen on c7 is a bit ropey.
A) 29...Qd6 30.Qh8+ Ke7 31.Kg2 Qe6 32.Qa8 Nd8 33.Qb8 0.41/22 *(33.Qa5± 0.85/22 Qd6 34.Bd3)*;
B) ⌓29...Qd6 0.88/27;
C) 29...Qxc3 1.53/25 30.Qxh6+± Ke7 31.Qxg5+]
29.Qb2 Ne7 30.Bd3 Qc7

(Diagram)

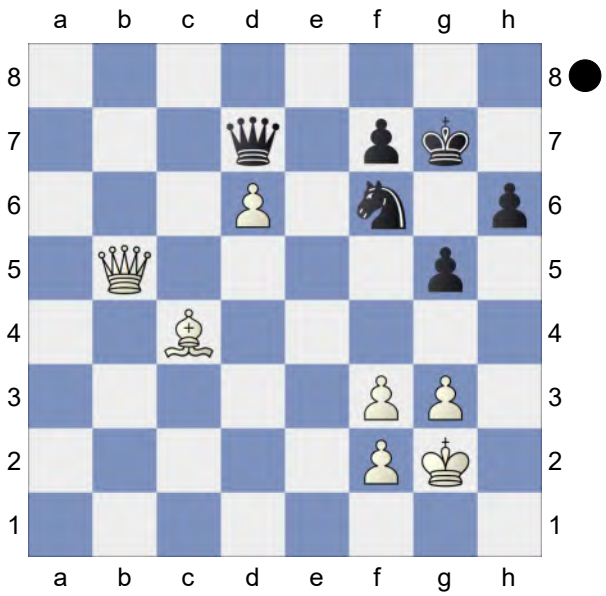


31.Qb3 Qd7 32.Kg2+- Ng8 33.Bb5 Qd6 34.c4± dxc4 35.Bxc4 Qd7



36.d5 Nf6 avoiding an immediate clash of forces. **37.d6 b5! 38.Qxb5**

(Diagram)

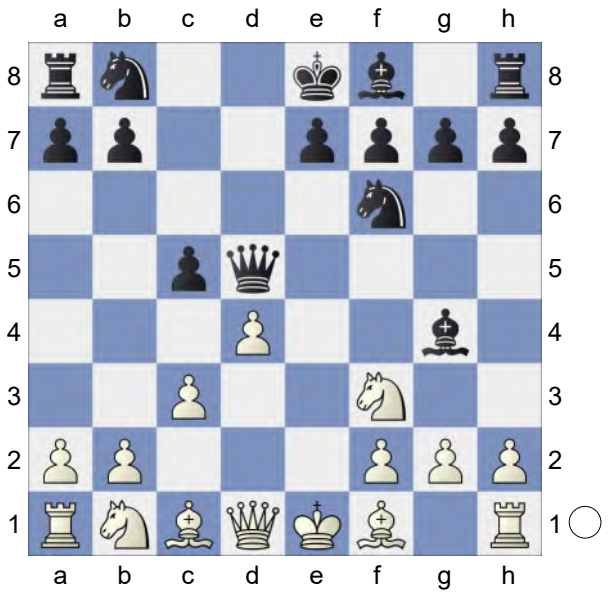


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless) . Loss on time!?

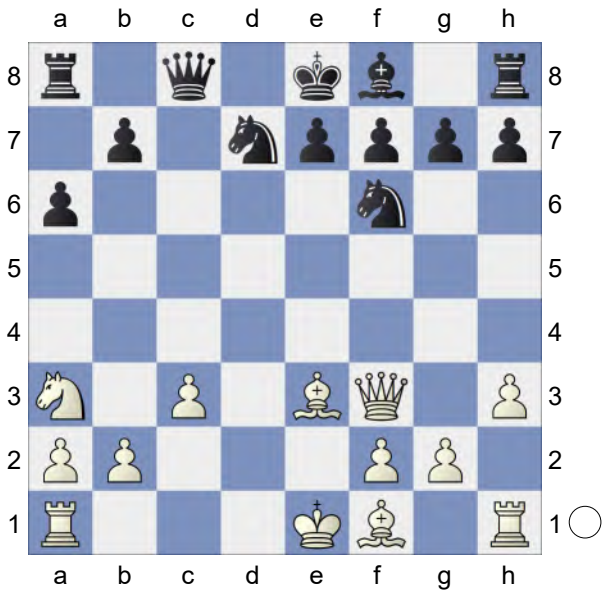
1-0

144 **B22**
□ **Miroshnichenko,Evgenij** **2599**
■ **Kruppa,Yuri** **2533**
Dubai op 6th_88769 (4) 22.04.2004
[Ribli,Zoltan]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5
Das ist die genaueste Fortsetzung für Schwarz - er nimmt sofort den c4-Bauern, die Entwicklung des Königsflügels kann warten. **4.d4** Weiß gewinnt den c4-Bauern noch nicht zurück, zuerst entwickelt er seinen Königsläufer. Die Alternative 4.♕a4+ scheint mir sicherer, Weiß gewinnt auf jeden Fall den c4-Bauern zurück. **4...Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4!?**

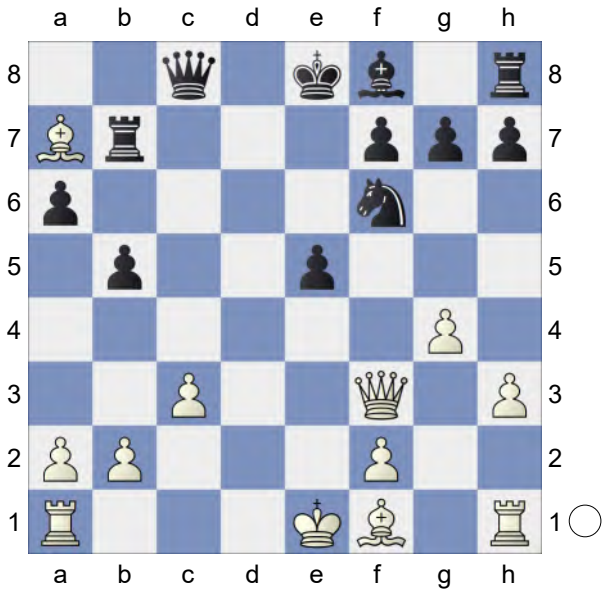


5...♘f6 6.♕xc4 b5 wäre auch möglich, aber mit dem Textzug möchte Schwarz mehr als nur Ausgleich. **6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 a6!?** Dieser logische Springerzug ist eine theoretische Neurung. Der schwarze Springer kann entweder nach b4 oder nach c5 springen, während es schwer zu sehen ist, wo die weiße Kompensation für den geopferten Bauern ist. **8.Be3** Das ist eine typische Spielweise in solchen Stellungen - Weiß möchte den c4-Bauern tauschen und sich ein Zentrumsübergewicht verschaffen. **8...Qc8**
[8...Qc7 9.Qa4+= *(9.h3 Bh5 10.Qa4+ Nbd7 11.0-0-0 e6)* 9...Nbd7]
9.h3
[9.Qa4+ Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Bxf3 11.gxf3]
9...Bxf3
[9...Be6 10.Be2 Bd5 11.0-0 e6 12.c4 Bc6 13.Nb1 Be7 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Rc1 Rd8 0-1 Szczepaniec,S-Popov,V/Koszalin 1999/EXT 2000 (37) 16.Qb3 Nbd7 17.Nd4 Bc5 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Bg5 Qc7]
[9...Bh5 10.g4]
10.Qxf3 Nbd7∓



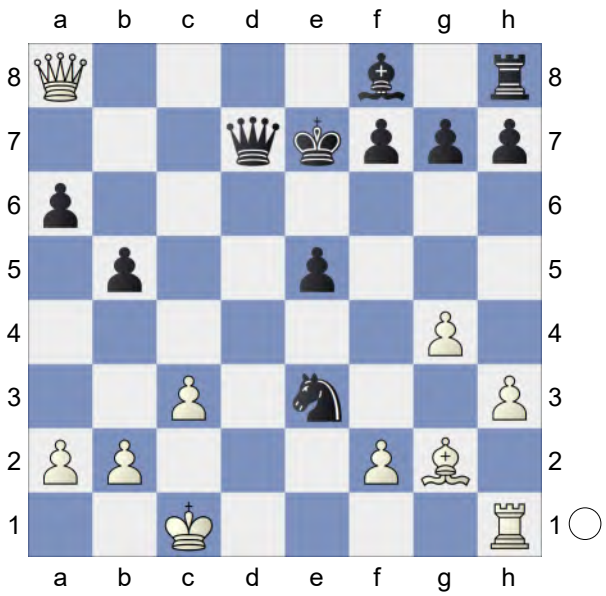
Jetzt droht schon 11...♘xa4. Schwarz hat einen Bauern mehr und ich sehe keine ausreichende Kompensation. **11.Nc4 b5** Die schwarze Dame steht etwa passiv auf a6, aber es droht 12...♘a4.
[11...e5 12.g4!? *(12.0-0-0)*]
12.Nb6
[12.Nd2]

12...Nxb6 13.Bxb6 e5 Schwarz muss die Entwicklung beenden, der a5♙ ist nicht so wichtig. **14.g4**
[14.0-0-0∓]
14...Rb8
[14...e4? 15.Qe2 *(15.Qe3 Qe6±)*]
15.Ba7
[15.Be3" Bc5∓]
15...Rb7

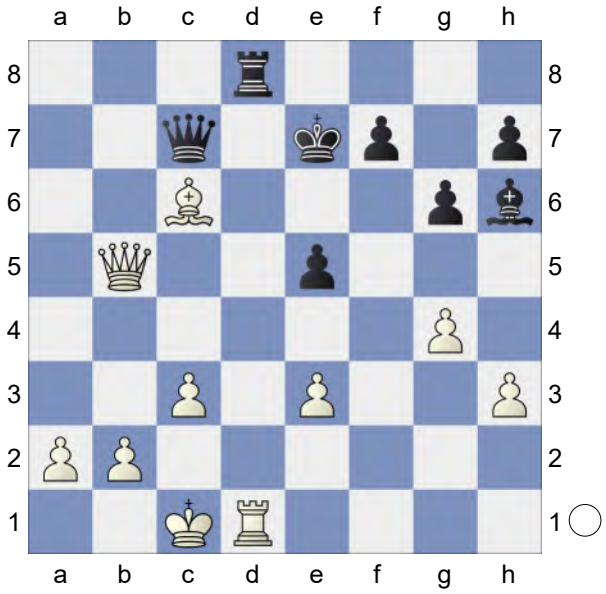


16.Be3 Rd7!∓ Mit diesem Zug öffnet Schwarz die Diagonale des b7-Läufers und die c-Linie für den ♖c8.
[16...e4 17.Qe2-+ Bc5 18.g5 *(18.Bg2)* 18...Nd5 19.Bxc5" Qxc5 20.Qxe4+∓ Re7!?∓]
17.Bg2 Nd5
[17...Be7]
18.0-0-0 Nxe3-+ 19.Rxd7 Qxd7 20.Qa8+ Ke7
[20...Qd8 21.Bc6+ Ke7 22.Qa7+ Ke6 23.fxe3-+]

(Diagram)

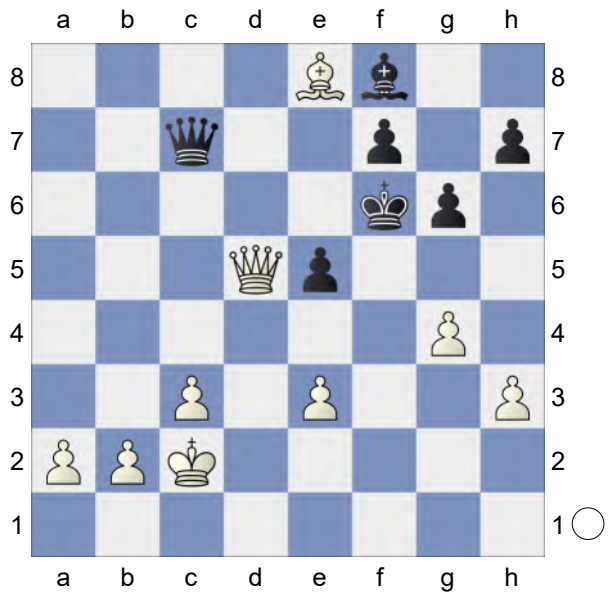


21.fxe3 g6 22.Bc6 Qc7-+ 23.Rd1 Bg7 24.Qxa6 Rd8 25.Qxb5 Bh6

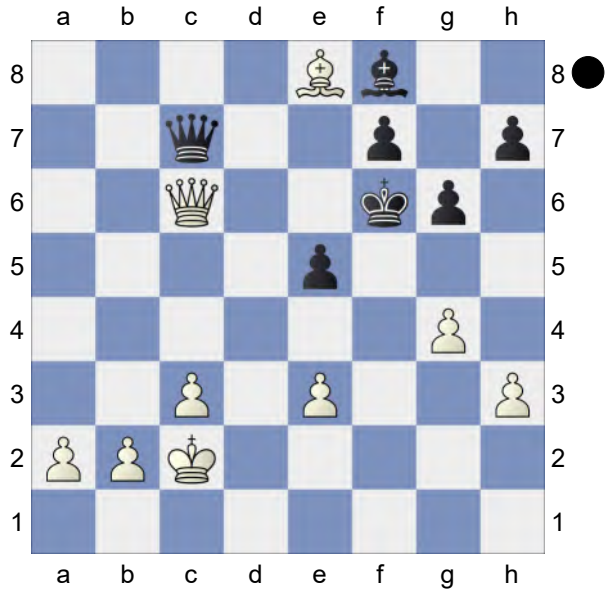


26.Qc5+ Kf6 27.Rxd8 Qxd8-+ 28.Kc2 Bf8 29.Qd5 Qb6 30.Be8 Qc7

(Diagram)



31.Qc6+-+



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145 **B22**
□ **Howell,David** **2593**
■ **Shytaj,Luca** **2472**
Olympiad-38 Dresden (5) 17.11.2008
[David Vigorito]

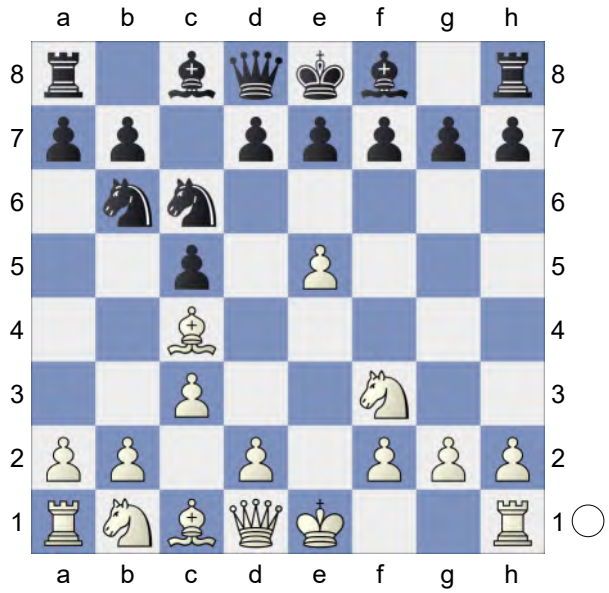
The young British GM David Howell continues to score well with the 2.c3 Sicilian. In this game Black loses his way in a complicated line, but I think that Black was at least okay in the opening.

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4

[White players are leaning towards this move order because Black has been doing fine in the main lines arising after 5.d4 cxd4 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 dxc3!]

5...Nb6



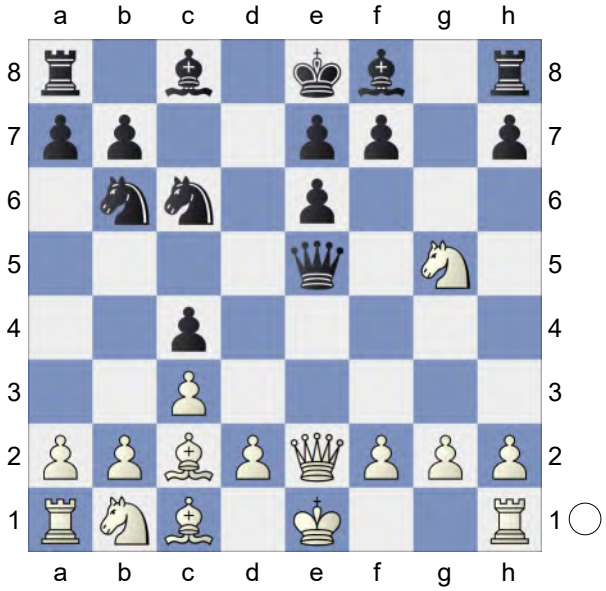
6.Bb3 c4

[This is a critical response. After 6...d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3! *(8.0-0 Be6 9.Na3 Bxb3 10.axb3 Qd3)* 8...Be6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nb5 leads to a line that Black often tries to avoid.]

7.Bc2 Qc7 8.Qe2 g5! 9.e6

[This leads to an odd pawn structure. Often White plays 9.h3 Bg7 10.0-0 Nxe5 11.Nxg5 d5 12.a4 Bd7 13.a5 Nc8 but Black has done ok here as well. There are a few games in the archives in this variation.]

9...dxe6 10.Nxg5 Qe5!



Black is happy to exchange queens.

11.d4 cxd3 12.Bxd3 Qxe2+

The position is equal. **13.Bxe2 h6**

Black throws this in before White can play Bh5, even though it is not fatal.

14.Ne4 e5!?

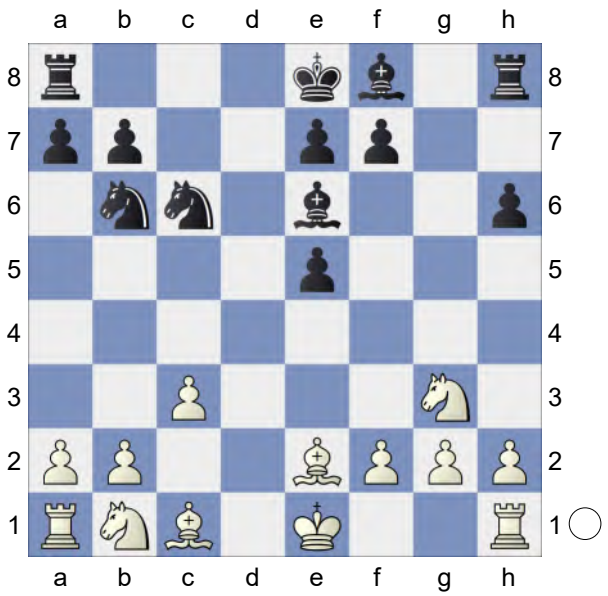
[14...f5 was played in Jones, G-Nataf, I Warsaw POL 2005. Here Black prefers to avoid complications arising after the check on h5.]

15.Ng3

[15.0-0 Bf5 16.Ng3 Bg6 also looks fine for Black.]

15...Be6

(Diagram)



Black obstruct his e-pawn but he will castle long and have good development.

16.Nd2 0-0-0 17.0-0 Nd5 18.Nc4 -0.31/20

[18.Nb3= 0.17/17]

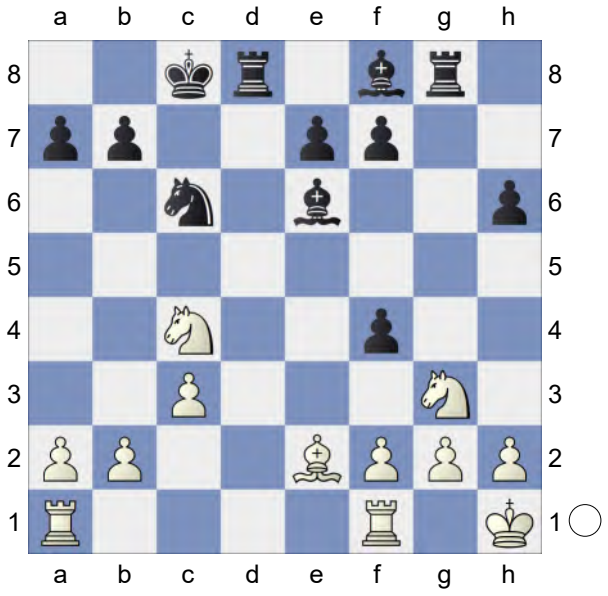
18...Rg8 0.15/20 With some simple play Black is already better. ...Nf4 and ...f5 are both in the air.

[18...Nf4∓ -0.31/20 feels stronger. 19.Bxf4 exf4]

19.Kh1 Nf4 0.26/22

[⌓19...Kc7 -0.12/18]

20.Bxf4= exf4



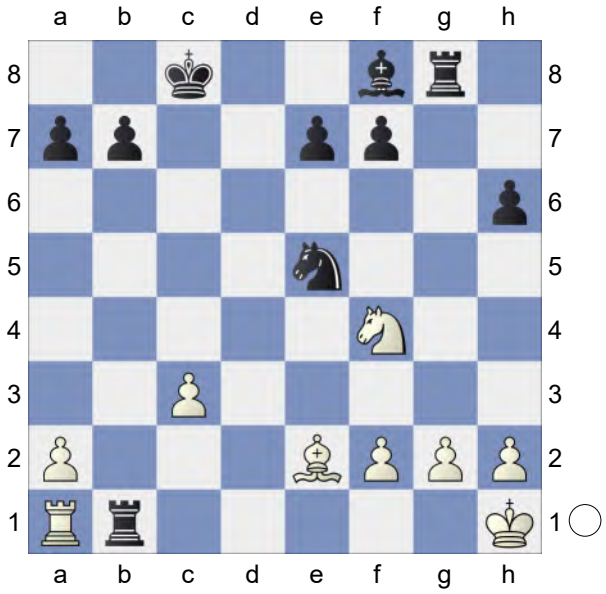
21.Nh5 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Ne5 23.Be2

[White could also play 23.Bb3

A) 23...f3 24.gxf3 transposes to the last note. Strongly threatening f4. e6! 25.f4! Nf6! is the strong threat. Nd3 26.f5 Rg5 27.Ng3 f4 would now be deadly. exf5 28.f4 Rg6 29.Rad1 *(29.Bxf7!? Rf6 30.Bb3±)* 29...Nxb2 30.Rxd8+ Kxd8 31.Bxf7 when both sides have pawn weaknesses.;

B) 23...Rd2 24.Nxf4 Rxb2 25.Rab1 when the position is about equal.]

23...Rd2 24.Nxf4 Rxb2 25.Rfb1 Rxb1+

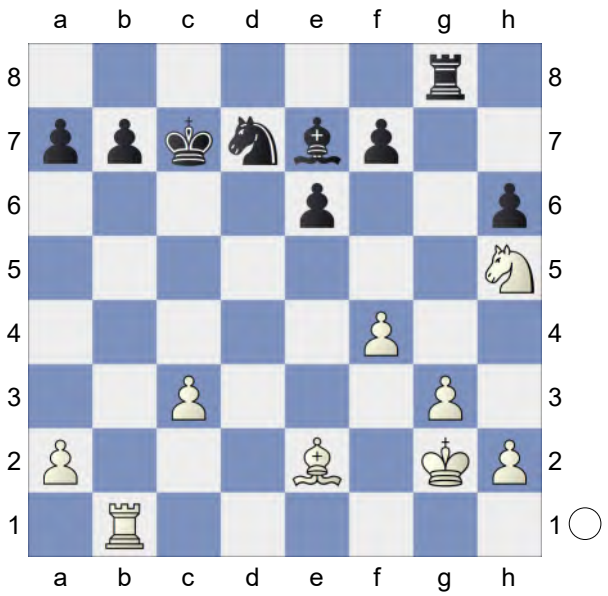


26.Rxb1 e6 27.g3 Bd6

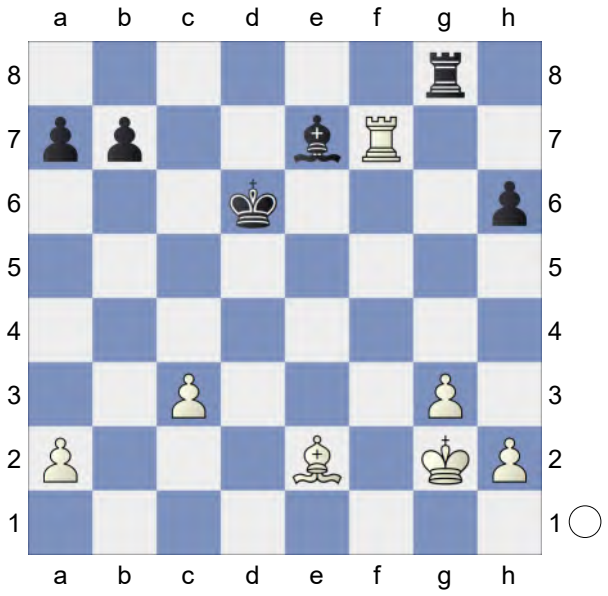
[It looks more logical to put the bishop somewhere else in order to leave the d-file open. After 27...Bg7 28.Rd1 Rd8 29.Rxd8+ Kxd8 Black is a little better because his king is better placed and the c3-pawn is more vulnerable than any of Black's pawns.]

28.Kg2 Kc7 29.Nh5 Be7 30.f4 Nd7

(Diagram)

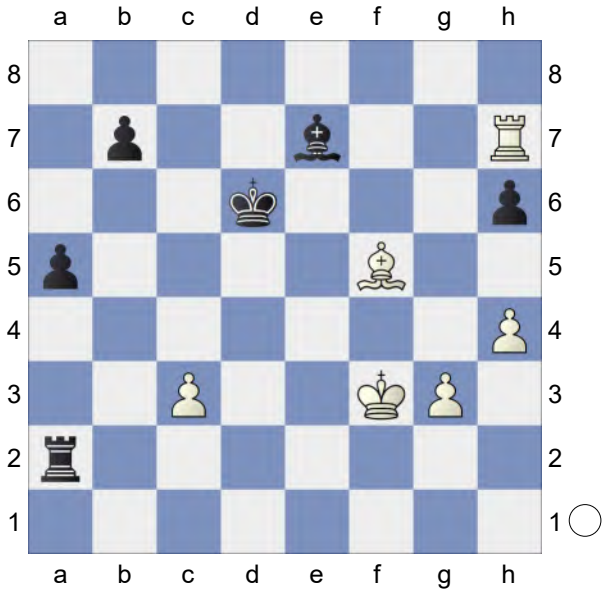


31.f5! Now White is fighting for the initiative. **31...exf5 32.Rf1 Nf6?** 0.91/22
[There was no need to give up a pawn. After 32...Ne5 33.Rxf5 Kd6 the game should still be a draw.]
[32...Kd6± 0.35/21]
33.Nxf6± Black is now going downhill.
[Resist 33.Rxf5?! Rg6+-]
33...Bxf6 34.Rxf5 Endgame. KRB-KRB
34...Be7 35.Rxf7 Kd6

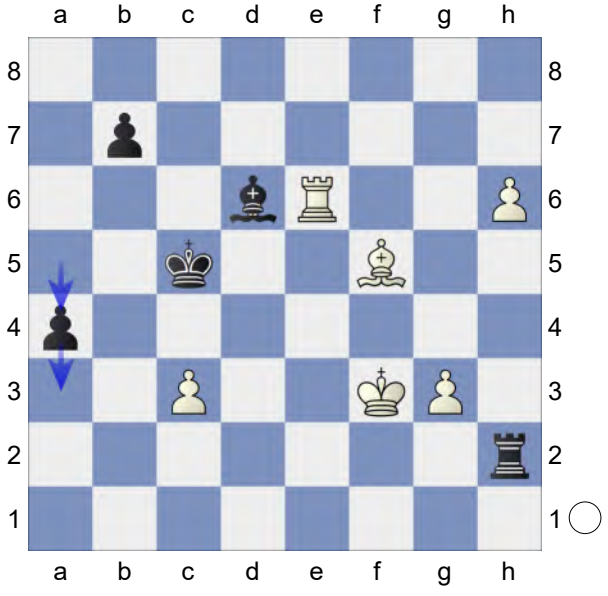


With rooks on the board White still has good practical chances. It is very unpleasant to defend these endings.

36.Rh7 Rg6 37.Bd3 White is more active. **37...Re6 38.h4 a5 39.Bf5 Re2+ 40.Kf3 Rxa2**

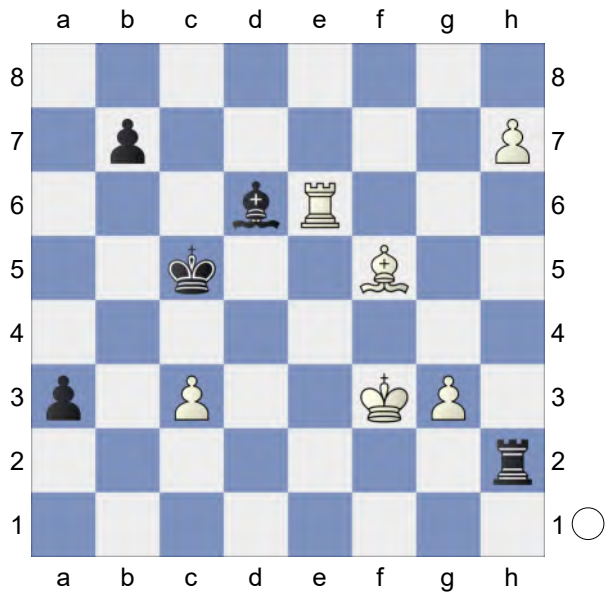


41.Rxh6+ Kc5 42.Re6 Bd6 1.73/20
[42...Bf8± 1.18/20]
43.h5+- Rh2 2.98/20
[43...Ra3 1.75/19 might work better. 44.h6 Rxc3+ 45.Ke4 Rc1]
44.h6 a4



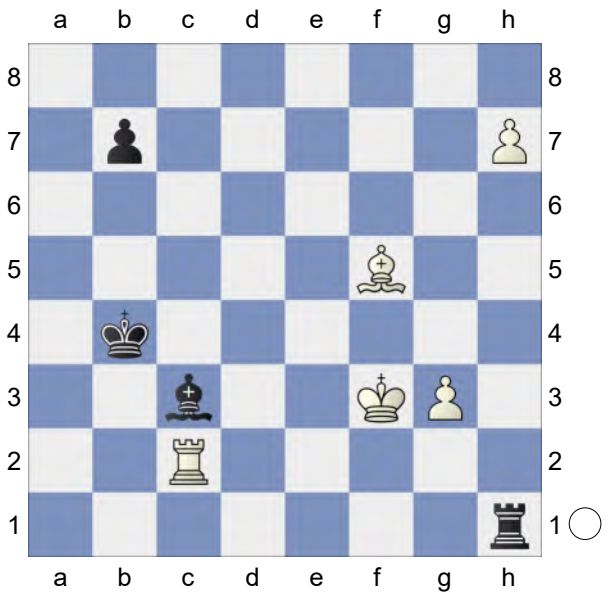
45.h7! a3

(Diagram)

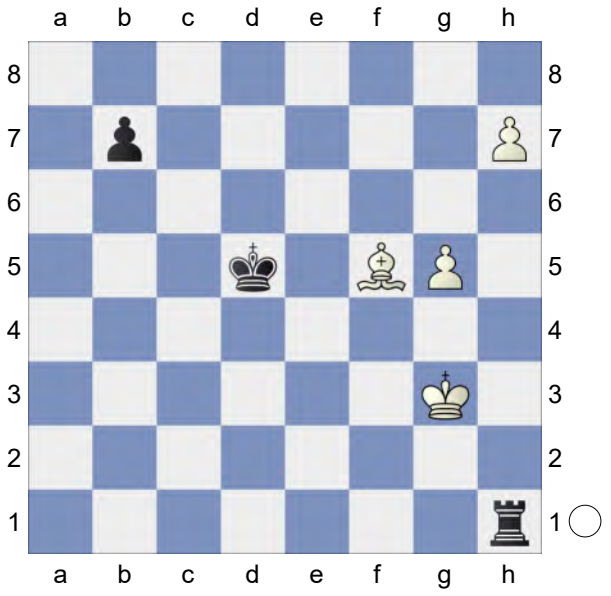


It looks like Black has created counterplay, but White has a trick.
46.Re2 Rh1
[46...Rxe2? 9.08/21 46...Rh5 3.63 47.h8Q]
47.Re8! a2 48.Ra8 This wins the a-pawn. **48...Be5**
[48...a1Q 49.Rxa1 Rxa1 50.h8Q Wards off Rh1]
49.Rxa2 Bxc3? 9.62/23
[49...Rf1+ 3.82/19 50.Ke4 Re1+ 51.Kd3 Rd1+ 52.Kc2 Rd8]
50.Rc2 White is clearly winning.
50...Kb4

(Diagram)

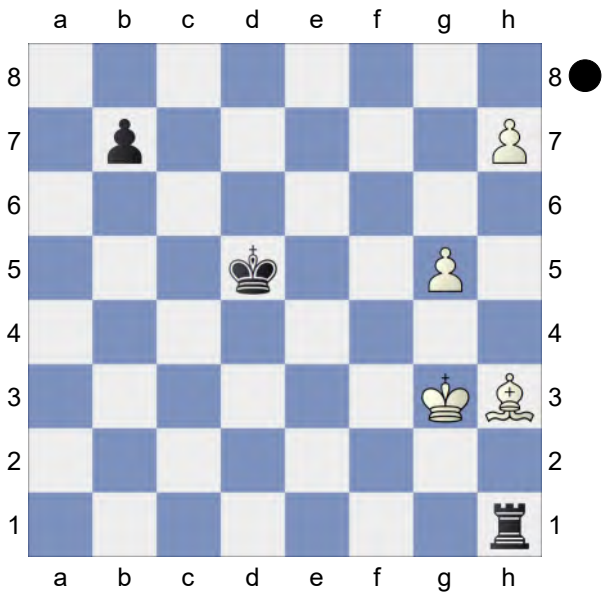


51.Rxc3! The simplest. **51...Kxc3 52.g4** Hoping for g5. **52...Kd4 53.Kg2 Rh4 54.Kg3 Rh1 55.g5 Kd5**
[55...Ke5 56.Bh3 is the same]



56.Bh3N

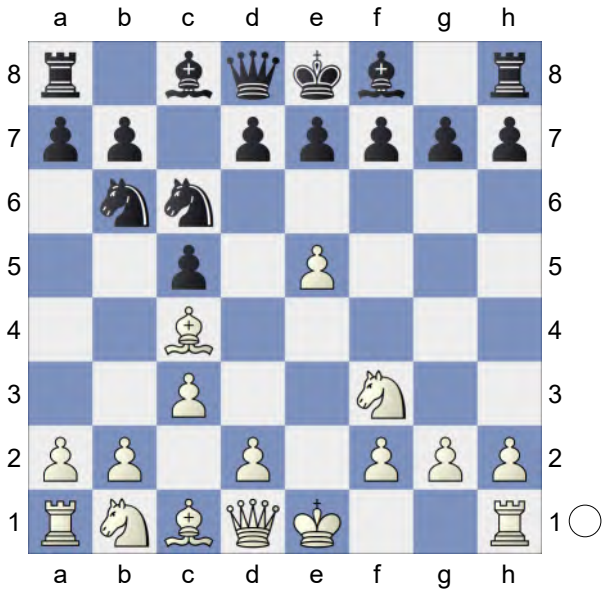
(Diagram)



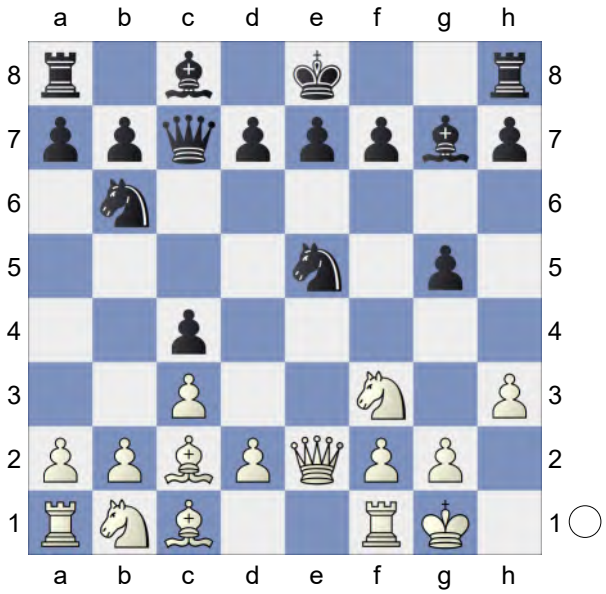
queens, and.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
1-0

146 **B22**
□ **Kupsys,Alfonsas** **2577**
■ **Tochacek,Michal** **2564**
corr Christoffel Memorial Section Gold
[Knobel, Rolf]

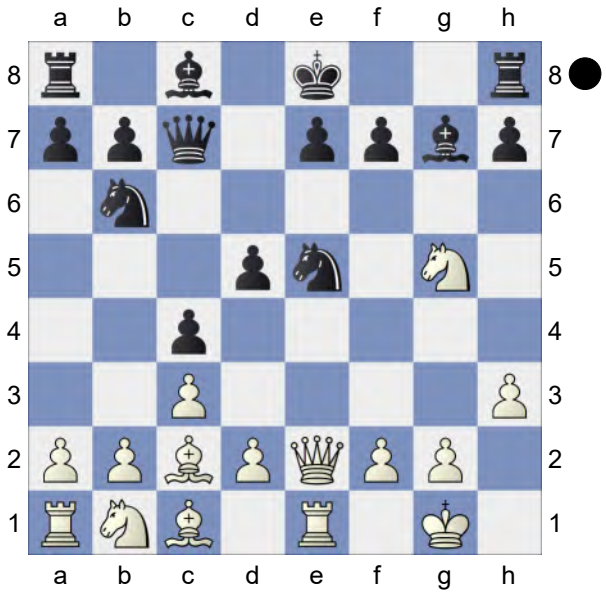
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



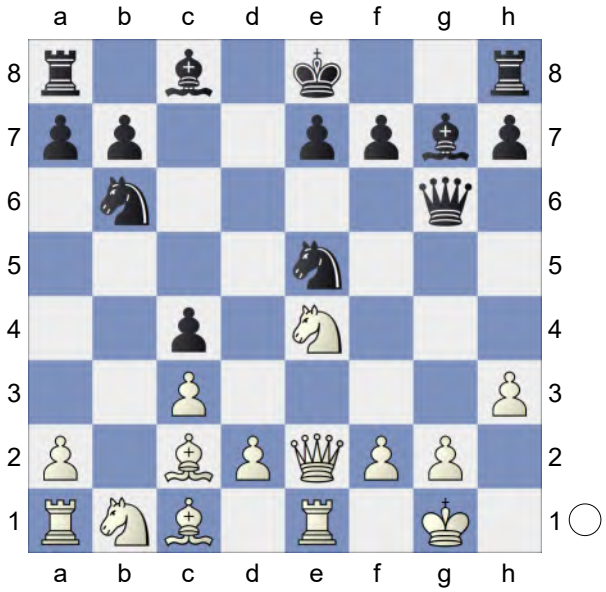
6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 Qc7 8.Qe2 g5 9.h3 Bg7 10.0-0 Nxe5



11.Nxg5 d5 12.Re1 Diagram
(Diagram)

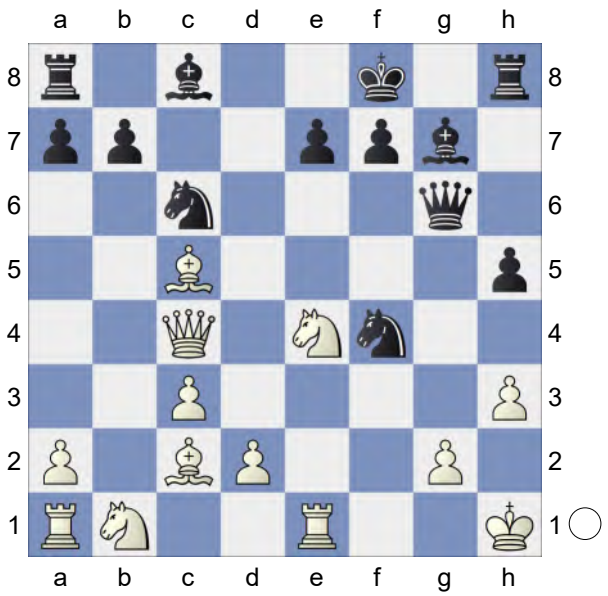


12...Qd6N
[12...e6 13.Na3 Bd7 14.d4 cxd3 15.Bxd3 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 h6 17.Nf3 0-0-0 0-1 Sveshnikov,E-Landa,K/Togliatti 2003 (51)]
[12...h6 13.Nf3 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 e5 0-1 Jonkman,H-Van Wely,L/Leeuwarden 2002 (32)]
13.b3 Qf6 14.bxc4 dxc4 15.Ne4 Qg6

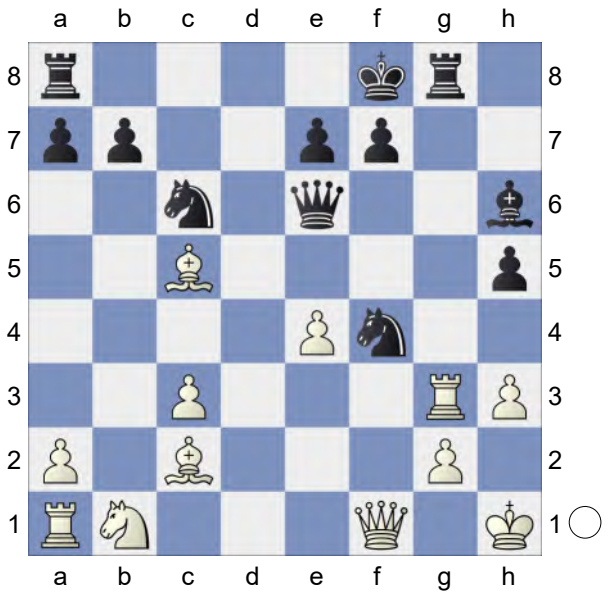


16.Ba3 Kf8 17.f4 Nc6 18.Kh1 h5 19.Bc5 Nd5 20.Qxc4 Nxf4

(Diagram)



21.Qf1 Bh6 22.Re3 Bf5 23.Rg3 Qe6 24.d3 Bxe4 25.dxe4 Rg8 Diagram

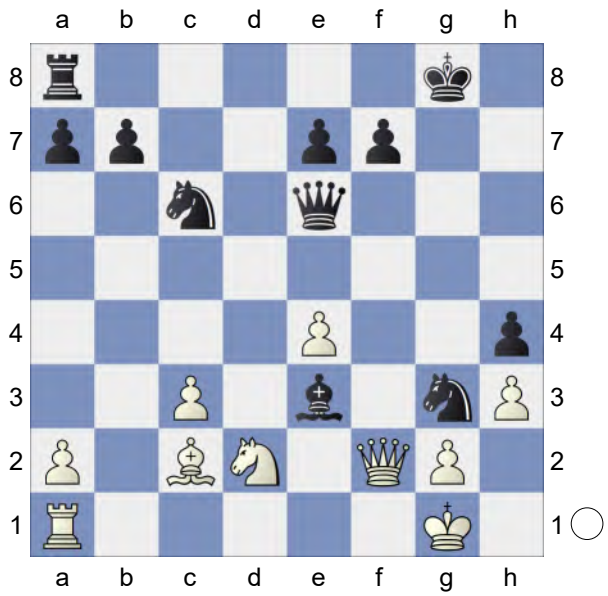


26.Rxg8+

[26.Rf3!? Nxg2 *(26...Qg6 27.Be3 Nxg2 28.Bxh6+ Qxh6 29.Bb3 Rg6 30.Rxf7+ Ke8 31.Na3 Ne3 32.Qe2 Rg2 33.Rf2±)* 27.Bb3 Qxe4 28.Bxf7 Rg3 29.Rxg3 Nf4+ 30.Rf3 Kxf7 31.Nd2 Qd5 32.Bd4±]

26...Kxg8 27.Be3 h4 28.Nd2 Nh5 29.Qf2 Ng3+ 30.Kg1 Bxe3

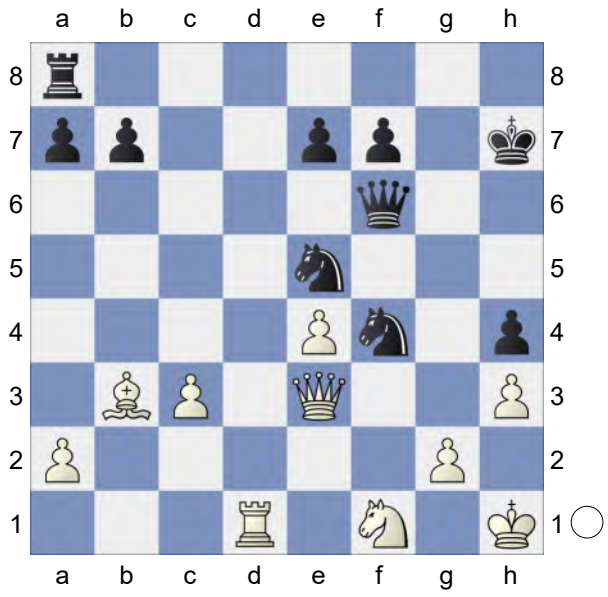
(Diagram)



31.Qxe3 Qf6 32.Rd1 Ne5 33.Nf1 Nh5 34.Bb3 Nf4 35.Kh1

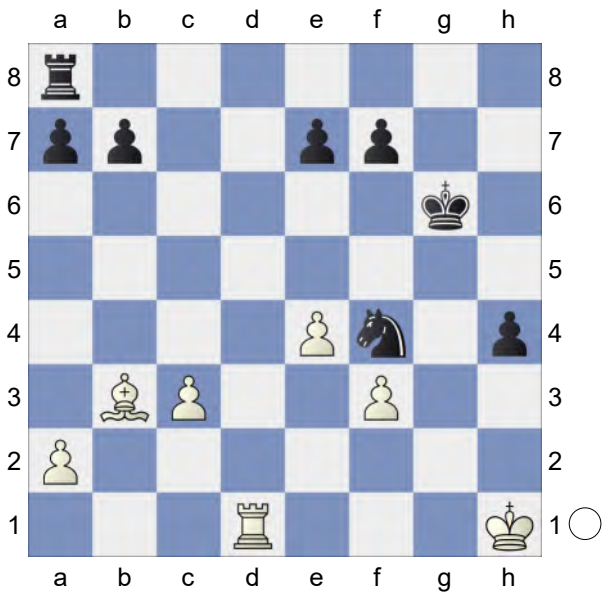
[35.Rd2!?]

35...Kh7

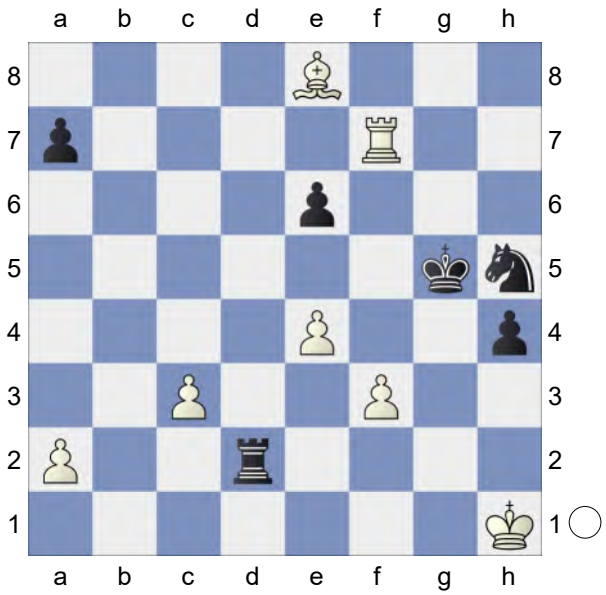


36.Nh2 Qg5 37.Ng4 Nxg4 38.hxg4 Qxg4 39.Qf3 Qxf3 40.gxf3 Kg6

(Diagram)

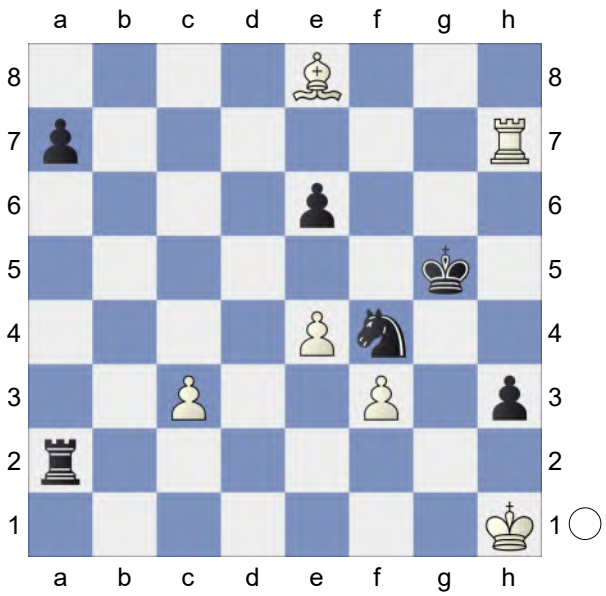


41.Rd7 e6 42.Rxb7 Rd8 43.Ba4 Rd2 44.Be8 Kg5 45.Rxf7 Nh5



46.Rh7 Ng3+ 47.Kg1 Rxa2 48.Bf7 Ne2+ 49.Kh1 Nf4 50.Be8 h3 Diagram

(Diagram)



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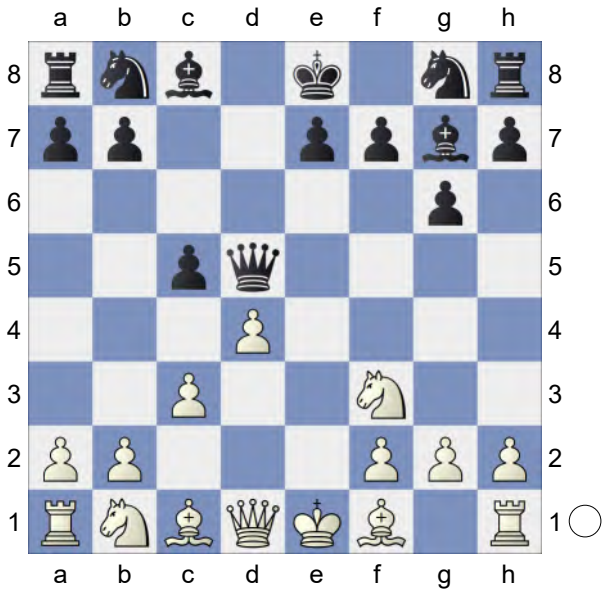
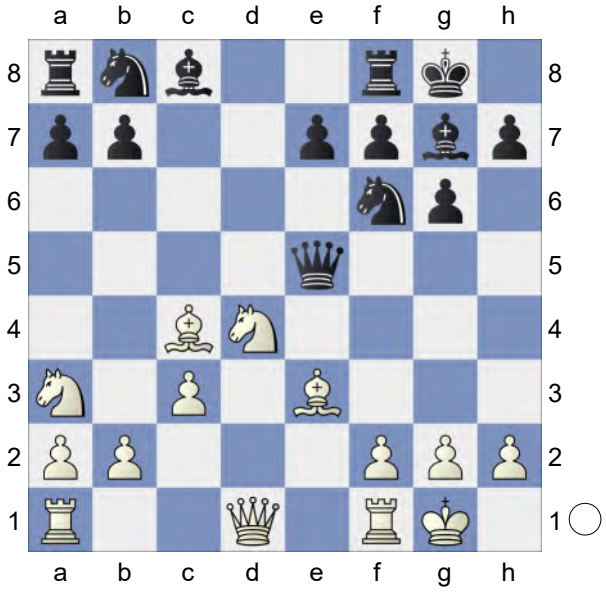
147 **B22**
□ **Pavasovic,D** **2575**
■ **Cebalo,Miso** **2471**
14th Belisce Metalis Open (7) 25.02.07
[Andrew Martin]

Two experienced campaigners meet to contest a critical opening duel.
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6!? A move which keeps maximum tension in the position and as such ideally suited to playing for the win (or the loss). In the event of an IQP position, Black reasons that his fianchettoed Bishop will be perfectly placed. Both Pavasovic and Cebalo have plenty of previous history here, as you can see.
5.Nf3 Bg7



6.Na3! Not only setting up ideas of Nb5 but also preparing Bc4. **6...Nf6**
[6...cxd4 is tricky, but insufficient: 7.Bc4
A) 7...Qd8 8.Nb5 a6 9.Nbxd4 Nf6 10.Qa4+! Nc6 *(10...Bd7 11.Qb3)* 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Ne5 0-0 13.Qxc6±;
B) 7...Qe4+ 8.Be3!! is very risky indeed for Black, the point being that dxe3 loses to *(So 8...Nh6 should be preferred, but even here 9.Nb5! 0-0 10.Bd3 Qd5 11.cxd4 Nf5 12.0-0 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Qd8 14.Qe2 Nc6 15.Rad1* is better for White, who has a strong centre and good coordination.*)* 9.Bxf7+ Kf8 10.Qd8+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+]
7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Be3 0-0 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qe5!
[10...Nc6 0.58/19 10...a6 0.20 11.Re1! Qh4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qf3 gives White an enduring structural advantage according to IM Sam Collins. Ng4 0.80/20 *(13...Nd5=* 0.23/18 remains equal.*)* 14.Bf4± Qf6 15.Rad1 h5 16.Bc7 Bf5? 2.48/21 *(16...a5±* 0.63/20 *)* 17.h3+- Nh6 18.Qe3 Rfe8 2.18/22 *(18...Kh7* 1.70/22 was worth a try. *19.Bf4 Ng8)* 19.Bf4+- Pavasovic, D-Movsesian, S/Rabac 2003 g5 20.Bxg5 Qg6 21.Qg3 e5 22.Bh4 Kh7 23.Bb3 a5 24.Ba4 Qe6 25.Bb3 Qg6 26.Qxg6+ Bxg6 27.Ba4 Re6 28.Nc4 Nf5 29.Bd8 e4 30.Bg5 Bf8 31.Rd8 Rxd8 32.Bxd8 e3 33.Nxe3 Bc5 34.Bg5 1-0 (55) 10.0-0 cd4 11. ♘e4 (2596)-Nowroozian,N (2647) WC-2014-P-00018 2010 (1)]
[Alternatively 10...Ng4 11.Bg5 Qe5 12.Nf3 Qc5 *(12...Qc7 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Nb5 Qb6 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Qxe7 Bf5 17.Rad1 Rac8 18.Nd6 Rc7 19.Qe2 Nh6 20.Bb3 a5 21.Rfe1 Bg4 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Qxf3 a4 24.Bxa4 Qxb2 25.Bb3 Qxc3 26.Re3 Qc6 27.Qf4* 1-0 (34) Pavasovic,D (2540)-Velickovic,Z (2381) 28th TCh-2018 (2.4)*)* 13.h3 Nf6 14.Re1 Nc6 15.Be3 Qa5 16.Nb5 Bf5 17.Nfd4

Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bd7 19.Bf4 Qc5 20.Bb3 Nh5 21.Bh2 Rad8 22.Qe2 e6 23.Rad1 a6 24.Rd3 Bxd4 25.Rxd4± Tiviakov, S-Manik, M/Calvia 2006]



11.Qf3 Nc6!? This is Cebalo's idea. The difference is the position of the Black Queen, which is much more influential on e5 than h4. White is slightly better. **12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rae1N** One wonders what he is going to do with the Rook on f1.

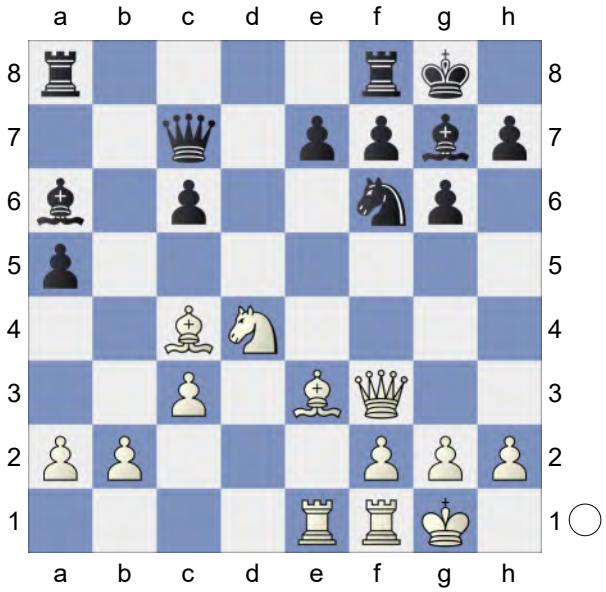
[13.Rfe1 has been seen in a couple of previous Cebalo games: Qc7 14.Bf4 Qb7

A) 15.Bb3 a5 Strongly threatening ...a4. 16.Ba4 Ra6 17.Nc4 Be6 18.Qd3 0.10/18 *(18.Rxe6± 0.48/19 fxe6 19.Bg5)* 18...Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Nd5 20.Bg3 e6 21.Bd6 Rc8 22.Bc5 -0.17/21 *(22.Rad1* 0.29/18 was preferrable.*)* 22...Raa8 0.20/18 *(⌓22...Nb6!* -0.17/21 *23.Bxb6 Rxb6)* 23.Re2= Rd8 24.Rd1 -0.01/22 *(24.g3±* 0.50/19 *)* 24...Nb6= 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Bxb6 Qxb6 27.g3 1/2-1/2 Sermek, D-Cebalo, M/Sibenik 2005;

B) 15.Qe2 Nd5 16.Bg3 a5 17.Rad1 Be6 18.Qc2 Stevic, H-Cebalo, M/Vukovar 2005 and now Rfd8!= 0.63/21 *(18...Bf5=* 0.24/18 *19.Bd3 Bxd3 20.Rxd3 Rfe8)*]

[13.Qxc6 Ng4 14.g3 Qh5∓]

13...Qc7 14.Nc2 a5 15.Nd4 And now Bf4! would win. **15...Ba6**



16.Bf4

[16.Qxc6? is the wrong capture. Qxc6 17.Nxc6 Bxc4-+]

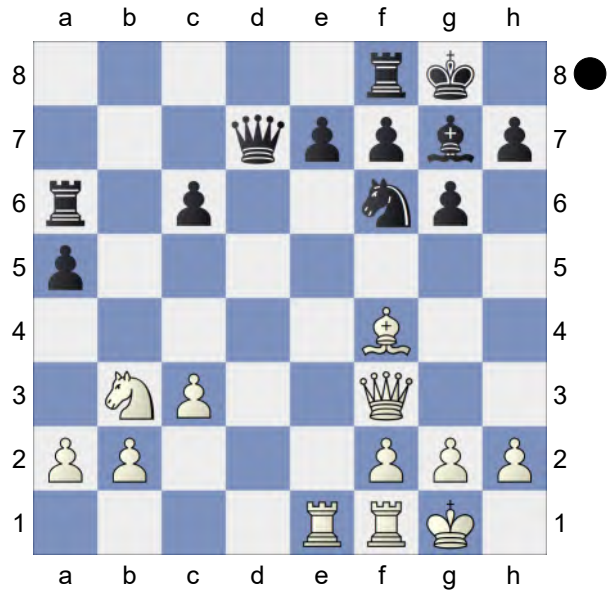
16...Qd7 17.Bxa6

[17.Qxc6? perishes. Qxc6 18.Nxc6 Bxc4-+]

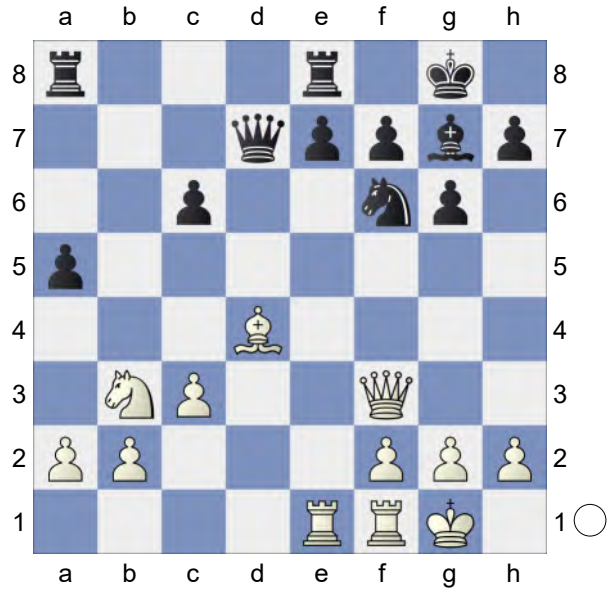
17...Rxa6 Cebalo has obviously worked out that Black's pawn weaknesses on the queenside can usually be dissolved and so he is willing to defend what at first sight looks a cheerless position.

18.Nb3

[18.Rd1 Qg4 19.Be5 Qxf3 20.Nxf3 Rb6 leads to active Black counterplay on the queenside: 21.b3 Nd5 0.41/20 *(21...a4=* -0.01/23 feels stronger.*)* 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.c4 Nc3 24.Rd2 a4]

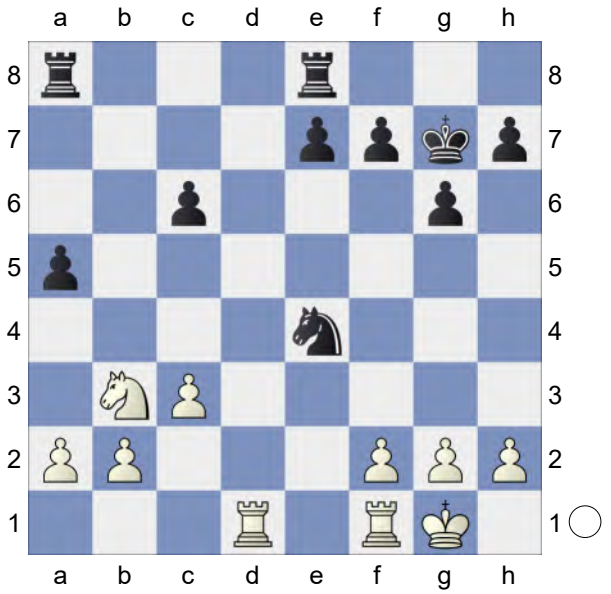


Nc5 would now be deadly. **18...Ra7 19.Be3 Raa8 20.Bd4 Rfe8**



21.Rd1 Bxf6 is the strong threat. **21...Qd5! 22.Qe2 Qf5** White is perhaps a fraction better, but that is all. **23.Be5 Qe4 24.Qxe4 Nxe4 25.Bxg7 Kxg7±**

(Diagram)



26.Rd4

[26.Rfe1 Nd6 27.Nc5 h5 0.70/21 (Better is *27...a4*= 0.10/20) 28.Kf1 Rab8 29.b3 is not enormously exciting, but of course only White can win.]

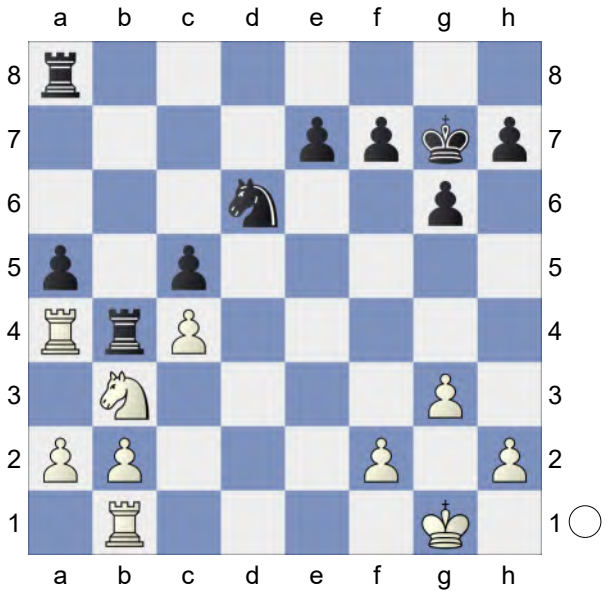
26...Nd6 27.Ra4 Reb8 28.Rb1

[28.Rxa5 Rxa5 29.Nxa5 Rxb2]

28...Rb5 29.g3 c5 30.c4 -0.12/21

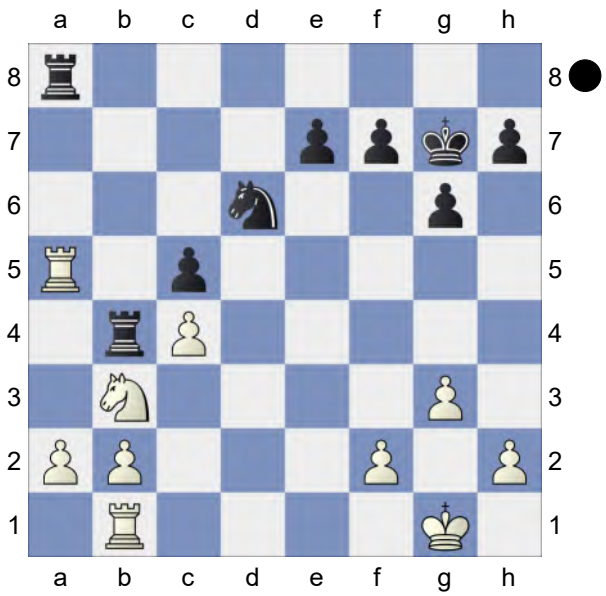
[30.Nd2 0.30/23 might be stronger.]

30...Rb4=



31.Rxa5

(Diagram)

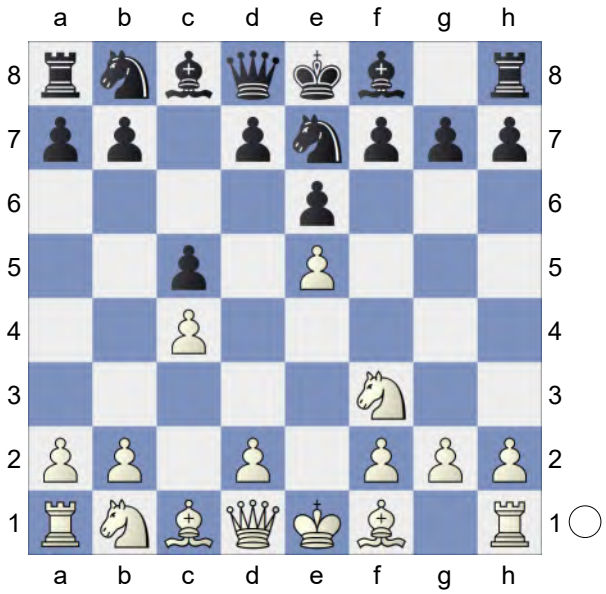


A capture on a5 follows and then ...Ra4! What are we to make of this Black system? Well, despite attempts to keep the tension my own feeling is that it is not as good or reliable as ideas based on an early ...Bg4. However, expert Pavasovic was unable to win with White form your own judgement from that....
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

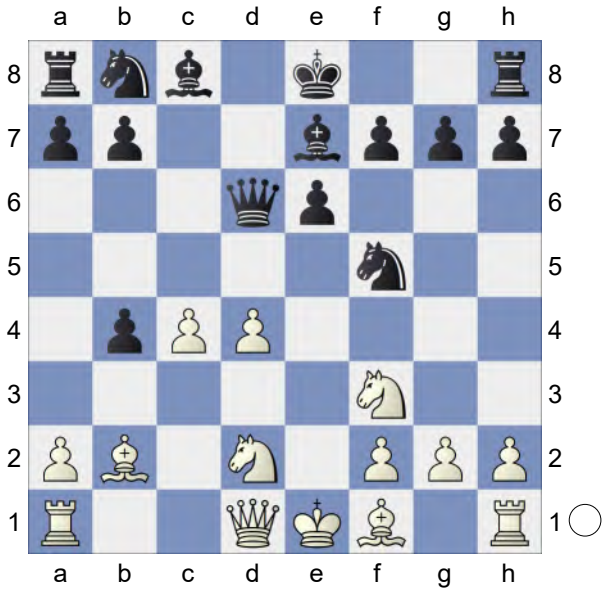
148 **B22**
□ **Petrosian,T L** **2573**
■ **Sargsyan,Shant** **2628**
82nd ch-ARM HL 2022 (11.2) 23.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.c4N
[5.Bc4 b6 6.0-0 Bb7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc7 9.Bxd5 Bxd5 10.Bf4 Be7 11.Re1 a6 12.Re3 d6 13.Nf5 exf5 14.exd6 Qc4 15.Rxe7+ 1-0 Chica Londono,D (1914)-9. ♗f6 ♕f6 10. ♘d5 ♕d8 (1618) d) 6...c5 7. Bb2 Nc6 8.e3 --, 8...b6 9.N 2018 (4)]
[5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Nc6 *(9...b6 10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 Na6 13.Bf4 Nc7 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qe5 Qd8 17.Re1 Ne6 18.h4 h6 19.Rac1 Ba6 20.Qxd5 Nf4 21.Qxd8 Rfxd8 22.Re3 Nd3 23.Rc2 g5 24.hxg5* 1-0 (32) Hoffmann,A (2202)-3. ♘d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7/ 7. (2275) 38/138 Bor 1984 (9) *)* 10.Rd1 Na5 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 Be6 13.Bf4 a6 14.h3 Re8 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qe5 Nc4 18.Qxd6 Nxd6 19.Ne5 f6 ½-½ (32) Perez Berenguer,V (2672)-Ernst,H (2785) GER-ch U10 Willingen 2005 (9.1)]
5...Ne7

(Diagram)

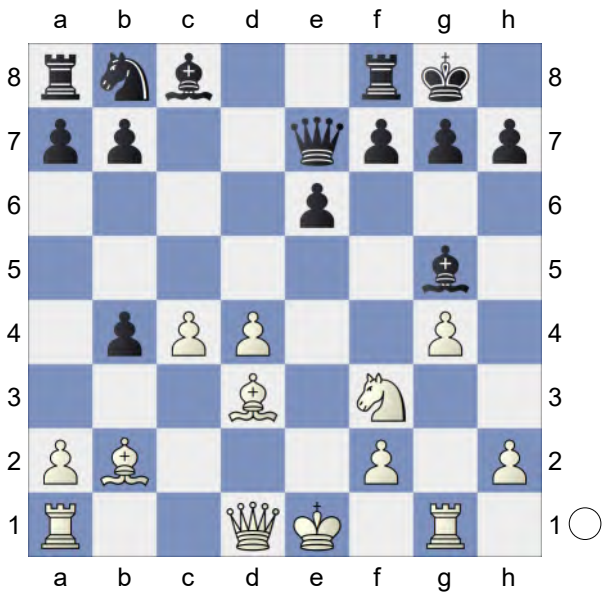


6.b4 Deflection **6...cxb4 7.d4 d5 8.exd6** White has an edge. **8...Qxd6 9.Nbd2 Nf5 10.Bb2 Be7**

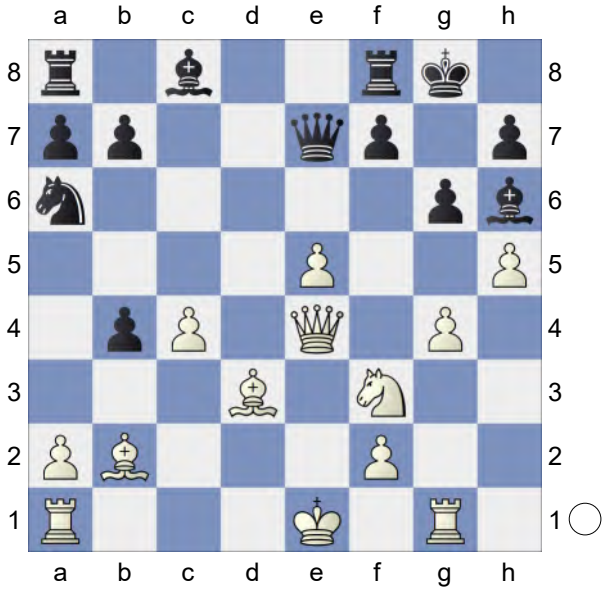


11.Bd3 0-0 12.g4 -0.01/18
[12.0-0± 0.35/16 feels stronger.]
12...Nh4= 13.Nxh4 Bxh4 14.Nf3 Qe7 0.15/19
[14...Be7∓ -0.36/17]
15.Rg1 Bg5

(Diagram)

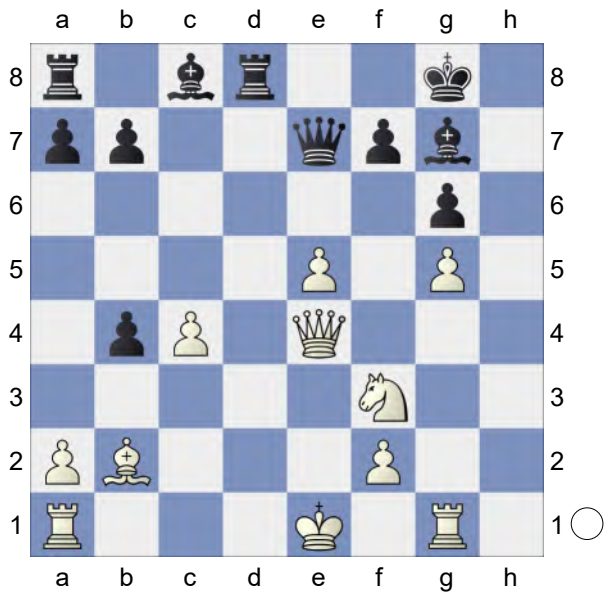


16.h4! Bf4 17.Qe2 Strongly threatening Qe4. **17...e5 18.dxe5** Hoping for Qe4.
[18.Nxe5 f6 19.Nf3 Re8 20.Qxe7 Rxe7+ 21.Kd1 Bd7=]
18...g6 19.Qe4 Bh6 20.h5 Na6

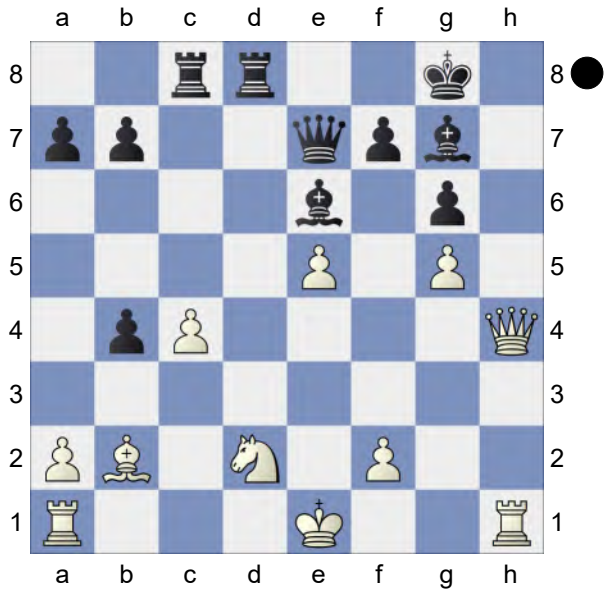


21.g5 -0.92/20
[21.Bd4= -0.22/19]
21...Nc5∓ Black continues to play with concentration. **22.Qe3 Nxd3+ 23.Qxd3 Rd8 24.Qe4 Bg7 25.hxg6** -1.62/20
[25.h6∓ -1.03/19 Bf5 26.Qe3]
25...hxg6-+

(Diagram)

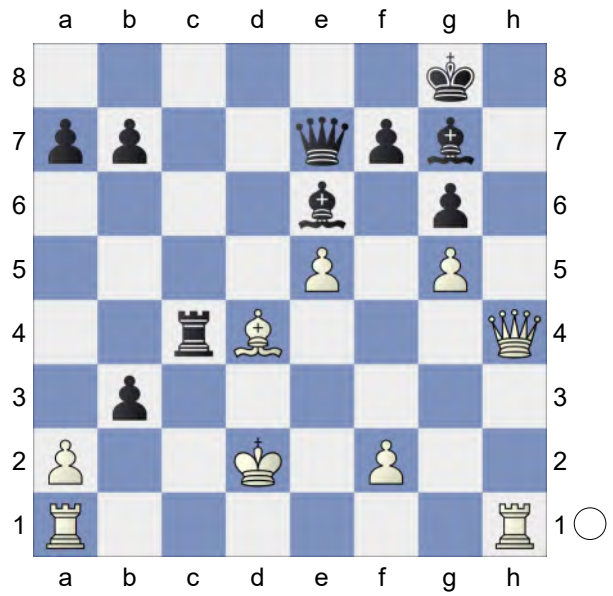


26.Rh1 -2.54/21
[26.Nd4∓ -1.57/20]
26...Be6 27.Qh4 Rac8 28.Nd2? -4.18/23
[28.Rc1 -2.48/20]

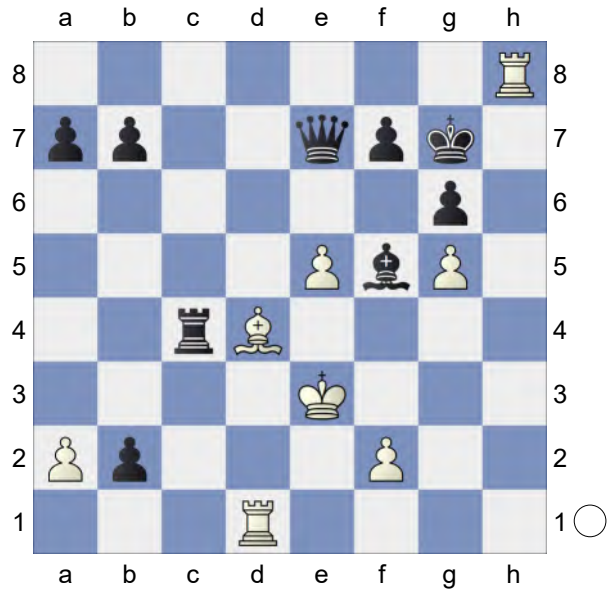


28...Rxd2! 29.Kxd2 Rxc4 30.Bd4 White is weak on the light squares **30...b3**

(Diagram)

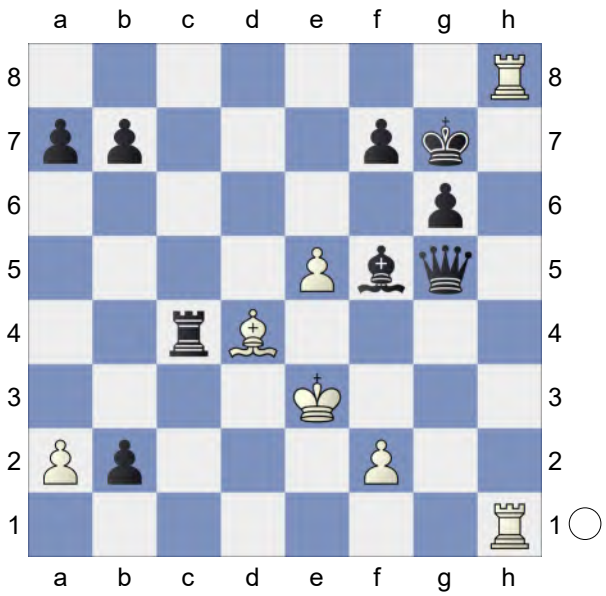


31.Ke3? -7.97/21
[31.axb3 -2.97/21 Qb4+ 32.Ke3 Qxb3+ 33.Ke2 Qc2+ 34.Ke1 Rxd4 Clearance 35.Qxd4]
31...b2 ...Qa3+ would now be deadly.
32.Rad1 Bf5 33.Qh7+ Kf8 34.Qh8+ Bxh8 35.Rxh8+ Kg7



36.Rdh1 Qxg5+
[Weaker is 36...b1R 37.R1h7#]

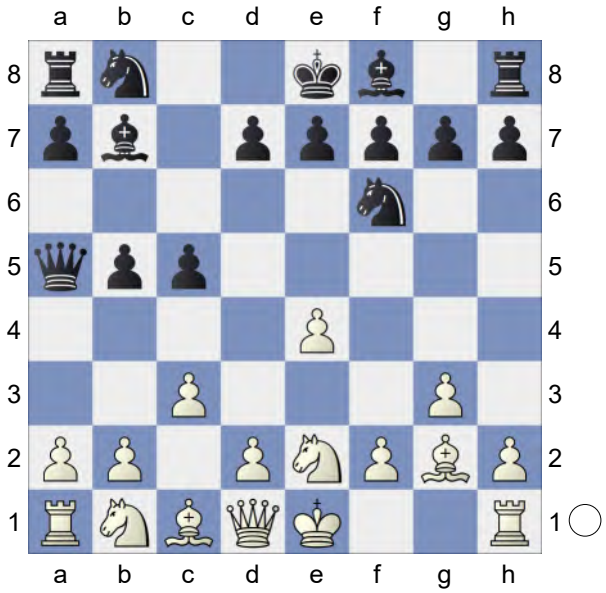
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

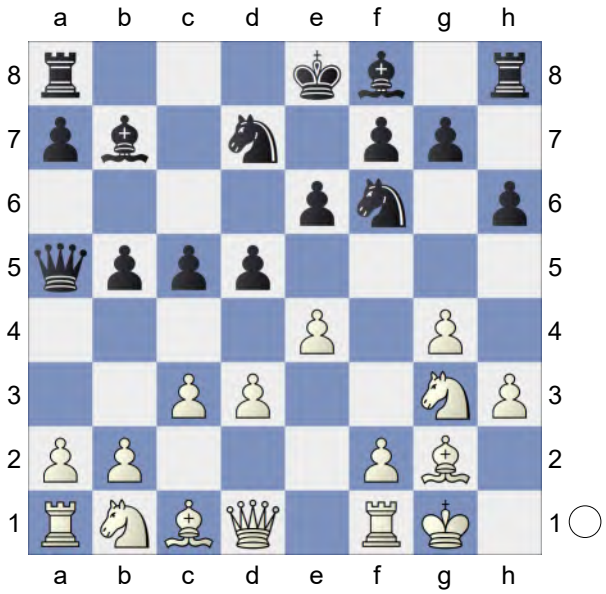
149 **B22**
□ **Erenburg,Sergey** **2573**
■ **Dembo,Yelena** **2461**
96/153 Cappelle la Grande 2006
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Qa5 3.g3
[3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Na3 e6 5.Bb5 Qc7 6.0-0 a6 7.Bxc6 Qxc6 8.Re1 Nf6 9.d4 B 22/01 2000]
3...b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.Ne2 Nf6N
[5...f5 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 fxe4 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qe5 4.Nf3 Nc6 Main Line without .-2...Qa5]

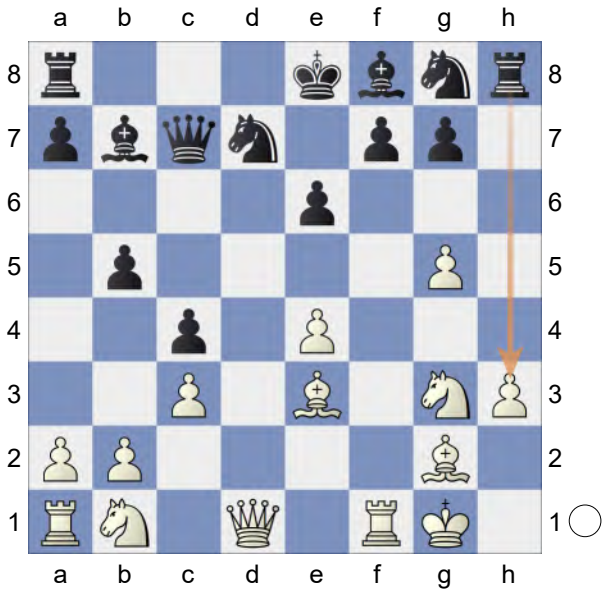


6.d3 d6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.h3 White is slightly better. **8...e6 9.g4 h6 10.Ng3 d5**

(Diagram)

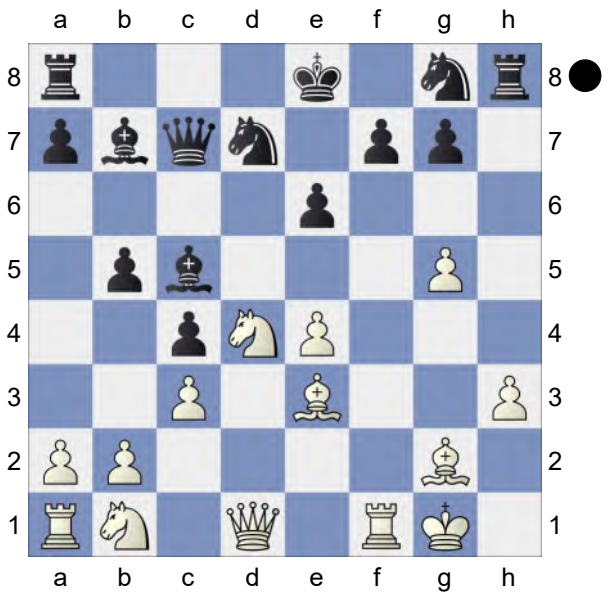


11.f4 dxe4 12.dxe4 c4 13.g5 hxg5 14.fxg5 Ng8 -0.46/15 Black is more active.
[Better is 14...Nh7∓ -0.82/17 15.a4 b4 16.cxb4 Bxb4 17.Rxf7 0-0-0]
15.Be3 -0.87/19
[15.a4∓ -0.46/15]
15...Qc7∓

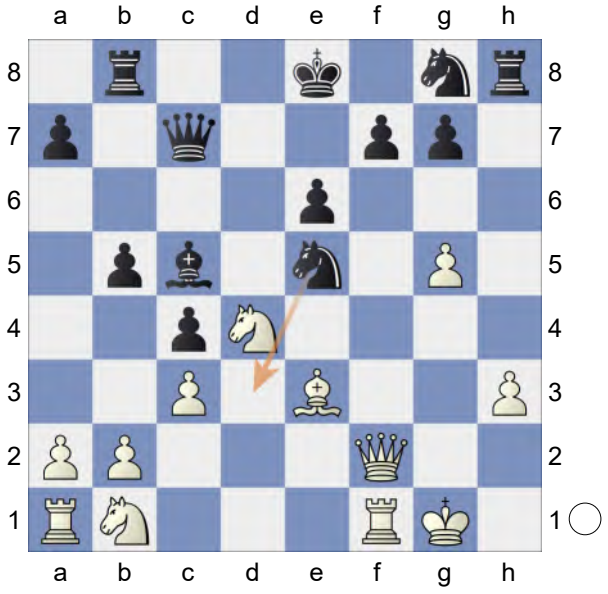


16.Ne2 -0.78/18
[16.Nh5∓ -0.41/17 feels stronger.]
16...Bc5 17.Nd4

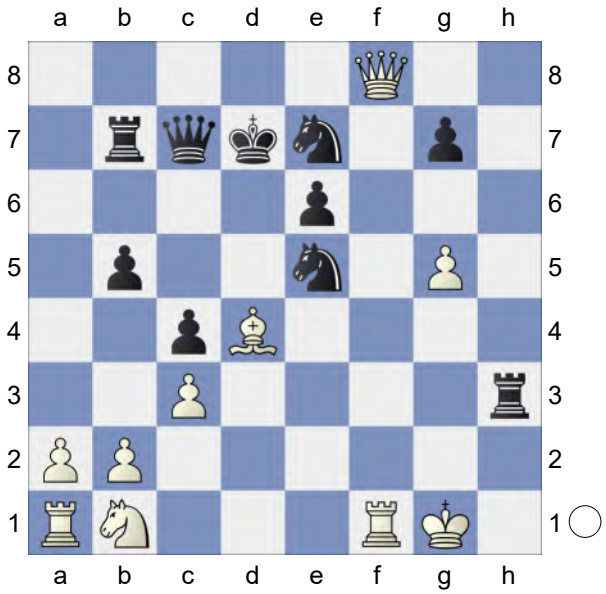
(Diagram)



Bxe4! **18.Qg4** Repels Qg3 **18...Bxg2** **19.Qxg2** **Rb8** **20.Qf2** -1.06/20
[20.g6∓ -0.62/19 f6 21.Rf2]
20...Ne5
[20...Rxh3? 21.Qxf7+ Kd8 22.Qxg8++-]

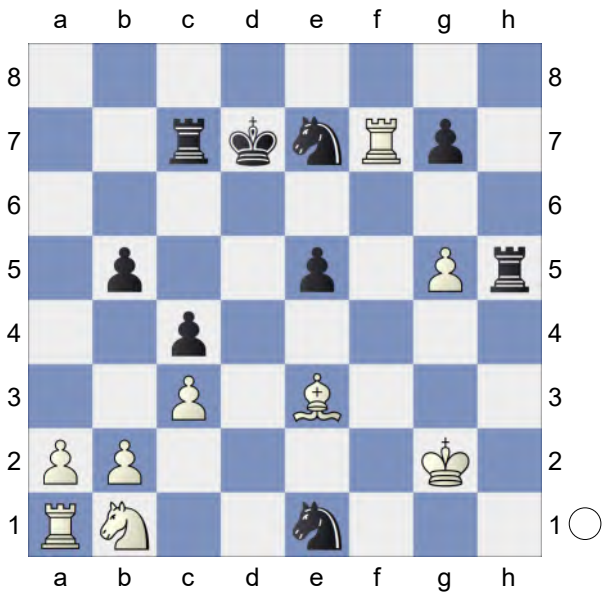


21.Nxe6 Discovered Attack **21...fxe6**
22.Bxc5 And now Qf8+ would win.
22...Ne7 White must now prevent ...Nf5.
23.Bxa7 -2.13/21
[23.Bd4∓ -1.39/19 Nd3 *(23...Rxh3? 24.Qg2-+)* 24.Qh2]
23...Rb7? -0.60/22 White is weak on the light squares
[23...Nf5-+ -2.13/21 24.Bxb8 Qxb8]
24.Bd4!∓
[24.Bc5? Nf5 *(24...Rxh3?* too greedy. *25.Qf8+ Kd7 26.Qxe7++-)* 25.Nd2 Nd3-+ *(25...Rxh3? 26.Rae1-+; 25...Rxh3? 26.Rae1-+)*]
24...Rxh3 (-> ...Nf3+) **25.Qf8+** -1.96/5
[25.Qg2∓ -0.77/21 Rh4 26.Bxe5 *(26.Nd2? Rg4-+* Pin *)* 26...Qxe5 27.Nd2]
25...Kd7-+

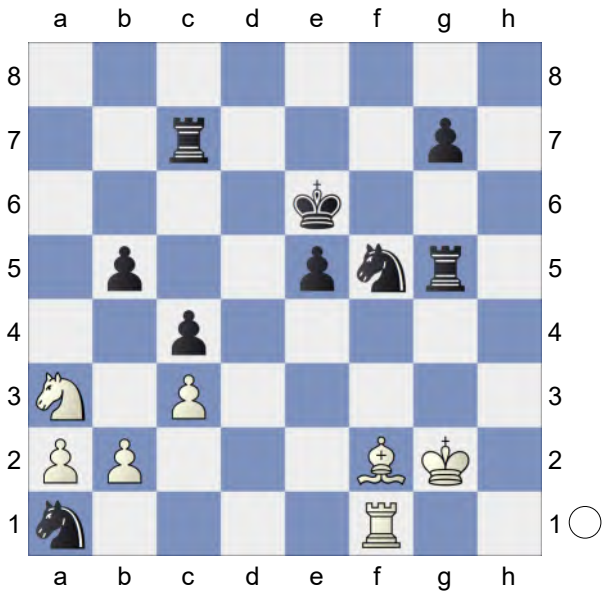


26.Qf4 **Nd3→** Black attacks with force. Excellent horsemanship. **27.Qxc7+** **Rxc7** **28.Rf7** -3.80/21
[⌓28.Nd2 -2.30/19]
28...e5
[28...Nxb2 29.Rxg7 Kc6 30.Kg2=]
29.Kg2 aiming for Bb6. **29...Rh5** Black is clearly winning. **30.Be3** **Ne1+**
[Worse is 30...Nxb2 31.Na3=]

(Diagram)

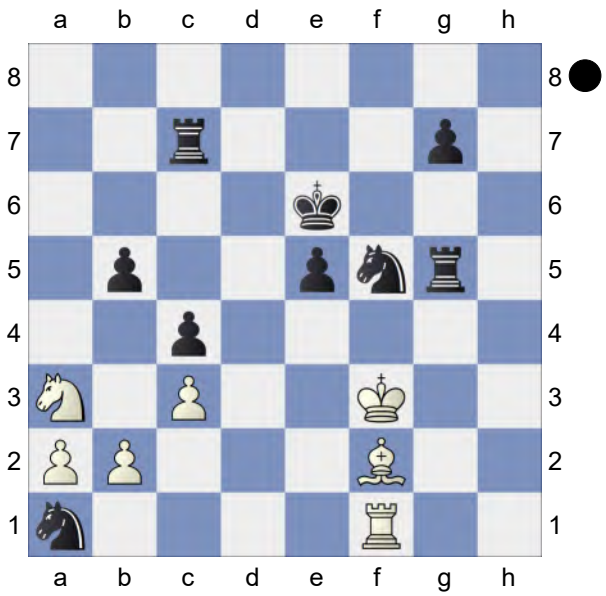


31.Kf2 Nc2 32.Na3 Nxa1 33.Kg2 Ke6 34.Rf1 Nf5 35.Bf2 Rxg5+

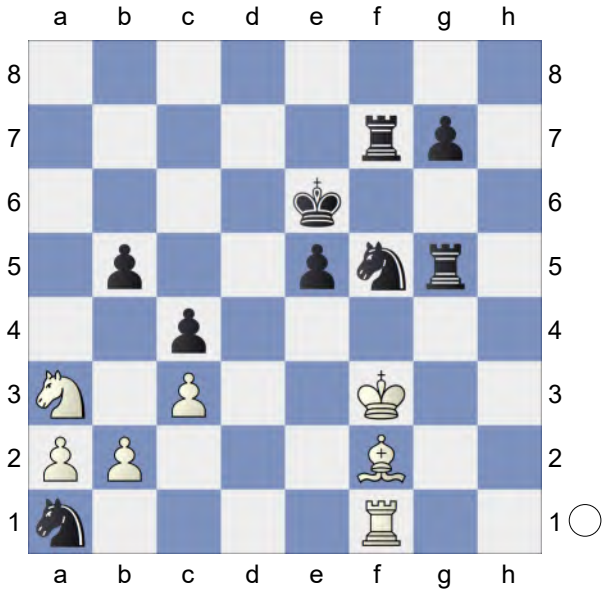


36.Kf3

(Diagram)



Rf7!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

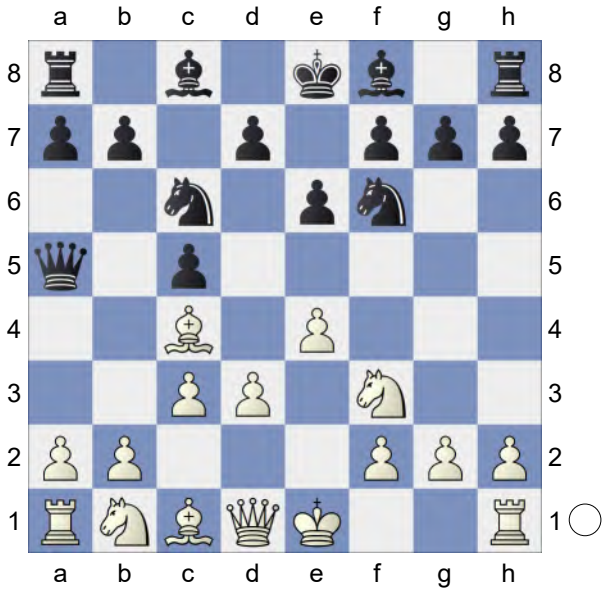
0-1

150 **B22**
□ **Baklan,Vladimir** **2571**
■ **Berelowitsch,Alexander** **2505**
Ordzhonikidze zt 1.9 (9) 17.06.2000
[Psakhis,Lev]

1.e4 Psakhis,L **1...c5 2.c3 Qa5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d3**

[5.e5 d5
A) 6.exd6 e6 7.d4 *(7.0-0 Bxd6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 Rd8)* 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qe5+ 9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2 Bxd6;
B) 6.Bb3 Ng4
B1) 7.Qe2 c4 8.Bc2 Qc7 9.Ba4 Rb8 *(9...Bf5 10.Nd4v* ½-½ Mrdja,M-Farago,I/Bolzano op 2000/ (36)*)* 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.h3 Nh6;
B2) 7.Bxd5 Ngxe5
B2a) 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Qe2 *(9.d4 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Nd7)* 9...Qc7 10.d4 *(10.Na3↑* 1-0 Macieja,B-Schmidt,W/POL t-ch Lubniewice 1998 (58) *a6)* 10...cxd4 11.Bf4 Nd3+ 12.Qxd3 Qxf4 13.0-0 a6;
B2b) 8.0-0 c4 9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.d3 cxd3 11.Qxd3 Bf5 1-0 Hachian,M-Rychagov,A/ Moscow op (Chekhov) 1996 (32) 12.Qe2 0-0-0 13.Re1 e5 14.b4 Qc7 15.Nbd2 Bd3 16.Qe3 f5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Qxe5 Bd6∞ ½-½ Timman,J-Jussupow,A/Novgorod 1995/ [Dolmatov] (35) 19.Qe6+!? Kb8 20.Nf3 Be4]
[5.Qe2 d6 6.h3 *(6.0-0 Bg4)*
A) 6...e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 *(9...Nxe4 10.Qxe4 d5 11.Qg4 dxc4 12.Qxg7 Rf8 13.Bh6)* 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Bd2 Qd8 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Rfd1 a6 *(13...Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bd7 15.d5)* 14.a3 Qd6;
B) 6...g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.Bd2 Qd8 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nc3 Be6 13.Rfd1 *(13.Ng5 Nxd4)* 13...0-0 14.Ne4 Nc7]

5...e6



6.Bb3

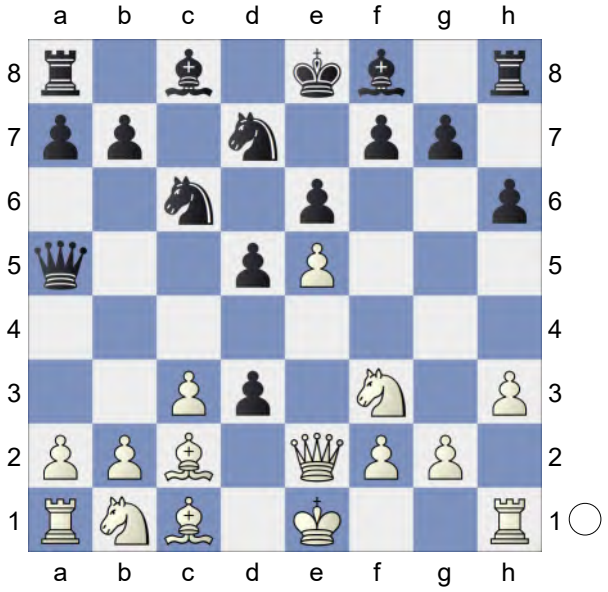
[△6.Bg5 d5 7.exd5! exd5 8.Bxf6 *(8.Bb3 Be6 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.0-0 0-0-0)* 8...dxc4!? 9.Bh4 cxd3∓ 10.Qxd3 Be6 11.0-0 c4 It was little bit premature to take pawn on e5 - 12.Qe2 Bd6 13.Rd1 Bc7 14.Na3 0-0 but now it is a real threat 15.Nxc4 Qa6 White could try to play 16.b3 with the idea not to allow activisation of the black's bishop, but after h6 17.Nd4 Bxc4↑ black position is very active 18.Qxc4!? Much weaker was to play 18...Qxc4 19.bxc4 Rfe8 20.Rab1 Bb6 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Re1 Ba5 23.Re3 Bb6 24.Ree1 Ba5]

6...d5

[6...d6!+- After 7.0-0! Be7 8.Re1∓

already white's king is in danger. 0-0!± it is impossible to find satisfactory defence for black ⌓9.d4!? cxd4 10.cxd4" d5 11.e5 ⌓Ne4!]

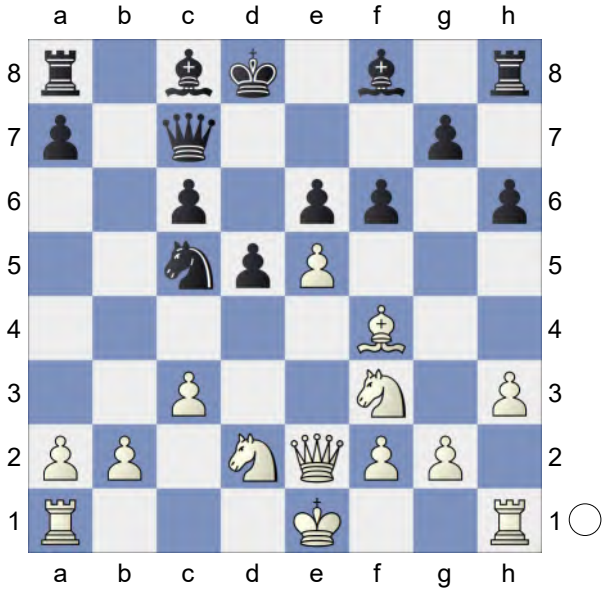
7.e5 Nd7 8.Qe2 h6 9.h3 c4 10.Bc2 cxd3



11.Bxd3 Qc7 12.Bf4 f6 13.Bb5 Kd8

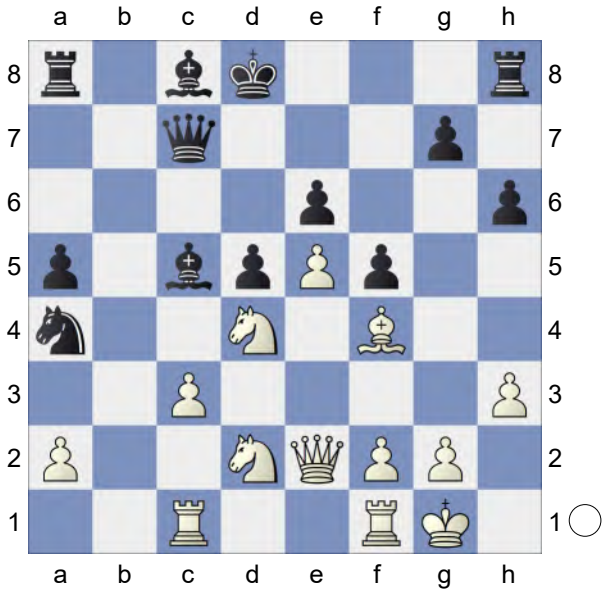
[13...Kf7 14.Bxc6+- bxc6 15.Nbd2 a5 16.c4 Ba6]

14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nbd2 Nc5

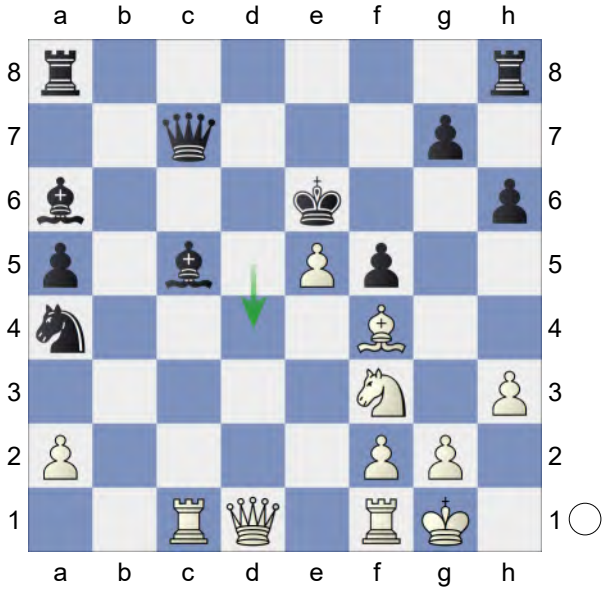


16.b4 **Na4** This system is a difficult nut to crack. Black got from opening a solid position, elastic pawn structure and it is not easy for white to make real progress.

17.Rc1N a5 18.Nd4 c5 19.bxc5!? Bxc5 20.0-0 f5

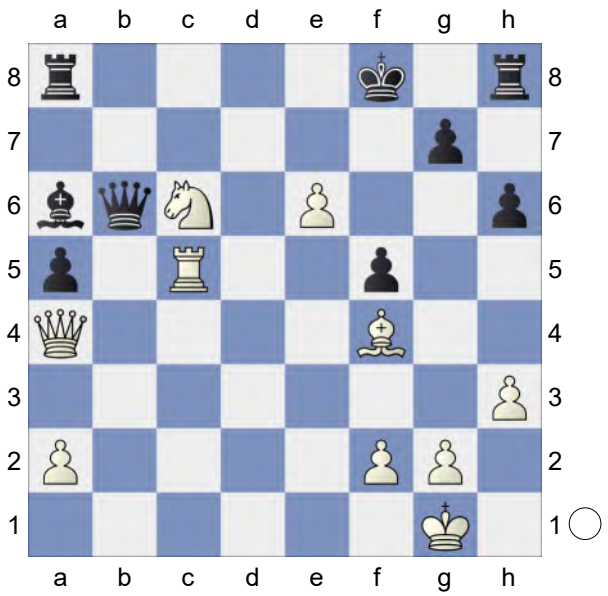


21.N2f3 Ke7 22.c4 Ba6 23.Nxe6 Kxe6 24.cxd5+ Kxd5 25.Qd1+ Ke6

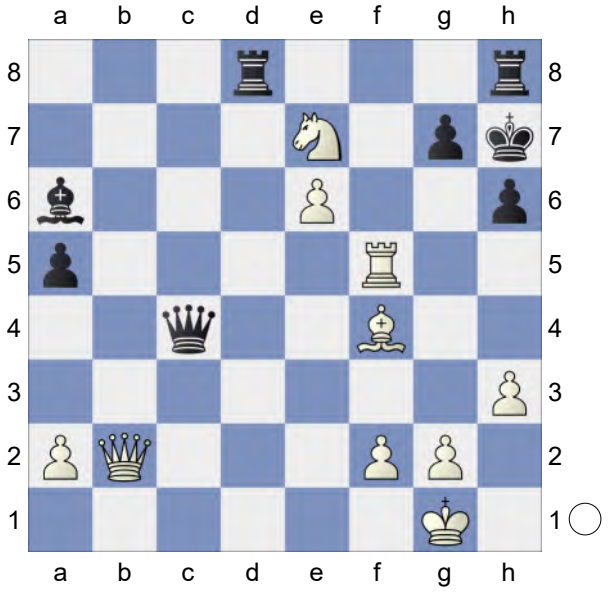


26.Nd4+ Ke7 Now White can't stop d5-d4 **27.Qxa4 Bxf1! 28.Nc6+ Kf8!? 29.Rxc5 Ba6 30.e6 Qb6**

(Diagram)

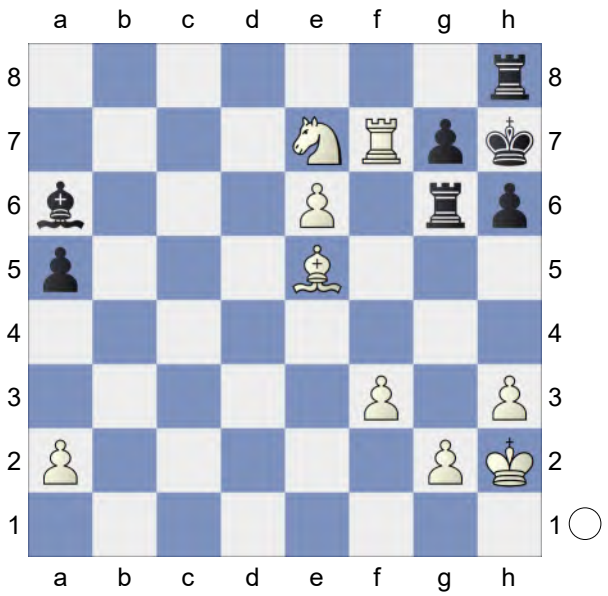


31.Rxf5+ Kg8 32.Ne7+ Kh7 33.Qe4 Qb4 It is not so bad move, but was much stronger to play **34.Qc2 Qc4 35.Qb2!** Slowly but surely Baklan took initiative into his hands. **35...Rad8**

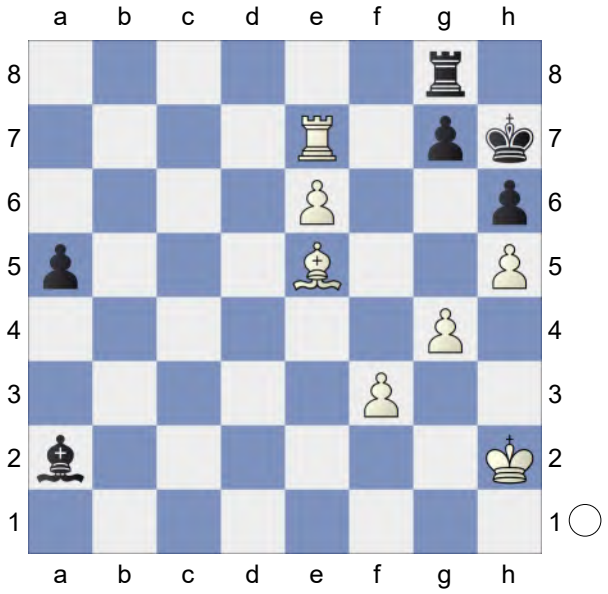


36.Rf7 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Qd4 38.Qxd4 Rxd4 39.Be5? Serious mistake, after **39...Rg4?** A proved old rule - loses who makes the last mistake! **40.f3 Rg6**

(Diagram)

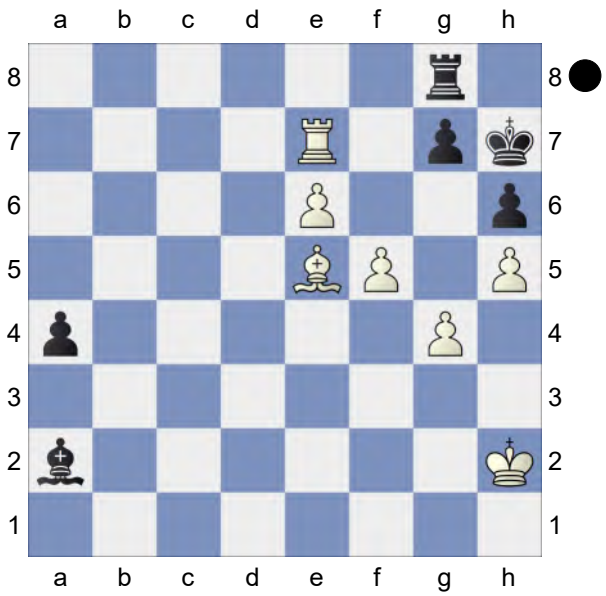


41.Nxg6 Kxg6 42.g4 Rg8 43.h4 Bc4!+- 44.h5+ Kh7 45.Re7 Bxa2



46.f4 a4 47.f5

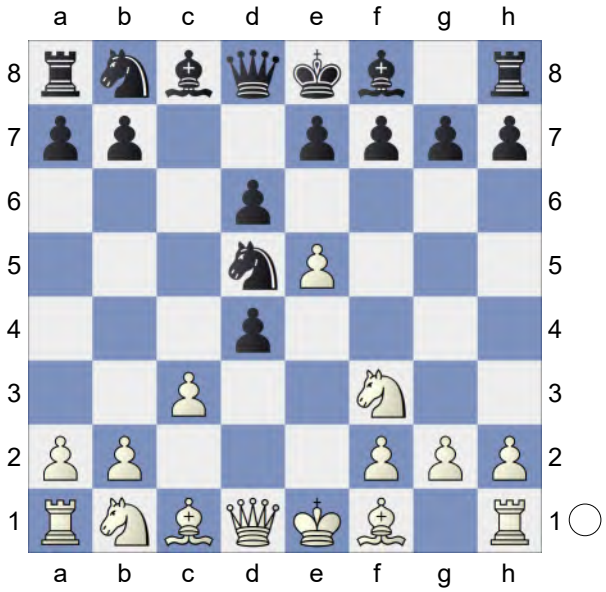
(Diagram)



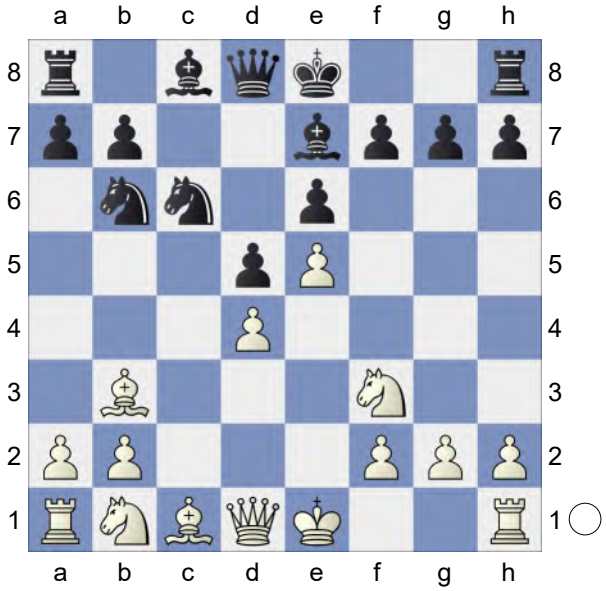
1-0

151 **B22**
□ **Pavasovic,D** **2568**
■ **Kraemer,Mart** **2516**
39th Olympiad Men (10.19) 01.10.2010
[Collins,Sam]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4

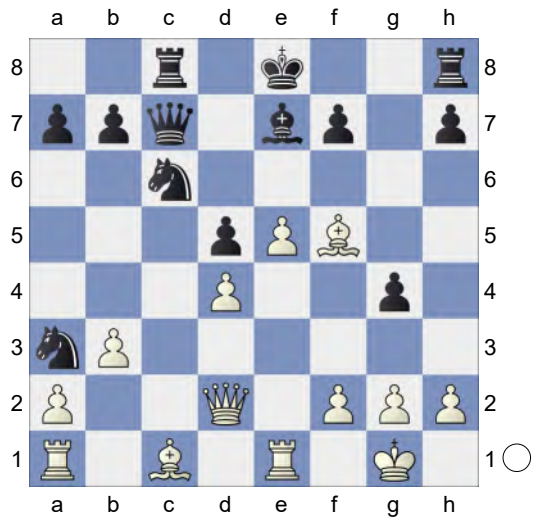


6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 d5!?
Anyone with an appetite for statistics might want to run a search for this position in their database and look at the long string of "0-1" results. It is true that these are largely attributable to a significant rating difference in Black's favour, with several GMs trying the line with the black pieces. In fact, the only 2400+ player on the white side in 2011 was...me! That game was about as exciting as its description indicates: S. Collins (2426) - M.Venkatesh (2455), San Sebastian 2011, (1/2 - 1/2, 13(!)).
9.Nh4 The main move and the only one I've played to date. Basically, this is the only means of stopping both ...Bf5 and ...Bg4. White waits for ...e6, when the knight will drop back, with a French Defence type position. The alternatives seem to pose fewer problems for Black. Both lead to positions which should be compared to the Advance Caro Kann.
[Kraemer has used this line a bit. 9.h3 Bf5 10.Nh4 Bxb1 11.Rxb1 e6 12.Nf3 Bb4+ 13.Kf1 Be7 14.Qe2 a5 15.a3 a4 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.g3 b5 and Black looked comfortable in V. Kostic (2440) - M.Kraemer (2518), Graz 2010 (1/2-1/2 in 45).]
[9.Be3 is another direction. Black of course replies Bg4 and the game goes on.]
9...e6 10.Nf3
[White can try 10.g3 but I think it's simpler to drop the knight back immediately.]
10...Be7



11.Nc3
[One of the points which annoyed me in my game against Venkatesh was what happens if Black doesn't castle and doesn't play ...f6. The continuation 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Re1 Rc8 13.Nc3 Na5 14.Bc2 Nbc4 15.Bd3 g5!? 0.53/18 featured in E.Rodriguez

(2352) - J.Xiong (2097), Northern California International 2012. Rodriguez was under the weather in that event, losing to me in 22 moves, and here selecting the passive 16. Rf1?! and going on to lose in 43 moves. Instead *(15...Bb4=* 0.15/17 *)* 16.b3± gains some squares and tries to punish Black's last move Na3 17.Qd2 and now the sedate 17...h6 18. h3 is indicated since more ambitious play can backfire with the king in the centre, for instance g4 18.Nh4! Black must now prevent Nf5! Qc7?! 1.10/20 *(18...Nc2±* 0.64/19 is more appropriate. *19.Qxc2 Bxh4)* 19.Nxd5!!± exd5 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.Bxf5 with a winning initiative, for instance. Strongly threatening Bxa3! Nc6



22.e6! f6 23.Qh6]

11...Bd7 White is slightly better. **12.0-0** Pavasovic shook hands here with Movsesian in the European Championship 2003, but here he struggles on under the watchful gaze of the Slovenian team captain.

[12.h4 h6 13.h5 Na5 14.Bc2 Nac4 15.a4 Bb4 16.0-0 Rc8 17.Na2 Be7 18.Qd3 Qc7 19.Nc3 Bb4 20.Na2 Nxb2 21.Bxb2 Qxc2 22.Qxc2 Rxc2 23.Nxb4 Rxb2 24.Nd3 Rc2 25.Nc5 Bc6 26.Rfb1 Ke7 0-1 (37) Petrosian, T (2056)-Albin Easy Refutation Vs (2406) Saint Louis 155/83 2022 (2.2)]

12...f6N 0.70/17

[A very similar earlier effort from Pavasovic continued 12...0-0 13.Bc2 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qe2 0.27/20 *(18.Bb3!* restrains ...e5 and keeps an enduring edge*; 18.Rac1±* 0.68/18 *)* 18...e5 19.Nxe5 Nxd4 20.Qd2 Nxc2 21.Qxc2 Bf5 Prevents Qd3 22.Qd2 which was roughly level in D. Pavasovic (2597) - Z. Hracek (2613), Kallithea 2008 (1-0 in 34).]

[12...Rc8 was chosen in D. Spence (2198) - Wang Yue (2698), Gibraltar 2008 (0-1, 29), annotated by John Shaw in the Archives. By the way, 13.Ne1 was the last move in my aforementioned epic with Venkatesh.]

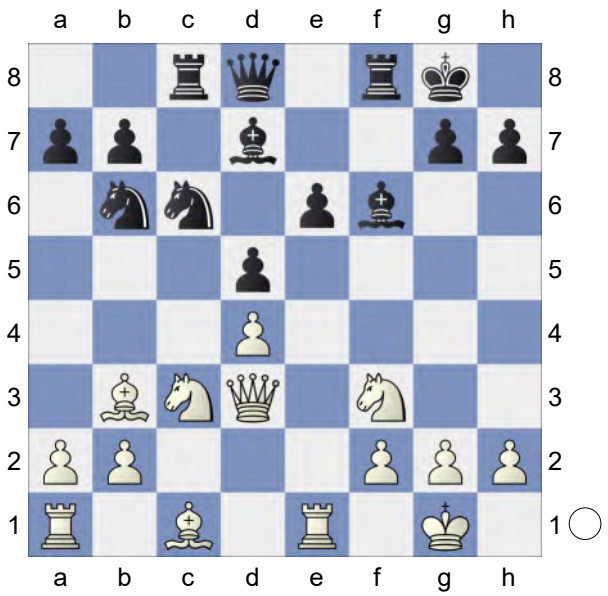
[12...Rc8= 0.26/19]

13.exf6± Bxf6 14.Re1 0-0 These positions should be compared to the French. I used to compare them to the Advance French, but in fact a closer comparator (especially when Black has played ...f6) is the Tarrasch. In particular, you might like to check the Archive for games from the variation 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0-0 Qc7, which is highly similar. **15.Qd3** Probably missing Black's 16th.

[15.Bf4 looks like an edge for White to me.]

15...Rc8

(Diagram)



16.a3 0.23/17 White has more active pieces.

[16.Bc2 forces g6 but, in the equivalent Tarrasch positions, Black wants to play this anyway, completing a harmonious regrouping with ...Bg7. The white queen and bishop battery looks distinctly out of place against this structure. 17.a3 Bg7 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Nc4 20.Qd4 Qb6 21.Qxb6 axb6 22.f4 g5 23.g3 gxf4 24.gxf4 d4 25.Ne2 Nxe5 26.Nxd4 Ng6 27.Nxe6 Rxc2 28.Nxf8 Kxf8 29.Be3 Nh4 0-1 Spence,D (2198)-Wang Yue (2698) 6th Gibtelecom Masters 2008 (2)]

[16.Bc2± 0.66/21 g6 17.Bh6]

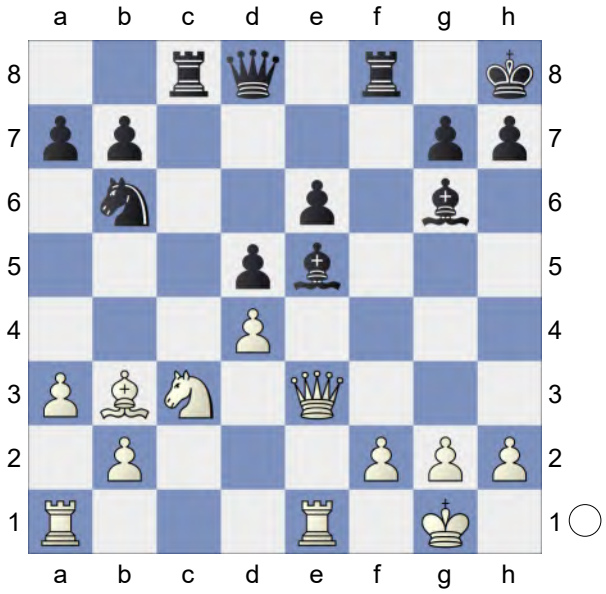
16...Be8! An excellent pawn sacrifice.

17.Bf4 Wisely declining the offer.

[17.Rxe6 White wants to play Bf4. Bg6 18.Qd1 Bh5 the pressure on the white kingside will force White to recapture with the g-pawn on f3. Given that Black is normally willing to invest an exchange to bring this about the French Tarrasch, a pawn seems a modest price to pay.]

17...Bg6 18.Qe3 Kh8 19.Ne5 Now the weakness of the d4-pawn prevents White from taking on e6.

19...Nxe5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5

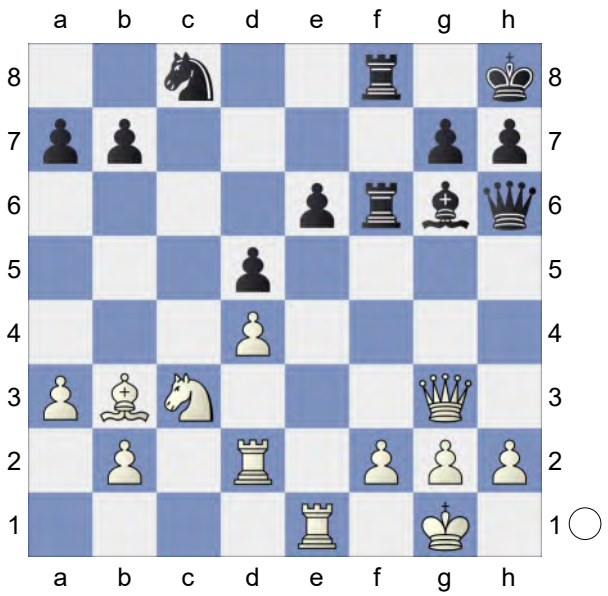


21.Qxe5 These positions always look statically better for White but Black has dynamic piece play on the f-file. Here he has a very active bishop on g6 which will feature in the coming play. **21...Qh4! 22.Qe3 Rf6 23.Rad1 Rcf8 24.Rd2 Nc8 25.Qg3**

[25.g3 Qh3 26.Qe5 Ne7 27.f4 is a more efficient way to deal with the pressure on f2, though after Nc6 28.Qe3 Black's only weakness (e6) is well covered and White has no advantage.]

25...Qh6

(Diagram)



26.Rde2 -0.79/21

[26.Qe3 was better.]

[26.Qe3= -0.01/22]

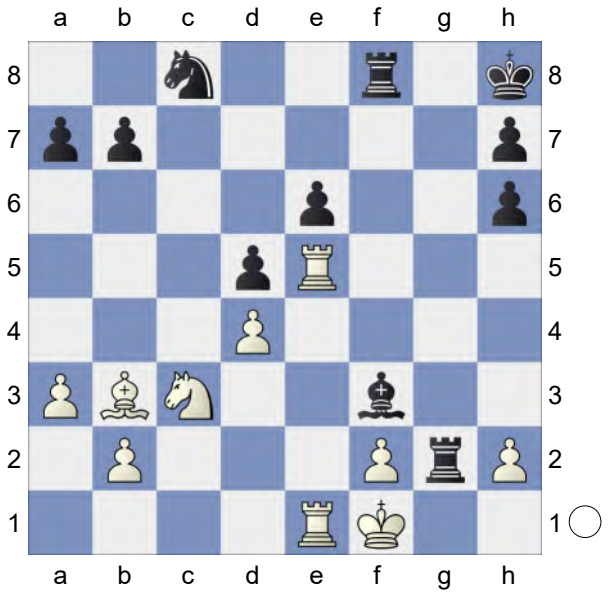
26...Bh5∓ 27.Re5! Rg6! 28.Qe3 Bf3!

Now Black has an unpleasant kingside initiative. Pavasovic defends well.

29.Qxh6!

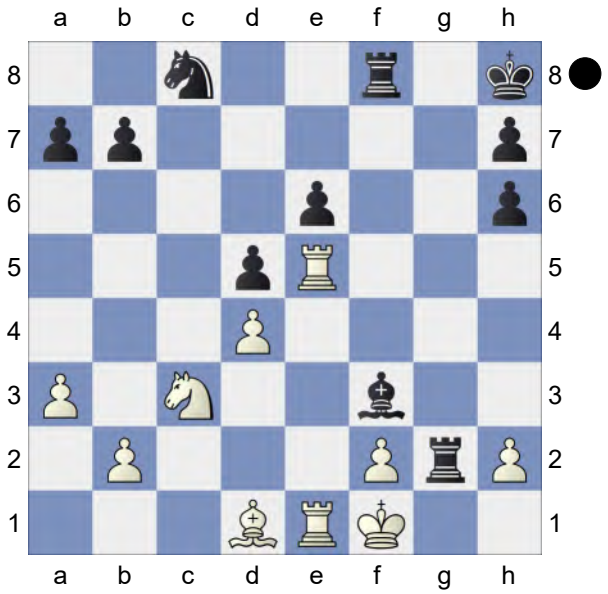
[29.g3?? -9.73/23 29.Qxh6 -0.59 Qh3 wins the white queen.]

29...Rxg2+ 30.Kf1 gxh6



31.Bd1!

[31.Rxe6? too greedy. Rxh2 32.Ne2 Rh1+ 33.Ng1 Rg8-+]

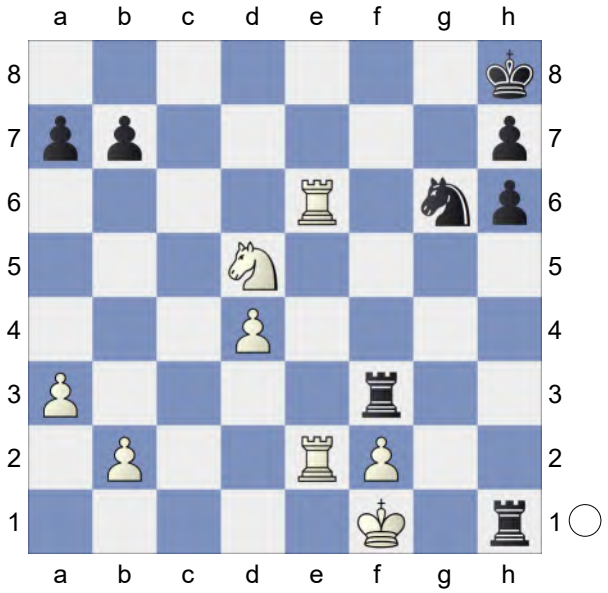


Bxf3 is the strong threat. **31...Rxh2 32.Bxf3 Rxf3 33.R1e2 Ne7 34.Rxe6 Ng6**

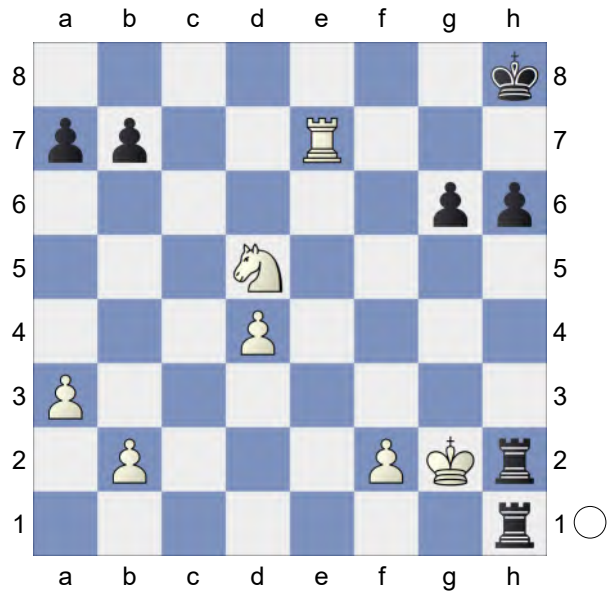
[34...Nf5 was more active, though after. Threatens to win with ...Ng3+. 35.Nxd5 Ng3+ 36.Kg1 Nxe2+ 37.Kxh2 Nxd4 38.Re7 White should hold easily - Black needs to watch out for Nf6-based mating ideas.]

[34...Nf5!? 35.Rd2 Rh1+ 36.Ke2 Rf4 37.Re8+ Kg7 38.Nxd5 Rfh4=]

35.Nxd5 Rh1+



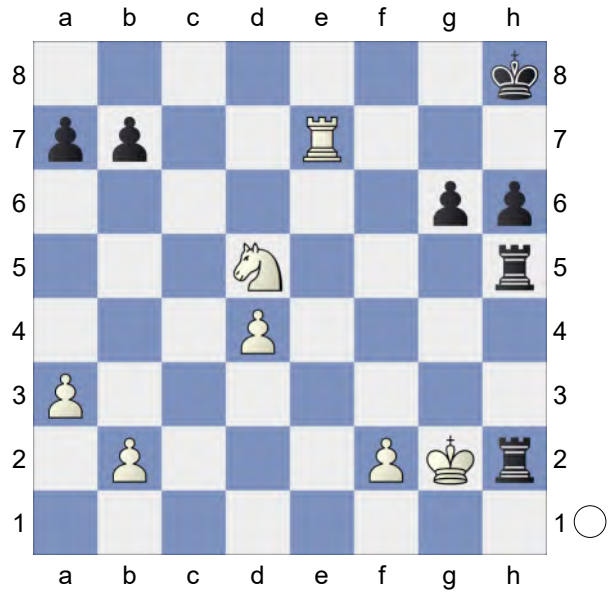
36.Kg2 Rfh3 The position is equal. **37.Rxg6 hxg6=** KRR-KRN **38.Re7!** White threatens Nf6! and mate. **38...R3h2+ 39.Kg3!** Intending Nf6! and mate. **39...Rh3+ 40.Kg2! R3h2+**



41.Kg3! Threatening mate with Nf6! **41...Rh5 42.Kg2!**

[Pavasovic isn't going to fall for 42.Nf6?? -8.55/23 42.Kg2 -0.01 Rg1+ 43.Kf3 Rf5+-+]

42...R1h2+



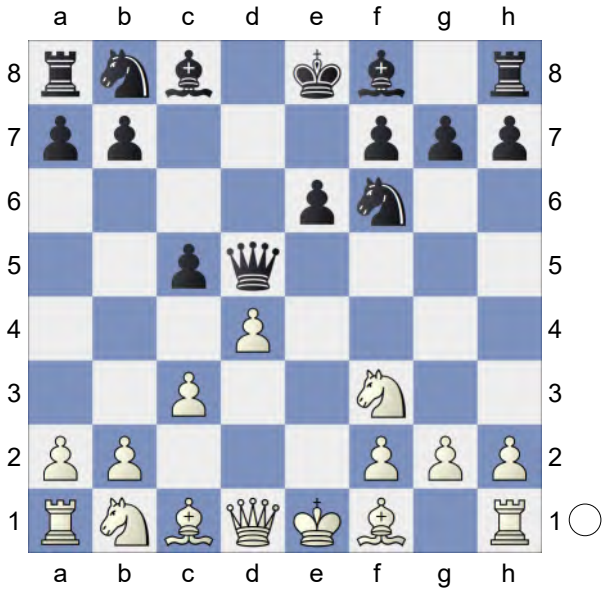
Study of games from the French Tarrasch is basically the only recipe I can give here, for both players.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

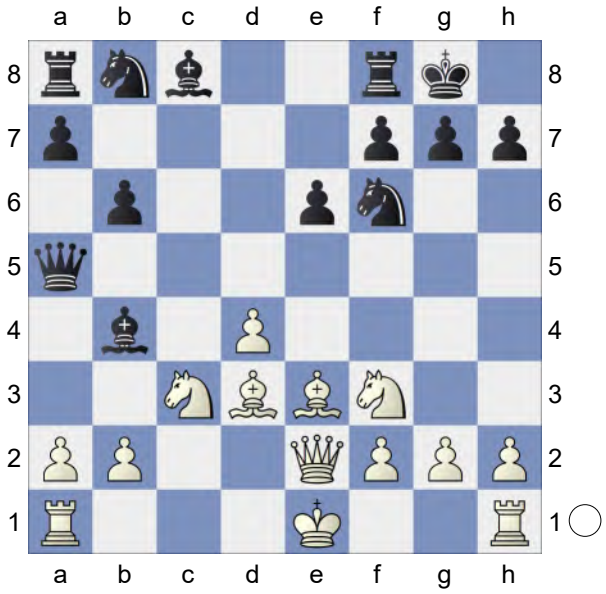
½-½

152 **B22**
□ **Boruchovsky,Avital** **2541**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir** **3095**
Chess.com INT blitz (9) 14.04.2020
[Kitty Kat]

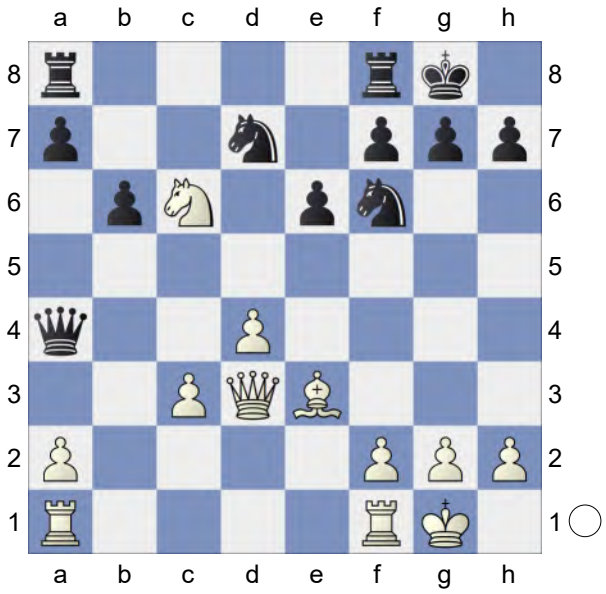
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nf6



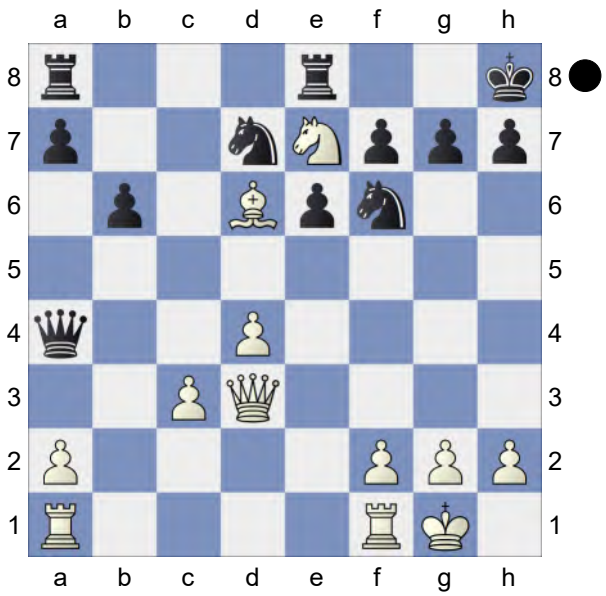
6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bd3
[9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 b6 11.c4 Qd6 12.Be2 Bb7 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.Qd2 Rac8 15.Bf4 Qc6 16.a4 Rfd8 17.a5 e5 18.d5 Qd6 19.Be3 Ng4 20.Rfb1 Nxe3 21.Qxe3 f6 22.h4 Nc5 23.h5 Rc7 1-0 (41) 10.0-0 cd4 11.Ne4 (2593)-Kessler,B (2431) ACT Reserves 1999 (1)]
9...b6 10.Qe2N White has an edge.
[10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.Qa4 Qb7 14.c4 Rac8 15.Qb3 Nb8 16.a4 Qc7 17.Rfc1 Nc6 18.Bg5 Na5 19.Qd3 Rfd8 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Rc3 Rd7 22.Qe4 Qd8 23.Rac1 Nb7 24.Qg4+ Kh8 0-1 (40) Yudovich,M-Kotov,A Moscow-ch22 1942]
10...Qa5



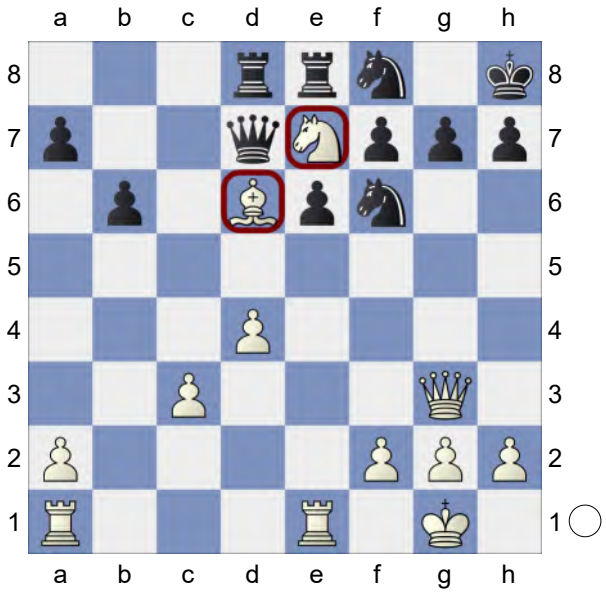
11.0-0 Ba6 12.Ne5 0.01/20
[12.Nb5!± 0.57/19]
12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Nbd7 15.Nc6 -0.36/21
[15.Nxd7= 0.23/20 Nxd7 16.c4]
15...Qa4



16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Bf4 -0.99/23
[17.d5= -0.08/21]
17...Rfe8 -0.60/22
[17...Qa3∓ -0.99/23 18.Nc6 Rac8]
18.Bd6

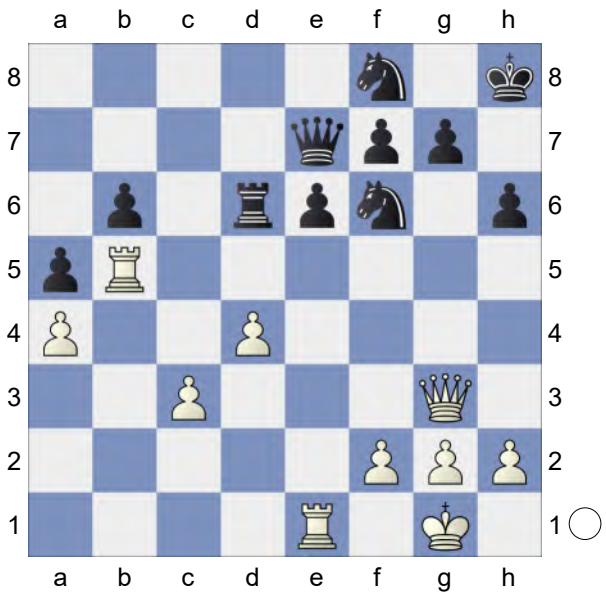


Rad8 0.01/21
[18...Nf8!∓ -0.71/20 And now ...Rad8 would win. 19.Qf3 Qd7]
19.Rfe1? -2.32/21 White does not recover from this.
[19.Qf3!= 0.01/21 and White is okay.]
19...Nf8-+ 20.Qg3 Qd7

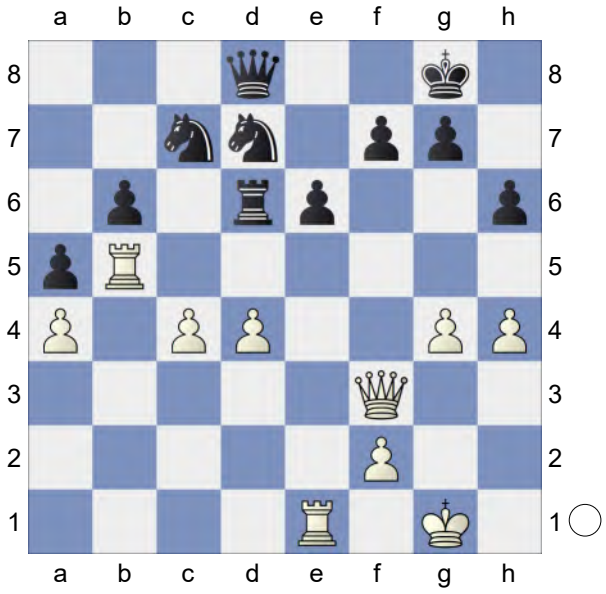


21.Bb4 Rxe7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.a4 a5 24.Rab1 Rd6 25.Rb5 h6

(Diagram)

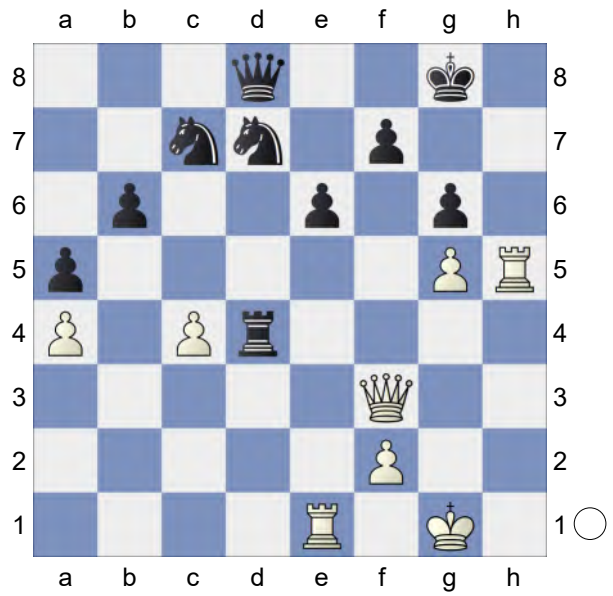


26.h3 N8d7 27.Qf3 Qd8 28.g4 Kg8 29.h4 Nd5 Black is clearly winning.
30.c4 Nc7

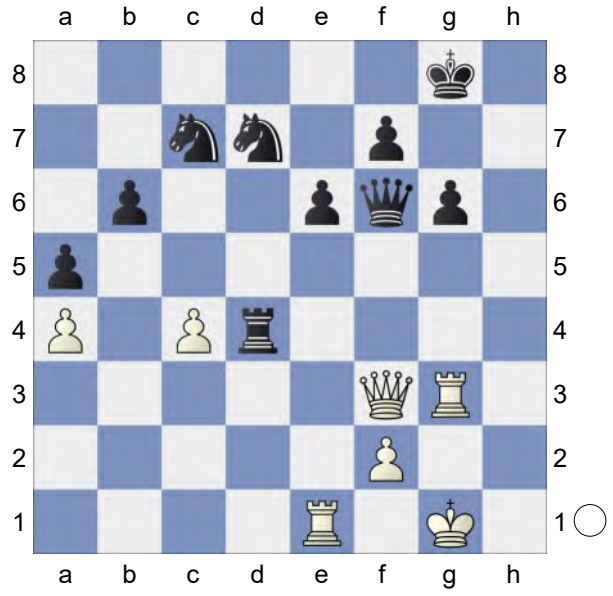


31.Rh5 Rxd4 32.g5 Wards off Nf6
32...hxg5 33.hxg5 Threatens to win with Qh1. **33...g6**
[33...Rxc4? perishes. 34.Qh3 Kf8 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Rxd8 Kxd8 37.g6 fxg6 38.Rd1 *(38.Qh8+ Ke7+-)* 38...Rxa4 39.Rd6+-]

(Diagram)

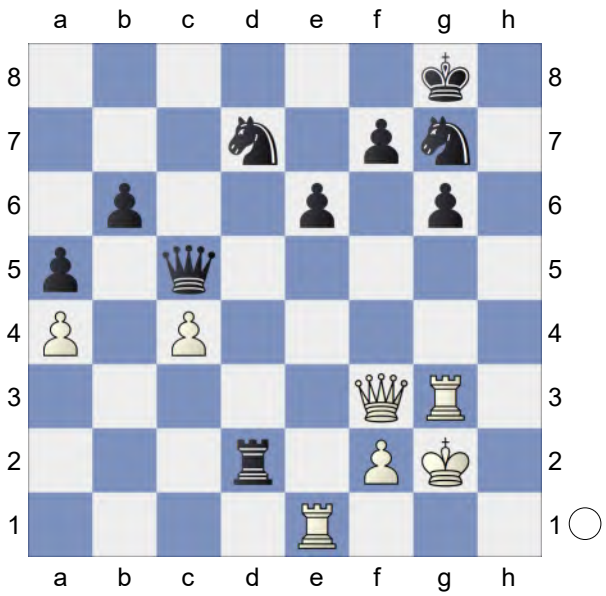


Deflection **34.Rh3 Qxg5+ 35.Rg3 Qf6**

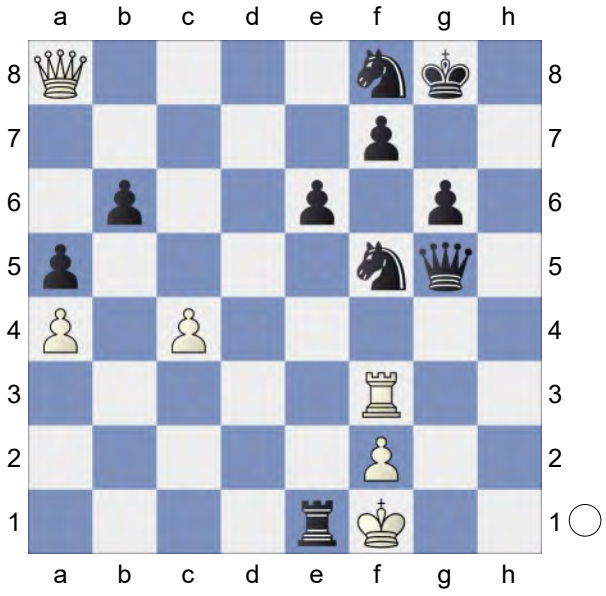


36.Qc6 Ne8 37.Kg2 Rd2 38.Rf3 Qg5+ 39.Rg3 Qc5 40.Qf3 Ng7

(Diagram)

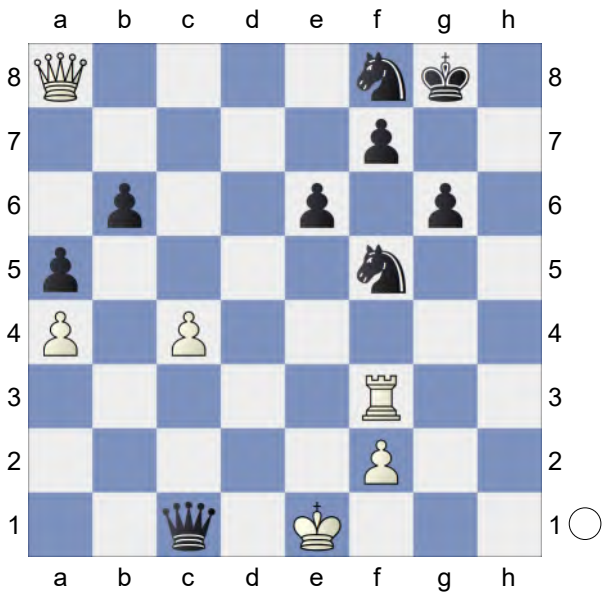


41.Qa8+ Nf8 42.Rf3 Qg5+ 43.Kf1 Nf5 44.Re4 Rd1+ 45.Re1 Rxe1+



46.Kxe1 Qc1+

(Diagram)

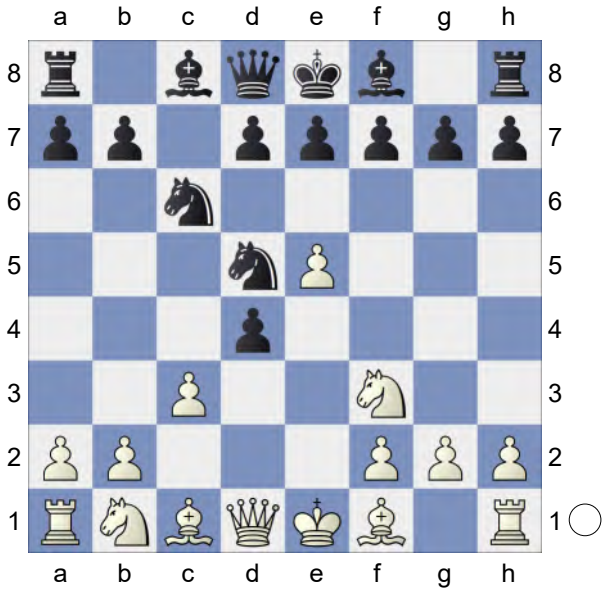


Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.15 (very precise)

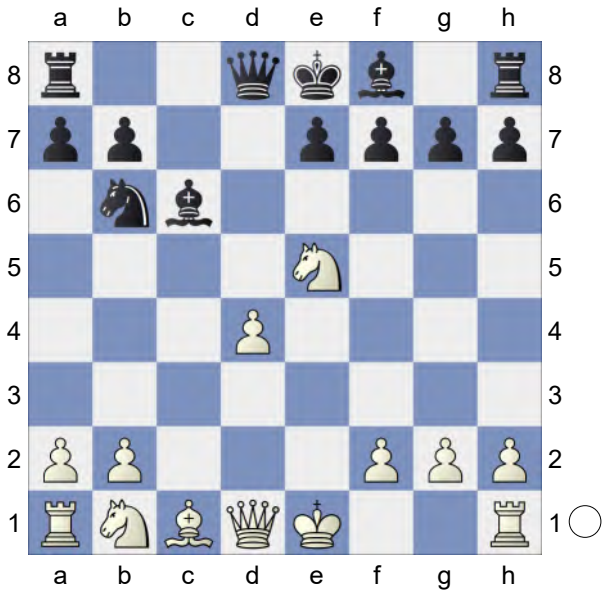
0-1

153 **B22**
□ **Bitbitbot** **2526**
■ **No Stockfish Bots** **3072**
Rapid 11.01.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Alterman,B: 'Inf 58/185' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4**



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Bxc6 Bxc6



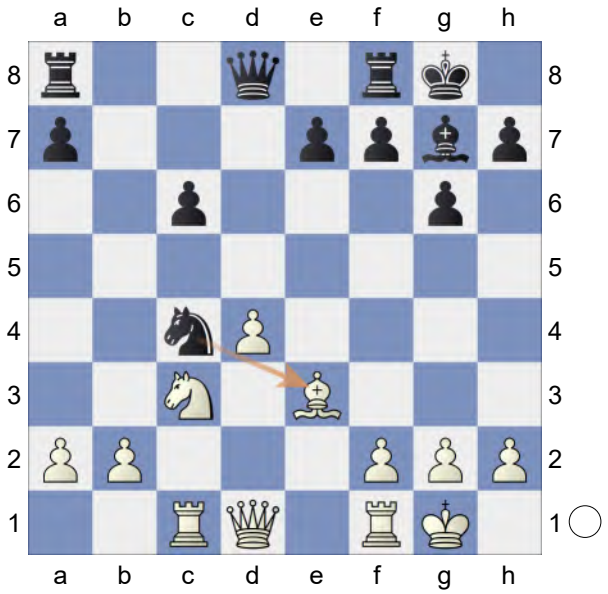
11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nc3

[12.0-0 g6 *(12...e6 13.Be3 Be7 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Rc1 Nd5 16.Ne4 Qb6 17.Qc2 Rab8 18.b3 Ba3 19.Rcd1 h6 20.Nd2 Be7 21.Nc4 Qc7 22.Rc1 Bf6 23.Qe4 Rfd8 24.Ne5 Bxe5 25.dxe5 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 Rd5 27.f4* 1-0 (39) Bonvalot, I (1892)-Le Pape,V (2034) Syre Memorial op 36th 2013 (4)*)* 13.Re1 Bg7 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Bxe7 Qxd4 16.Qxd4 Bxd4 17.Nd2 Rfe8 18.Ba3 c5 19.Kf1 c4 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 21.Rc1 Rc8 22.Ne4 a6 23.Rd1 Be5 24.g3 h5 25.f4 Bg7 26.Nc3 Bxc3 ½-½ (31) Dolmatov,S (2630)-Alterman, B (2585) 58/185 Pardubice 1993]

12...g6 13.0-0N

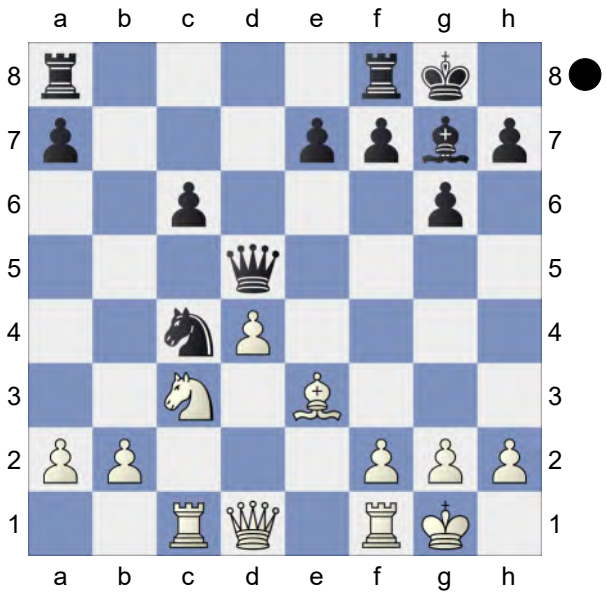
[13.Qf3 Rc8 14.Be3 Bg7 15.0-0 0-0 16.Rfd1 Nc4 17.Qe2 Nxe3 18.fxe3 e6 19.Rac1 Qa5 20.a3 Rfd8 21.Ne4 e5 22.Nc5 Qb6 23.dxe5 Rxd1+ 24.Qxd1 Qxb2 25.e6 fxe6 26.Nxe6 Qxa3 27.Qd2 Bh6 0-1 (97) Antonio,R-Georgiev,K Yerevan Olympiad 1996]

13...Bg7 14.Be3 0-0 15.Rc1 Nc4

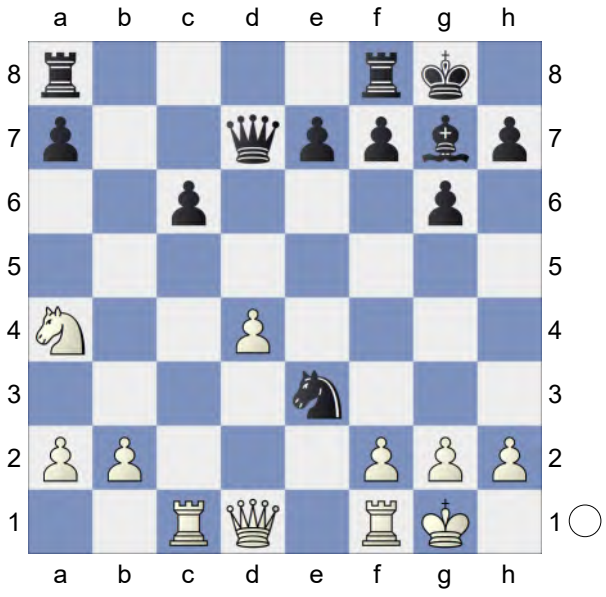


16.Ne4 Qd5 ...Nxe3! is the strong threat. **17.Nc3** -0.91/21

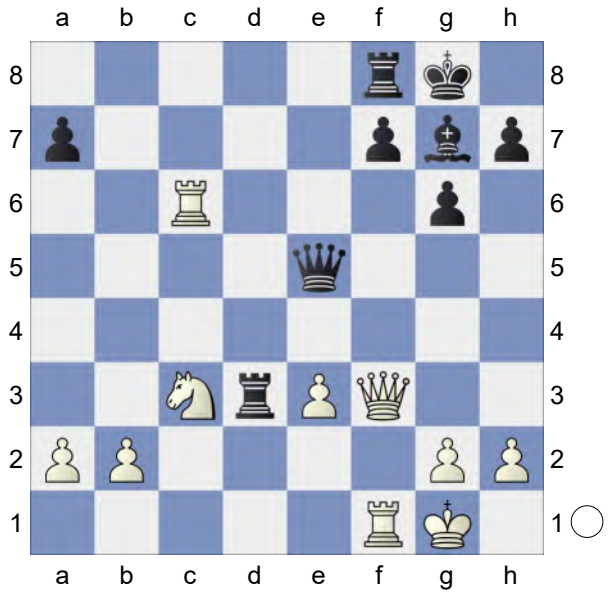
[17.Qf3= -0.22/21 remains equal.]



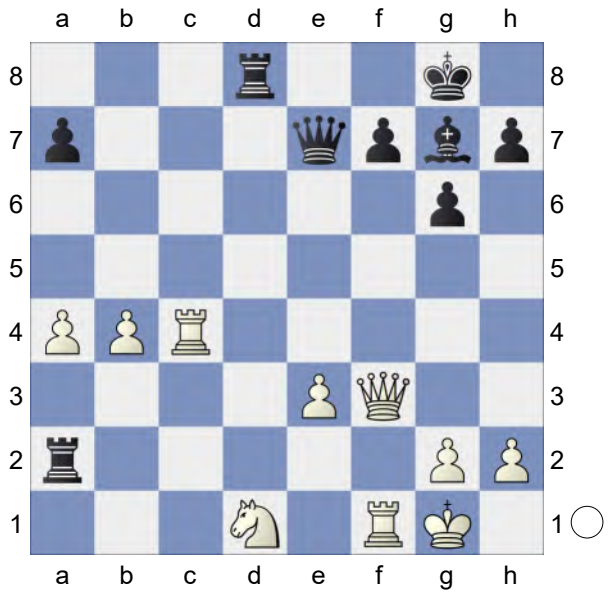
17...Qd6 -0.27/20
[17...Qa5!∓ -0.91/21]
18.Ne4= Qd5 19.Nc3 Qd7 20.Na4 -0.49/25
[20.b3= -0.12/19 Nxe3 21.fxe3]
20...Nxe3∓



21.fxe3 Rad8 22.Qf3 e5
[22...Bxd4 23.Rfd1 Bxe3+ *(23...c5? 24.Nxc5 Bxe3+ 25.Qxe3+-)* 24.Qxe3 Qxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kf2±]
23.dxe5 Qe8 24.Rxc6 Qxe5 25.Nc3 Rd3

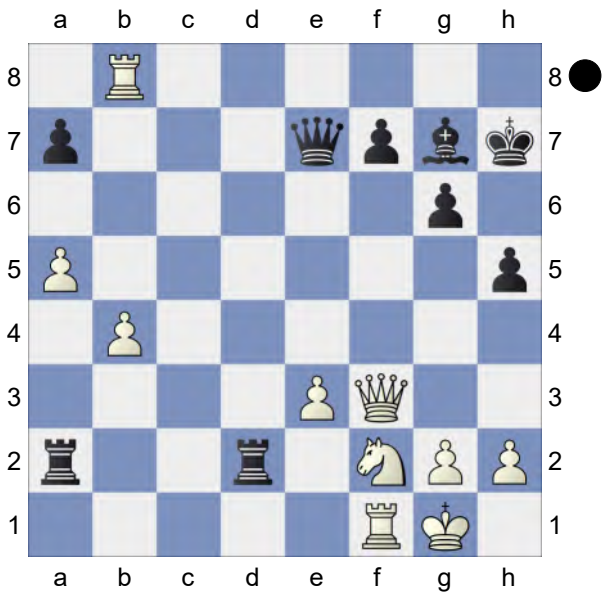


Black has compensation. **26.Nd1 Rd2 27.a3 Qe7 28.Rc4 Rb8 29.b4 Rbd8 30.a4 Ra2**

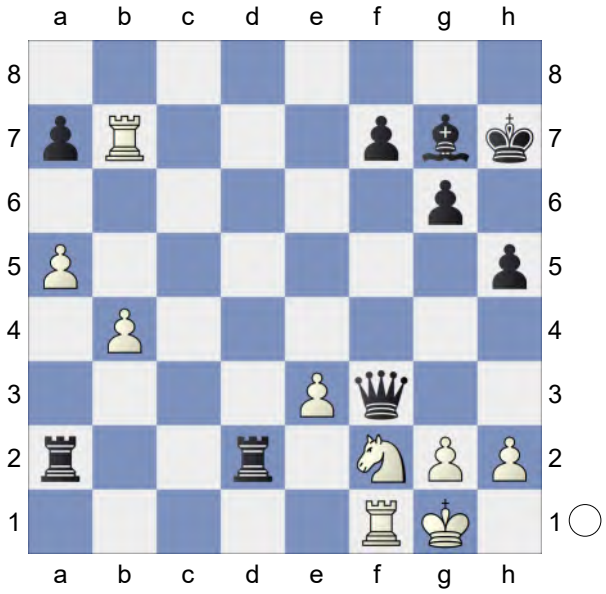


31.a5 Rdd2 Strongly threatening ... Rxg2+. Black is much more active.
32.Nf2 h5 33.Rc8+ -1.18/23
[33.g3∓ -0.62/22]
33...Kh7∓ 34.Rb8

(Diagram)

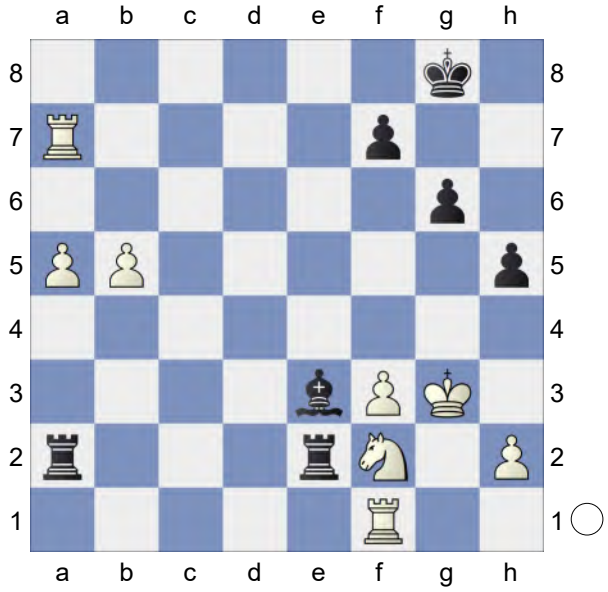


Qf6! 35.Rb7 Qxf3



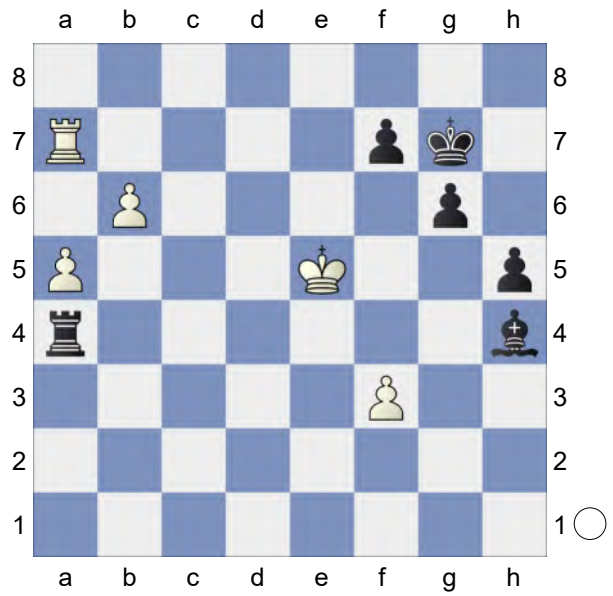
36.gxf3 Kg8 ...Bf6 would now be deadly. **37.Kg2**
[37.Rxa7? Bf6 38.Kg2 Bh4 39.Ra8+ Kg7-+]
37...Bf6 38.Kg3 Inhibits Bh4+. Black must now prevent Ne4!
[38.Rxa7? Bh4 39.f4 Bxf2-+ *(39...Kg7? 40.Kf3-+)*]
38...Re2 aiming for ...Bg5. **39.Rxa7?** -3.47/22 White does not recover from this.
[39.Nd1∓ -1.49/22]

39...Bg5-+ 40.b5? -6.87/21
[40.Ra8+ -3.40/20 Kg7 41.Re8 *(41.e4? Be3-+)* 41...Bxe3 *(41...Rxe3 42.Rxe3 Bxe3 43.h4=)* 42.Kg2]
40...Bxe3

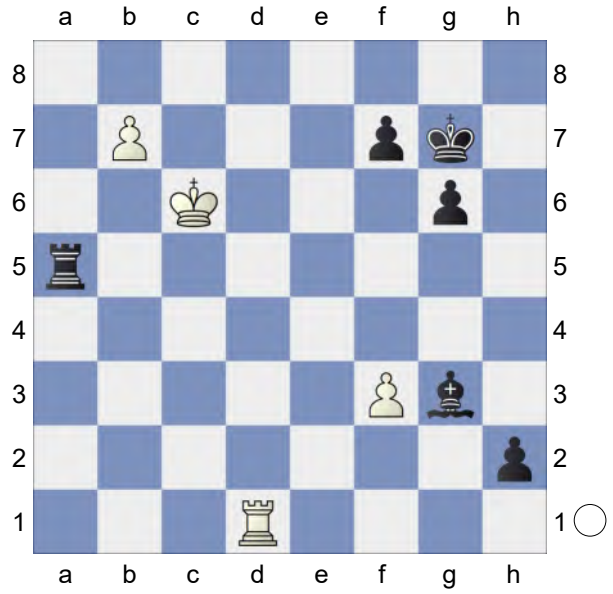


41.b6 Kg7
[41...Bxf2+? 42.Rxf2 Rxf2 43.Ra8+ Kg7 44.b7-+]
42.h4 Rxf2 43.Rxf2 Bxf2+ Endgame. KRB-KR **44.Kf4?** -7.09/22
[44.Kh3 -3.81/26]
44...Ra4+
[44...Bxh4? 45.b7 Bf2 46.Ra8 *(46.b8Q? Ra4+ 47.Ke5 Bg3+* Skewer *48.Kd5 Bxb8-+)* 46...Ra4+ 47.Ke5-+]
45.Ke5 Bxh4

(Diagram)



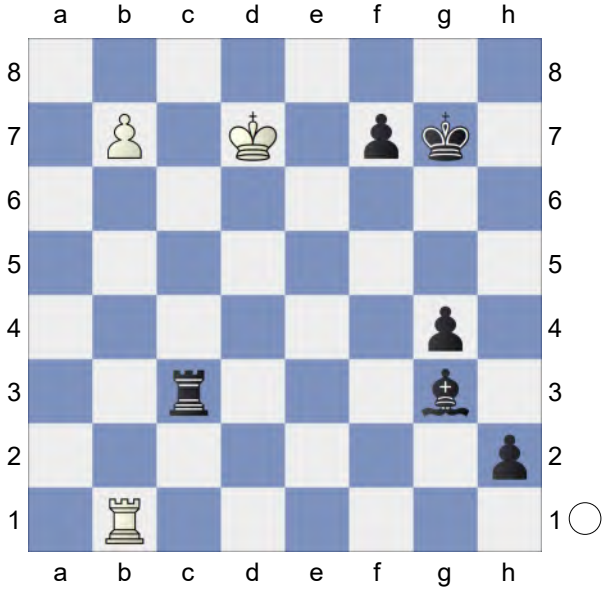
46.Kd5 Bg3 Hoping for ...h4. **47.Kc6 h4 48.Rd7 Rxa5 49.b7 h3 50.Rd1 h2**



51.Kd7 Rf5 -20.39/25

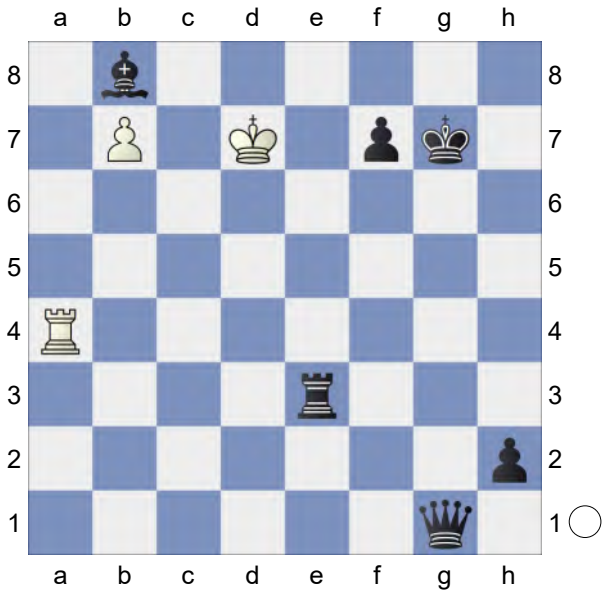
[⌓51...Rd5+ -#15/21 52.Rxd5 h1Q *(52...h1B?* perishes. *53.Rd6+-* Promotion *)* 53.Kc6 Qxf3 54.Kc5 Qc3+ 55.Kb5 Qb3+ 56.Kc5 Bf2+ *(56...Qxb7* leads to mate. *57.Rd1 Qc8+ 58.Kb6 Bf2+ 59.Kb5 Qc5+ 60.Ka4 Qc2+ 61.Kb4 Qxd1 62.Kc3 Qd4+ 63.Kc2 Qc4+ 64.Kd2 f5 65.Kd1 Be3 66.Ke1 Qa2 67.Kf1 Qf2#)* 57.Rd4 Qxb7 *(57...Bxd4+* gets mated. *58.Kxd4 Qxb7 59.Ke3 Qd5 60.Ke2 f5 61.Ke3 Qd1 62.Kf2 f4 63.Kg2 Qe2+ 64.Kg1 f3 65.Kh1 Qg2#)* 58.Kc4 Qa6+ 59.Kc3 Qa1+ *(59...Bxd4+ 60.Kxd4 g5 61.Ke4 Qc4+ 62.Kf3 g4+ 63.Ke3 g3 64.Kf3 Qd3+ 65.Kg2 f5 66.Kh3 Qf3 67.Kh4 Qg4#)* 60.Kc2 Bxd4 *(60...Qxd4 61.Kb3 Qd3+ 62.Kb4 Bd4 63.Ka4 Qc4+ 64.Ka3 Qb5 65.Ka2 Qb2#)* 61.Kd2 Qc3+ 62.Ke2 Qe3+ 63.Kd1 Qf2 64.Kc1 Bc3 65.Kd1 Qd2#]

52.Rh1 Rxf3 53.Ra1 g5 (-> ...g4) **54.Rh1 g4** Black mates. **55.Rb1 Rc3**

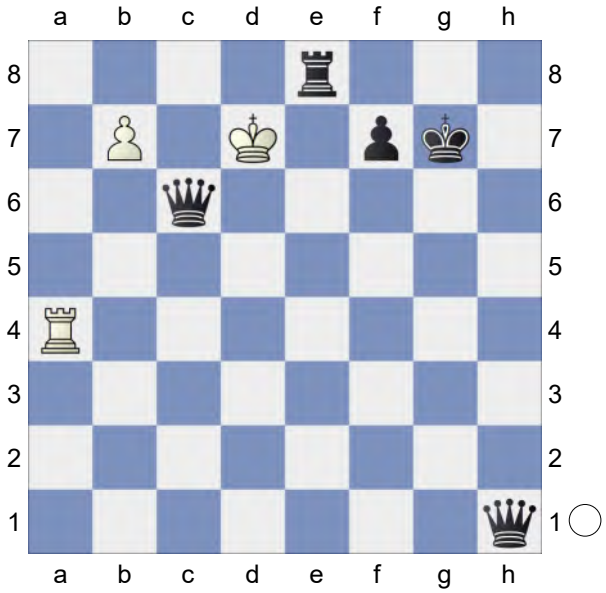


56.Rf1 Bb8 57.Ke7 Re3+ 58.Kd7 g3 59.Ra1 g2 60.Ra4 g1Q

(Diagram)



61.Kc8 h1Q 62.Kxb8 Re8+ 63.Kc7 Qc5+ 64.Kd7 Qcc6#

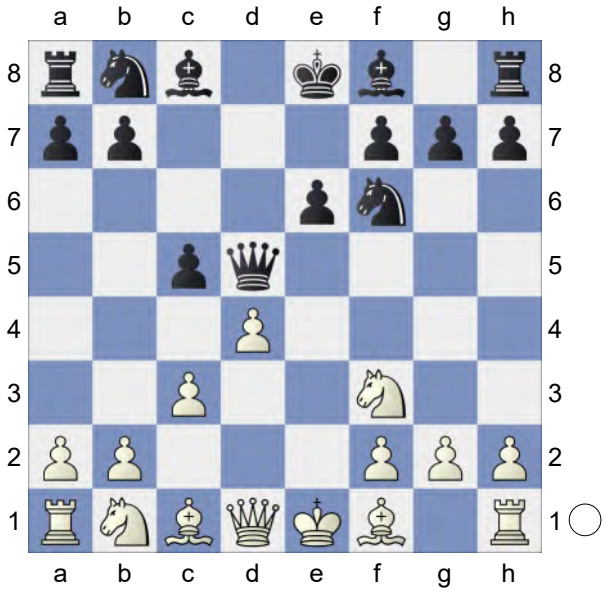


Normal.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
0-1

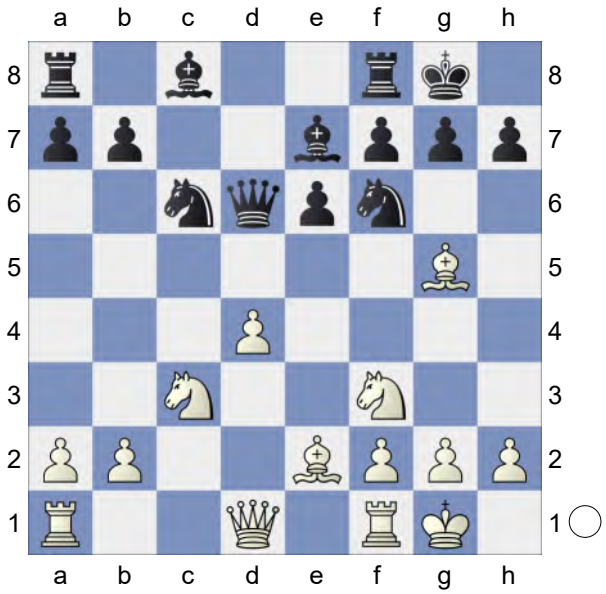
154 **B22**
□ **Admete** **2412**
■ **Proteussfx Ai** **3199**
Blitz 29.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Qd6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Bg5 0-0



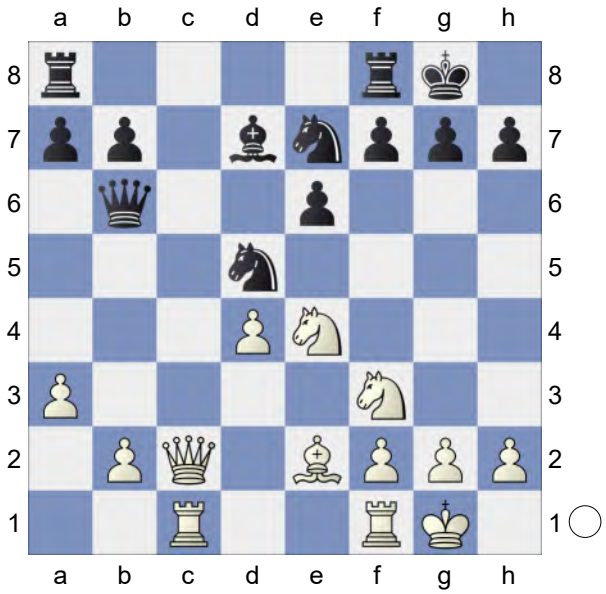
11.Rc1

[11.Qd2 Rd8 12.Rfd1 Nd5 13.Rac1 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 h6 15.Qd2 Nf6 16.h3 Bd7 17.a3 Be8 18.Qe3 Ne7 19.Bd3 Qb6 20.Qe2 Rac8 21.Bb1 Bc6 22.Ne5 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 Qxd4 24.Nxc6 Nxc6 25.Qb5 Qf4 0-1 (45) Chekhov,S (2453)-Sjugirov,S (2712) 156/43 Russia 2023]

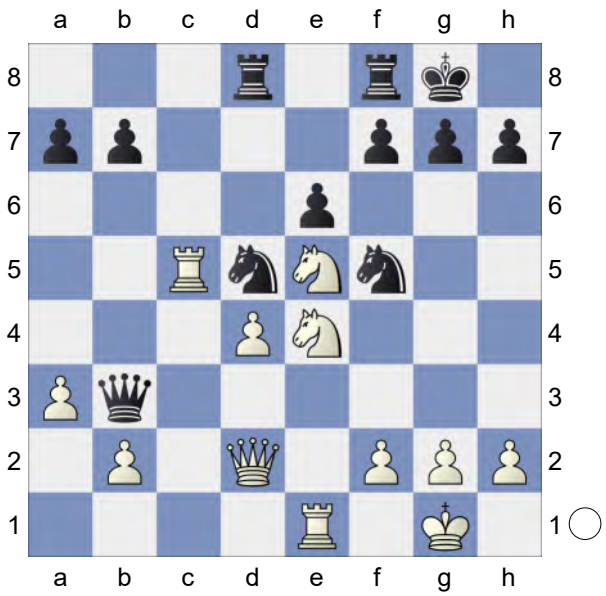
11...Nd5 12.Bxe7 Ncxe7 13.Ne4N

[13.Ne5 b6 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Ne4 Qd8 16.Ng5 Nf5 17.Qd2 h6 18.Ngf3 Nd6 19.b4 Qe7 20.b5 Rfc8 21.a4 Qf6 22.Rxc8+ Rxc8 23.Rc1 Qd8 24.h3 Rc7 25.g3 Qc8 26.Rc2 Ne7 27.Ne1 Nef5 0-1 (40) Afek,Y (2375)-Schlosser,P (2505) Herzliya 1998 (9) 28.Bf1 Ne4 29.Rxc7 Qxc7 30.Qb2 Qd6 31.Nc2 Nd2 32.Bg2 Bxg2 33.Kxg2 Qd5+ 34.Kg1 Nf3+ 35.Nxf3 Qxf3 36.Nb4 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 Qxa4 38.Nc6 a6 39.g4 Nh4+ 40.Kg3 g5 0-1 Soares,R (2375)-Tal Zilberstein (2505) Bosna i Hercegovina 88/(415) 2003 (9)]

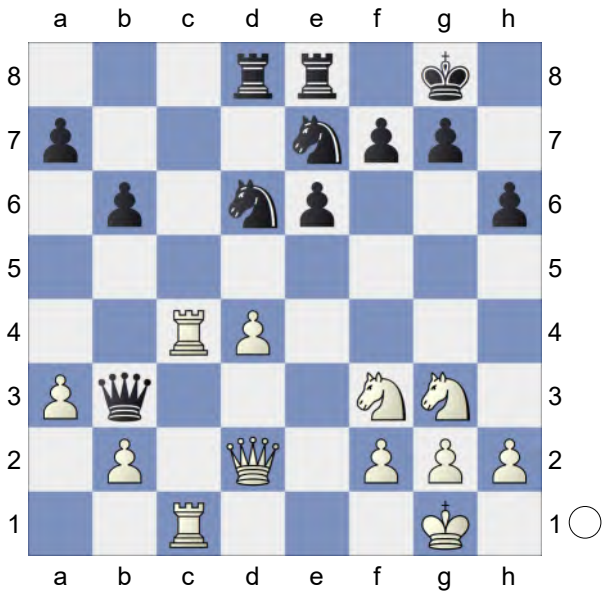
13...Qb4 14.Qc2 The position is equal.
14...Bd7 15.a3 Qb6



16.Ne5 Bb5 17.Bxb5 Qxb5 18.Qd2 Rad8 19.Rfe1 Nf5 20.Rc5 Qb3

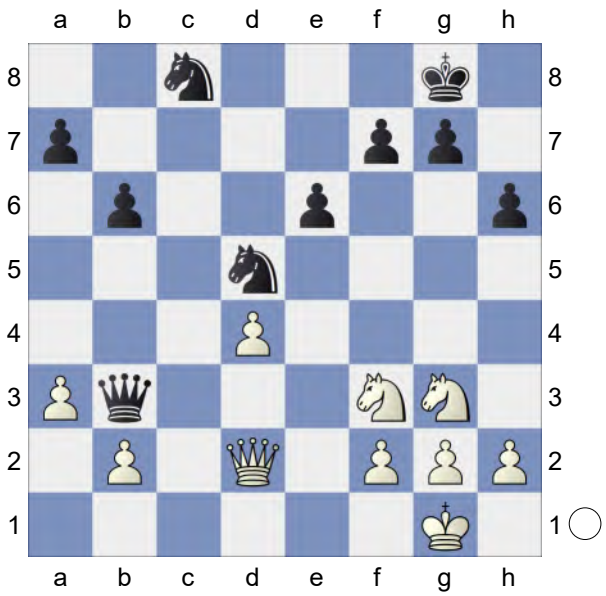


21.Nf3 h6 22.Rec1 b6 23.R5c2 Nde7 24.Rc4 Rfe8 25.Ng3 Nd6

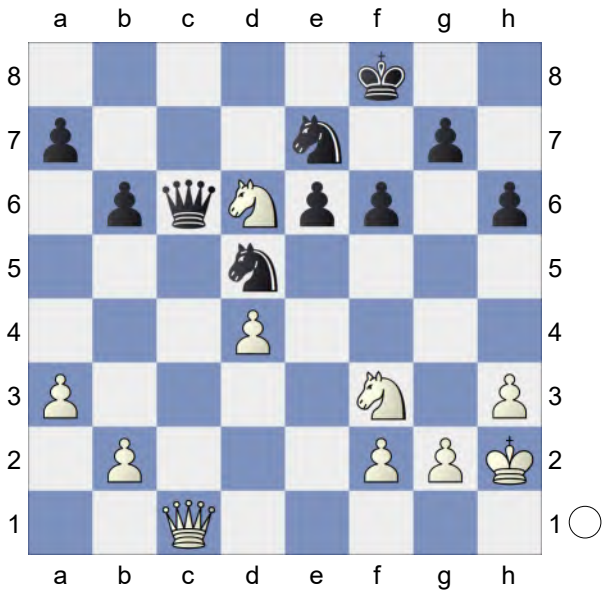


26.R4c2 Rc8 27.Rc7 Nd5 28.R7c2
[28.Rxa7 Rxc1+ 29.Qxc1 Rc8-+]
28...Rxc2 29.Rxc2 Rc8 30.Rxc8+ Nxc8

(Diagram)

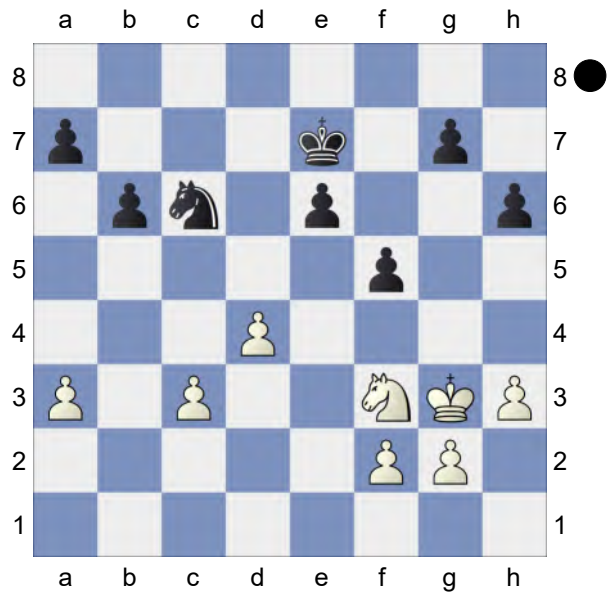


31.Ne4 f6 32.Qc1 Nce7 33.h3 Kf8 34.Nd6 Qa4 35.Kh2 -0.96/25
[35.b4= -0.13/21 keeps the balance.]
35...Qc6∓

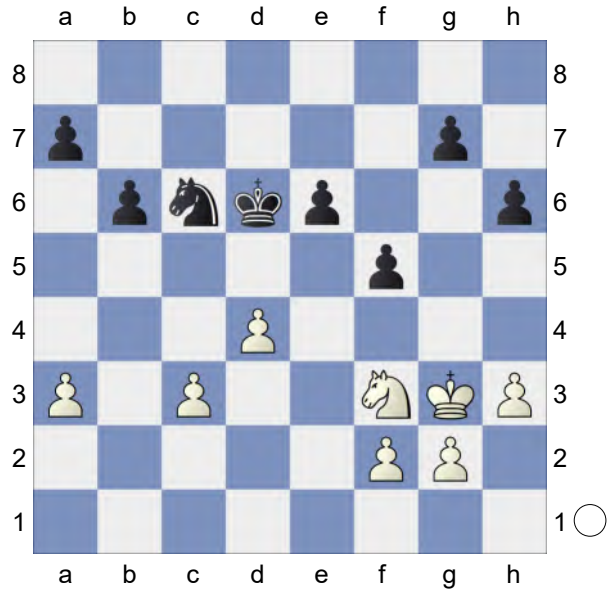


36.Qxc6 Nxc6 Endgame. KNN-KNN **37.Kg3** Prevents Nf4 **37...Ke7 38.Ne4** -1.45/23
[⌓38.Nb5 -1.06/25]
38...f5 39.Nc3 Nxc3 40.bxc3

(Diagram)

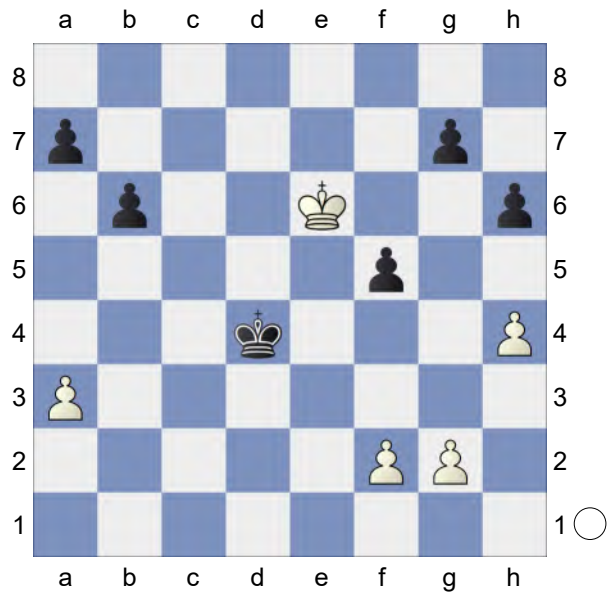


KN-KN **40...Kd6!**

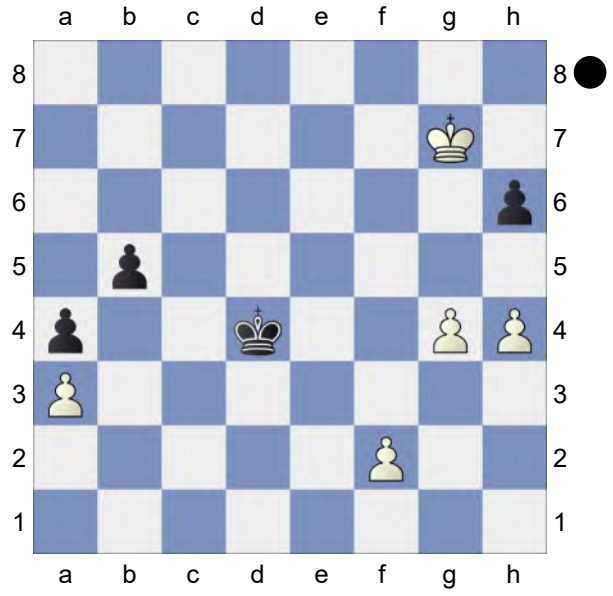


41.Kf4 -1.77/25
[41.Kh4∓ -1.25/22 might work better. g6 42.Nd2]
41...Kd5-+ 42.h4? -4.11/24 This costs White the game.
[42.a4∓ -1.01/23 is more resistant.]
42...Kc4 43.Ne5+? -7.81/25
[43.d5 -3.97/24 Kxd5 *(43...exd5 44.Kxf5 Kxc3 45.Kg6-+)* 44.Nd2]
43...Nxe5! 44.Kxe5 Kxc3 45.Kxe6 Kxd4

(Diagram)

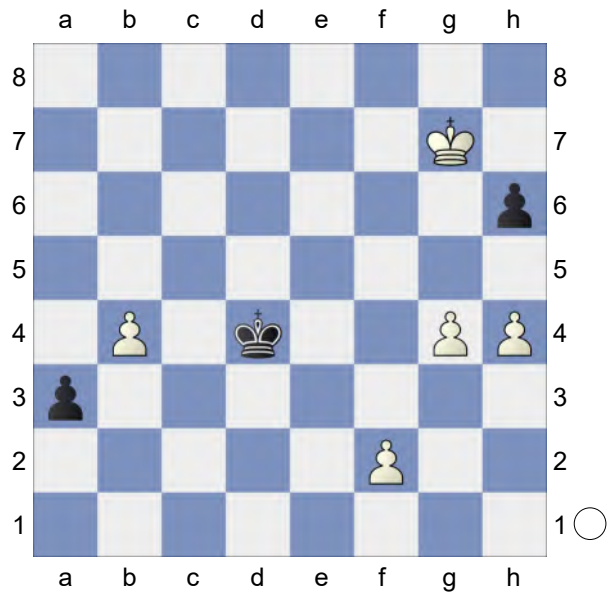


46.Kxf5 KP-KP **46...b5 47.Kg6 a5 48.Kxg7 a4 49.g4**

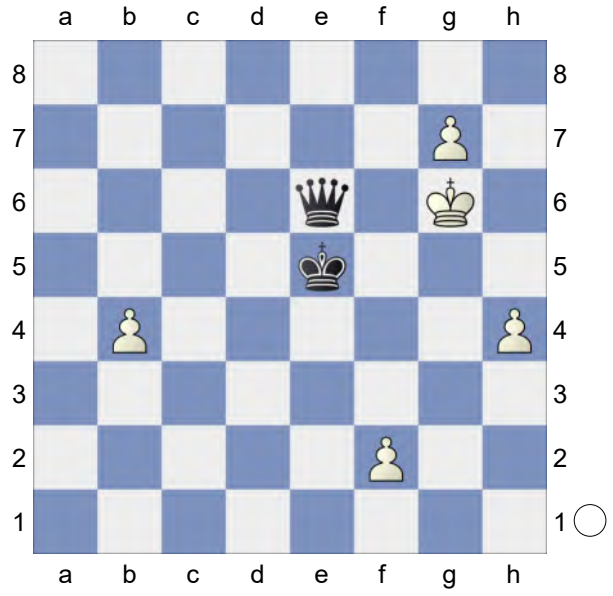


b4! Promotion **50.axb4 a3**

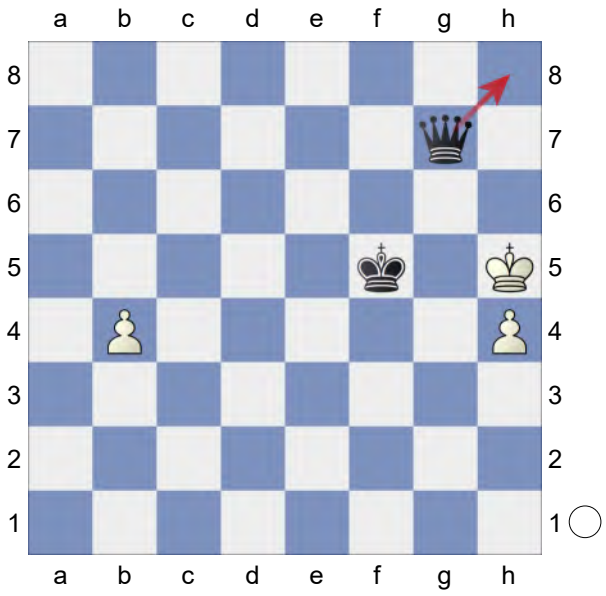
(Diagram)



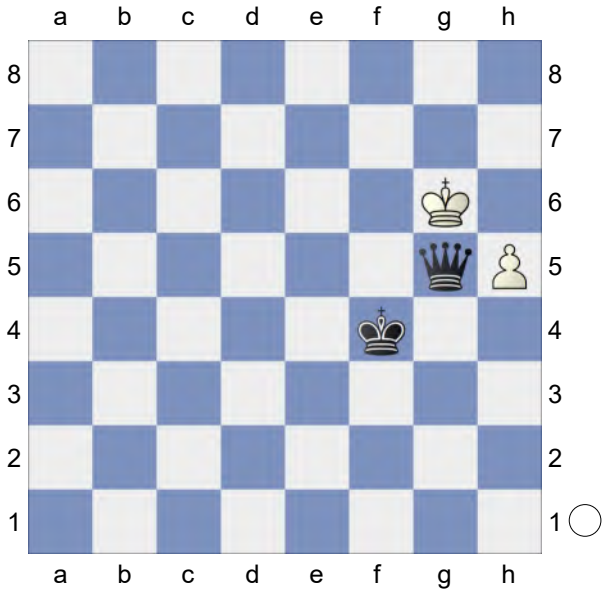
(-> ...a2) **51.Kxh6 a2 52.g5 a1Q**
[52...a1B? 53.g6 Bc3 54.g7+-]
53.g6 Ke5 54.g7 Qa2 55.Kg6 Qe6+
[Not 55...Qxf2 56.g8Q *(56.g8R Qf6+ 57.Kh7 Qxh4+ 58.Kg6 Qg4+ 59.Kf7 Qc4+ 60.Kg7 Ke6 61.Re8+ Kd7 62.Rh8 Qd4+ 63.Kg8 Ke8 64.Rh1 Qd5+ 65.Kg7 Qxh1 66.Kf6 Qd5 67.b5 Qxb5 68.Ke6 Kf8 69.Kf6 Qd5 70.Kg6 Qe5 71.Kh6 Kf7 72.Kh7 Qh5#)* 56...Qg3+ 57.Kh7 Qxh4+ 58.Kg6=]



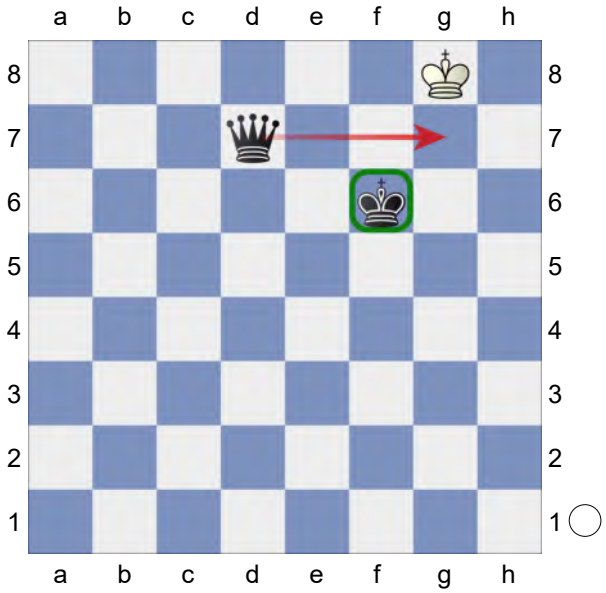
56.Kg5 Qf5+ 57.Kh6 Qf7
[And not 57...Qxf2 58.g8Q Qxh4+ 59.Kg7=]
58.f4+ Kf6 -9.96/5
[⌓58...Kf5 -#4/10 59.h5 Kf6 *(59...Kxf4* leads to mate. *60.Kh7 Kg5 61.h6 Qg6+* Deflection, Double Attack *62.Kh8 Qxh6+ 63.Kg8 Kf6 64.Kf8 Qxg7+ 65.Ke8 Qe7#)* 60.g8Q Qxg8 61.b5 Qh8#]
59.f5 Qxg7+ Black mates. **60.Kh5 Kxf5**



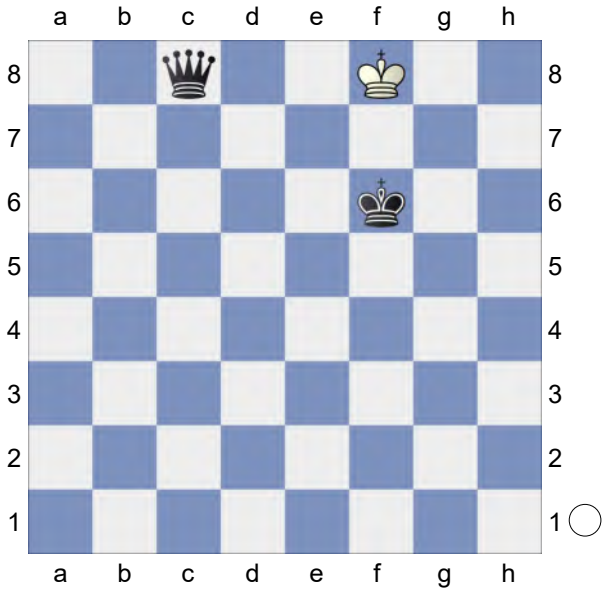
61.b5 Ke4 62.b6 Kf4 63.b7 Qxb7 64.Kg6 Qe7 65.h5 Qg5+



66.Kf7 Qxh5+ 67.Ke7 Qd5 68.Ke8 Ke5 69.Kf8 Qd7 70.Kg8 Kf6



71.Kf8 Qc8#

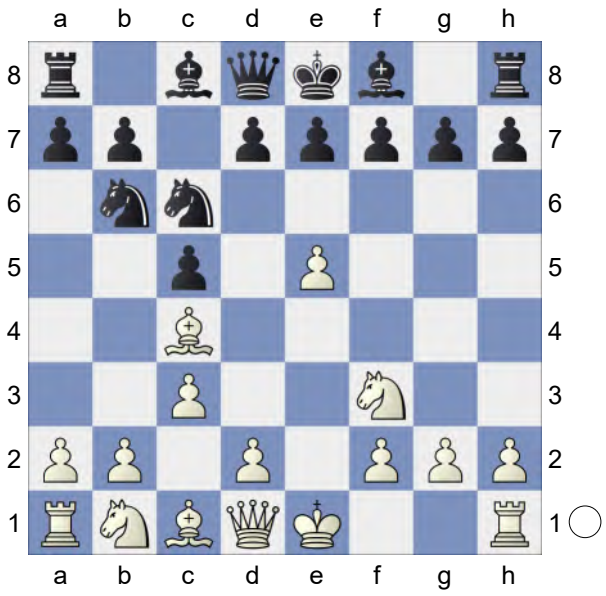


Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/ Black=0.01 (flawless)

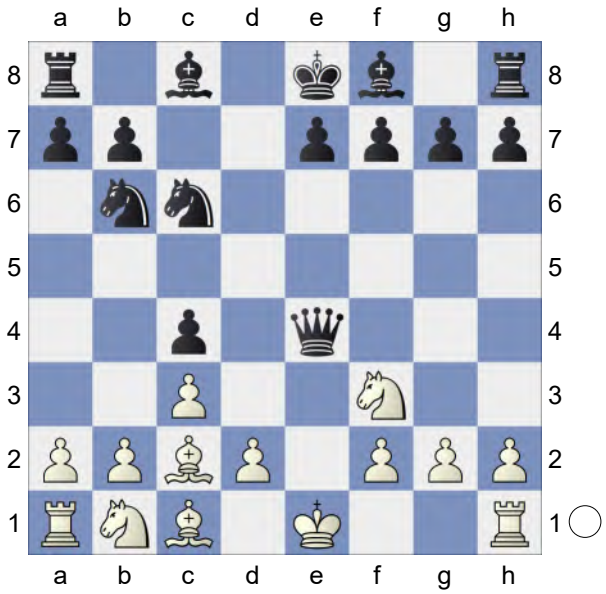
0-1

155 **B22**
□ **Admete** **2411**
■ **Proteussf Turbo** **3099**
Rapid 14.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
I followed this game live and it wasn't a fun experience! **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6**

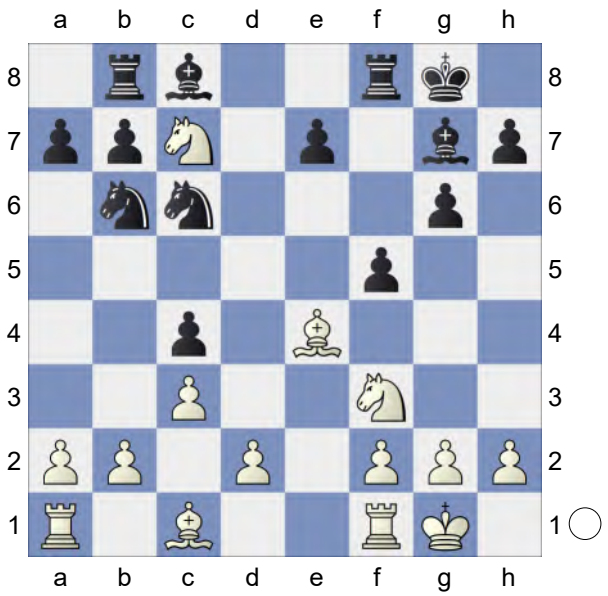


6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Qe2N
[9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Re1 *(11.d4 cxd3 12.Qxd3 Qxd3 13.Bxd3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 0-0-0 15.Be4 e6 16.a4 Nd5 17.Na3 Bd6 18.Nc4* Daniliuk,S (2440)-Fomichenko,E Krasnodar 63/(124) 1994*)* 11...0-0-0 12.Na3 *(12.Be4 e6 13.b3 f5 14.Bc2 g6 15.bxc4 e5 16.d4 exd4 17.Bg5 Bg7 18.Bxd8 Rxd8 19.Qd3 Qf4 20.Qd2 Qxd2 21.Nbxd2 dxc3 22.Nb3 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Nb4 24.Re2 Nxc4 25.Rc1 b5 26.Na1 Bh6* 0-1 (40) Jones,G (2640)-Anand,V (2767) 80th Tata Steel GpA 2018 (10.5)*)* 12...Qf6 13.Be4 Ne5 14.g4 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Qxf3 16.Bxf3 Bg6 17.b3 e6 18.Nxc4 Nxc4 19.bxc4 Bd3 20.a4 Be7 21.a5 Rd7 22.a6 b6 23.Be2 Rhd8 (28) Edney,D-Sutton,A corr 139/(44) 2018]
[9.b3 g6 10.Qe2 cxb3 11.axb3 Bg7 12.h3 0-0 13.0-0 Re8 14.d4 Bd7 15.Rd1 Nd5 16.Be4 Nf6 17.Bc2 b5 18.Ne5 a6 19.Bf4 Nd5 20.Bg3 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Qe6 22.Be4 Bc6 23.Bf3 h5 ½-½ (47) Gutierrez Espinosa,K (1425)-Link,P (1743) Russian Team Ch 2002 (10)]
9...Qe6 10.Qe4 Qxe4+



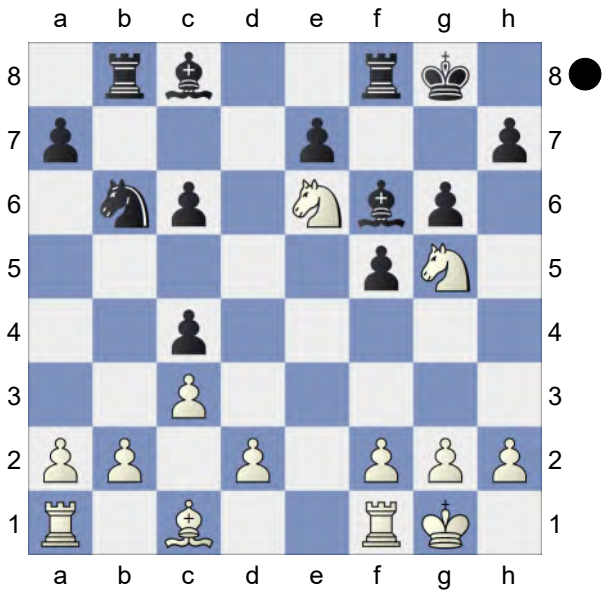
11.Bxe4 The position is equal. **11...g6 12.Na3 Bg7 13.Nb5** Strongly threatening Nc7+. **13...0-0 14.Nc7 Rb8 15.0-0 f5**

(Diagram)



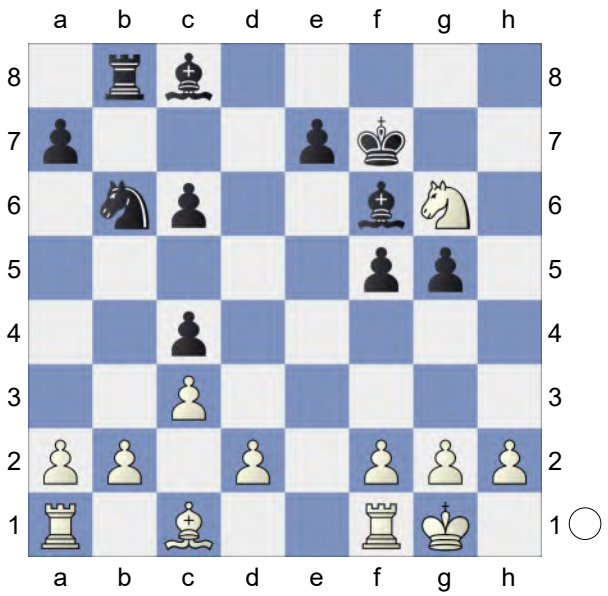
16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Ng5 Bf6 18.Nce6 -1.85/22

[18.f4∓ -1.11/21]



18...h6!-+ 19.Nxf8 hxg5 20.Nxg6 Kf7

(Diagram)



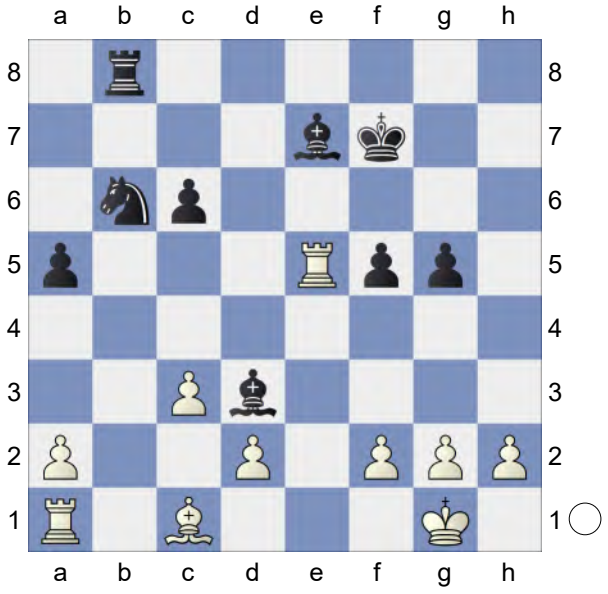
21.Nxe7 Bxe7 22.Re1 -2.07/22

[⌓22.Rd1 -1.64/22]

22...Be6 23.b3 White is weak on the light squares **23...a5**

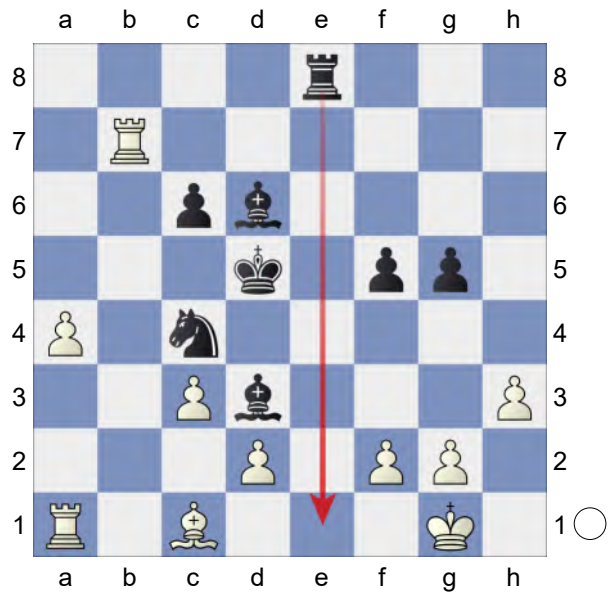
[23...cxb3 24.axb3 Nc8 *(24...Bxb3 25.Rxa7 Be6 26.Ba3±)* 25.Ra6=]

24.bxc4 Bxc4 25.Re5 Bd3

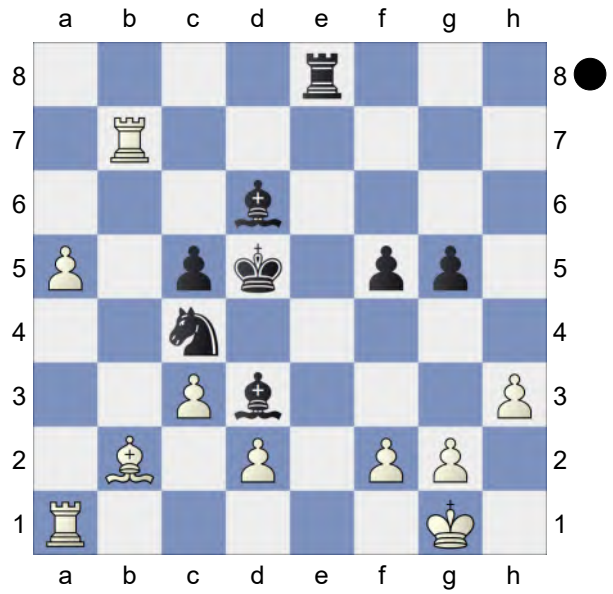


26.Rxa5 Nc4 Against Ba3 **27.Ra7 Ke6** Wards off Rd7 **28.h3 Bd6 29.a4 Re8** Threatens to win with ...Kd5. **30.Rb7 Kd5**

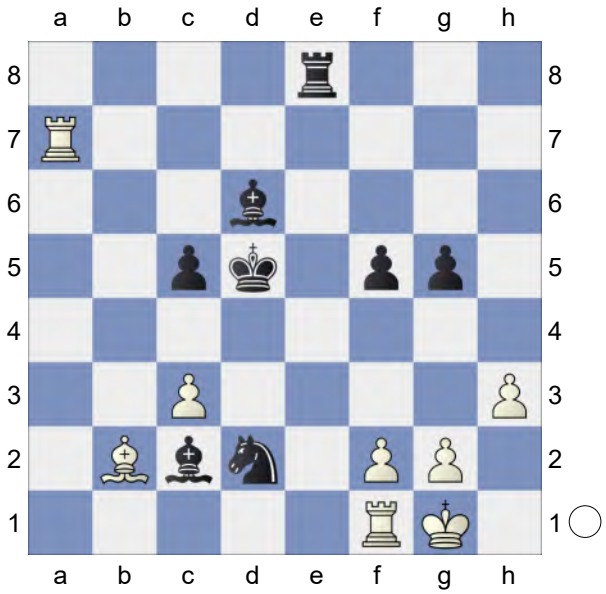
(Diagram)



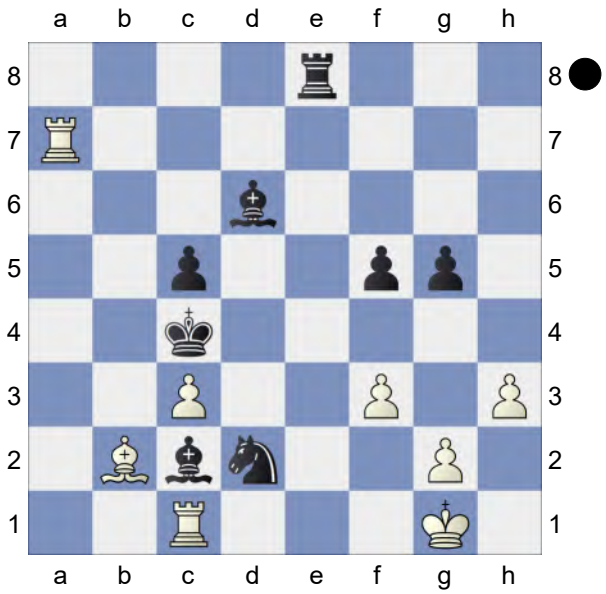
31.Bb2 c5
[31...Nxd2 32.c4+ Nxc4 *(32...Kxc4 33.Rc1+ Kd5 34.Rd1±)* 33.Bc3=]
32.a5



Nxa5 Deflection, Back Rank
[32...Nxd2 33.Rd1 Kc4 34.Rd7= *(34.Rxd2? Re1#; 34.a6 g4=)*]
33.Ra7 -4.55/22
[33.c4+ -3.13/22 was the only defense. Kxc4 *(33...Nxc4? 34.Bc3-+)* 34.Rd7 *(34.Ra4+? Kd5-+)*]
33...Nb3 34.Rd1 Bc2 A strong pair of Bishops. **35.Rf1 Nxd2**

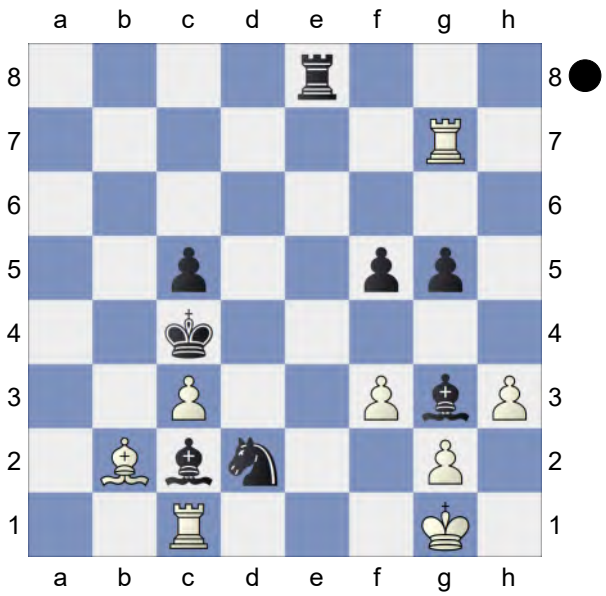


36.Rc1 Kc4 37.f3 -5.58/23
[⌓37.f4 -3.76/21 Be4 38.fxg5]

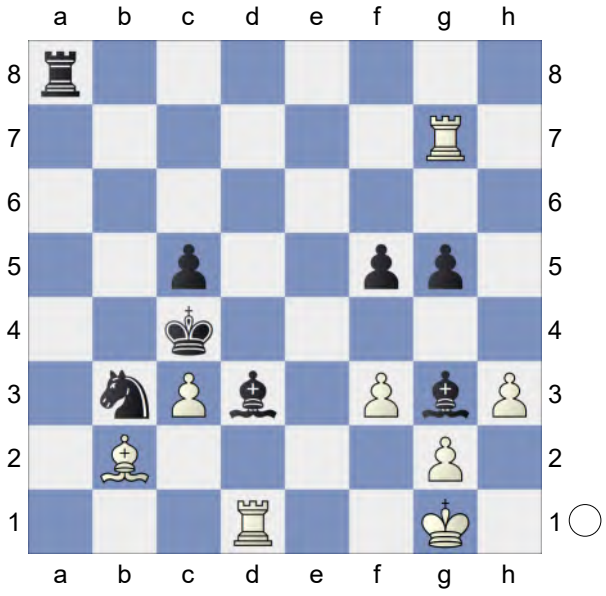


37...Bg3! 38.Rg7
[38.Kh1 Bf4]

(Diagram)

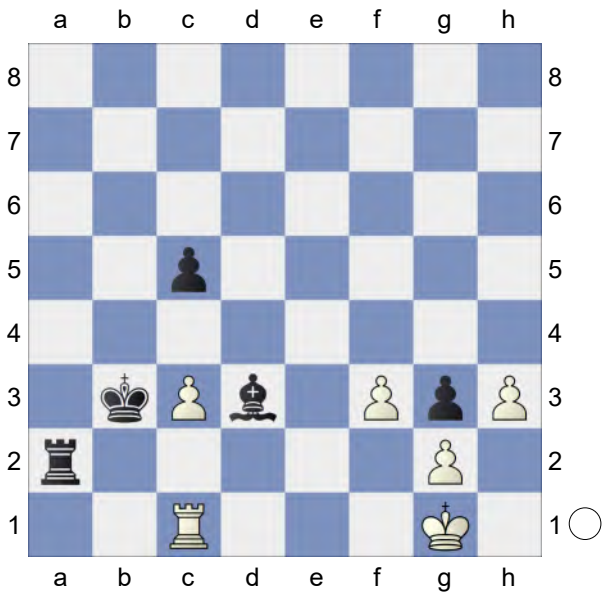


38...Nb3! 39.Rf1 Bd3 40.Rd1 Ra8

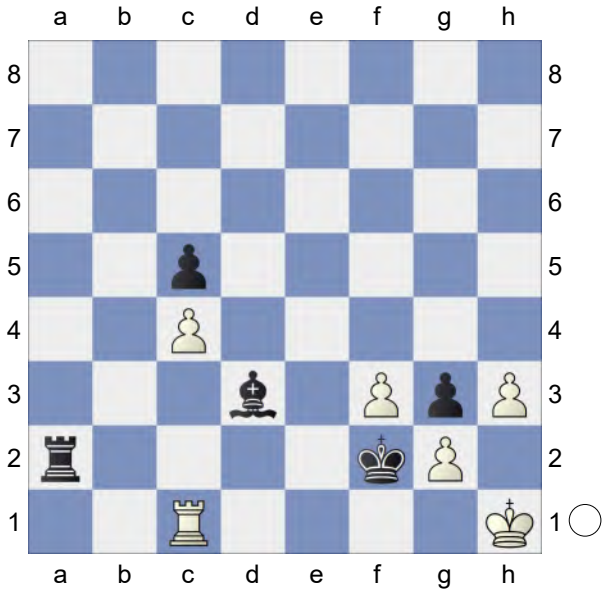


...Ra2 is the strong threat. **41.Rxg5 f4 42.Rxg3 fxg3** Black mates. **43.Re1 Ra2 44.Bc1 Nxc1 45.Rxc1** KRB-KR **45...Kb3**

(Diagram)

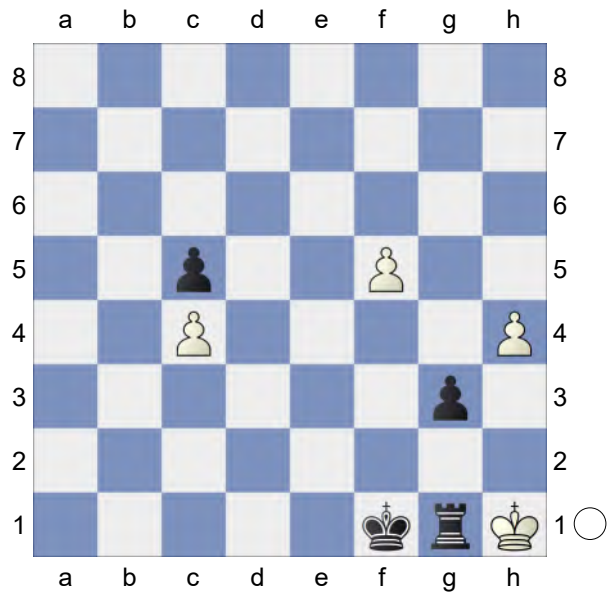


46.c4 Kb2 47.Re1 Kc2 48.Kh1 Kd2 49.Rg1 Ke2 50.Rc1 Kf2



51.h4 Bf1 52.Rxf1+ Kxf1 53.f4 Rxg2 54.f5 Rg1#

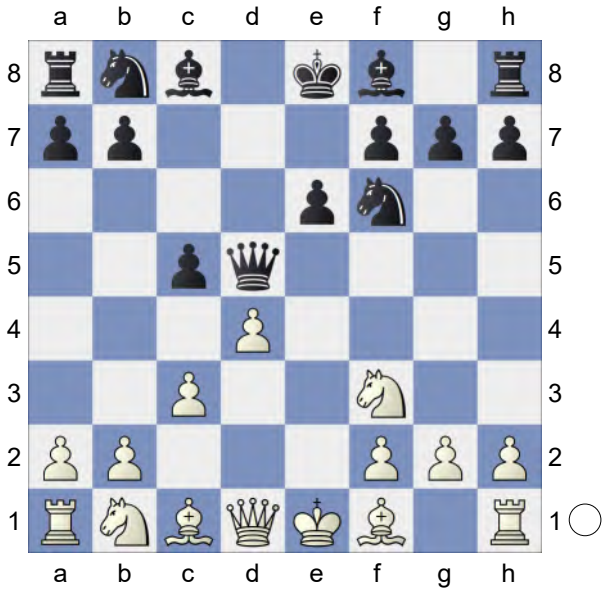
(Diagram)



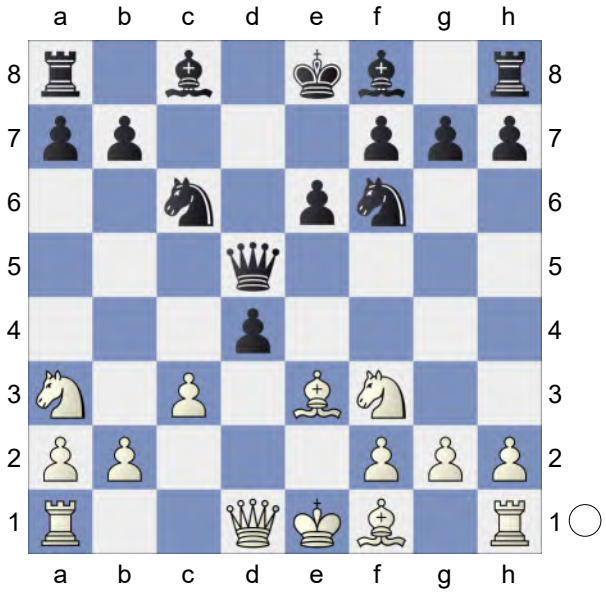
Black took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.04 (flawless)
0-1

156 **B22**
□ **Orozbaev,Eldiar** **2376**
■ **Williams,Justus D** **2361**
FIDE World Rapid Team (12.43) 04.08.24
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6

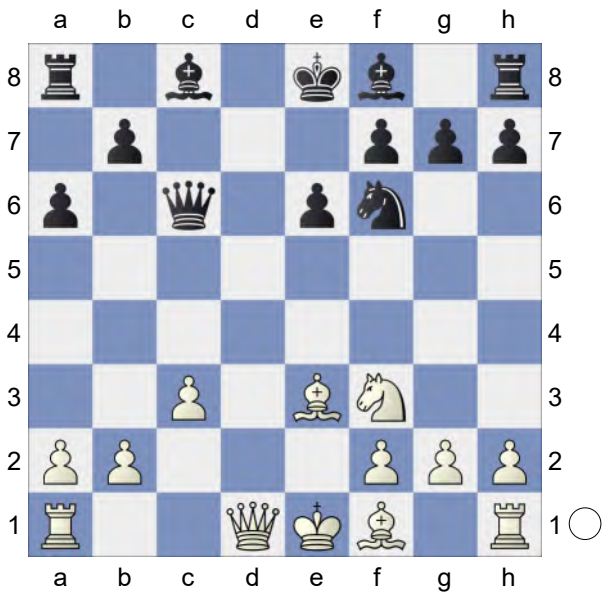


6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 -0.03/19
[7.Nb5± 0.36/18 Qd8 8.dxc5]
7...cxd4=



8.Nb5! **Qd7** Prevents Nc7+is currently scoring better than 8...Qd8.wohl besser als 8...Dd8. **9.Nbxd4 a6** Prevents Bb5. The position is equal.
[9...Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qc2 Qc7 12.Bd3 c5 13.0-0-0 Rb8 14.Nd2 Nd5 15.Nc4 Be7 16.Be4 Nxe3 17.fxe3 g6 18.h4 Ba6 19.Qa4+ Bb5 20.Qa5 Qxa5 21.Nxa5 0-0 22.Nc6 Bxc6 23.Bxc6 Rb6 24.Rd7 ½-½ (32) Nepomniachtchi,I (2779)-Aronian,L (2742) Julius Baer Rapid Div 2 W 2023 (5.3)]
[9...Be7 10.a4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxd4 Kf8 13.g3 b6 14.Bg2 Bb7 15.0-0 Bc5 16.Bxc5+ bxc5 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Ke7 19.Rad1 Rhc8 20.Rd2 Rab8 21.Nc4 Rc7 22.Rfd1 Nd5 23.Re1 ½-½ Hort,M (2276)-Can,I (2414) Jugoslavija (ch) 45/336 1988 (2)]
10.Nxc6N
[10.Bd3 Bd6 *(10...Be7 11.Qe2 b5 12.0-0-0 Bb7 13.Kb1 Nd5 14.Be4 Na5 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 Qe7 17.h4 h6 18.Ngf3 0-0-0 19.g3 Nc4 20.Rhe1 Kb8 21.Bd3 Rc8 22.Ne5 Nxb2 23.Kxb2 Nxc3 24.Nec6+ Bxc6 25.Qe5+* 0-1 (32) Lalitaditaayyanar,B (2688)-Abdullah Al,R (2549) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (8)*)* 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Bd4 4. 2...d5-7. Be3 cxd4 8. Nb5 Qd7 with 9]
10...Qxc6

(Diagram)



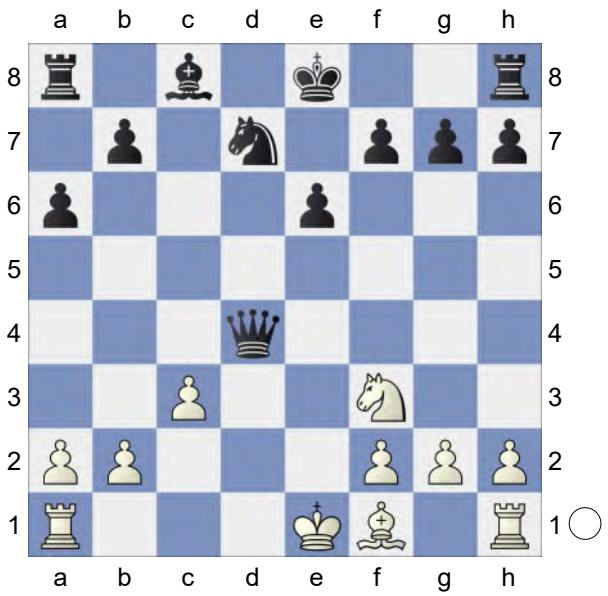
11.Ne5 Qc7 12.Qa4+ Nd7 13.Nf3 Bc5 14.Bxc5

[14.Qg4 is interesting. Bxe3 15.Qxg7 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Qc5+ 17.Ke1]

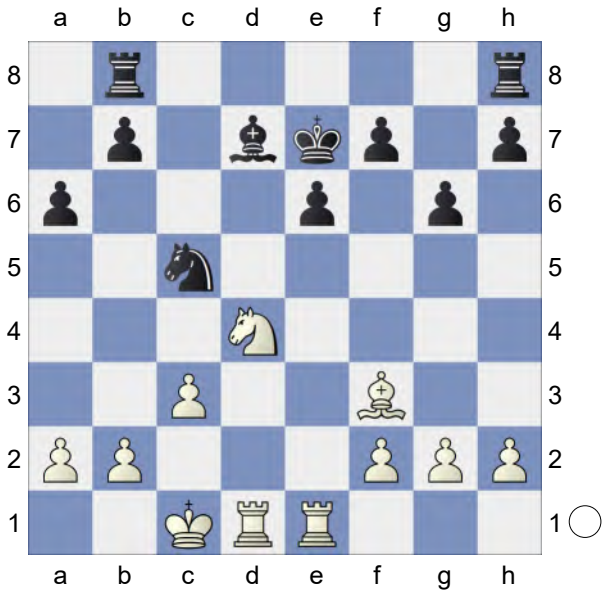
14...Qxc5 15.Qd4N

[Vorgänger: 15.0-0-0 b5 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Qd4 Ra7 18.Be2 Rc7 19.Qxc5 Nxc5 20.Ne1 Bb7 21.f3 Rb8 22.Nd3 Nxd3+ 23.Rxd3 ½-½ Landa,K (2678)-Dambacher,M (2476) NED-chT 0708 2007 (3.2)]

15...Qxd4



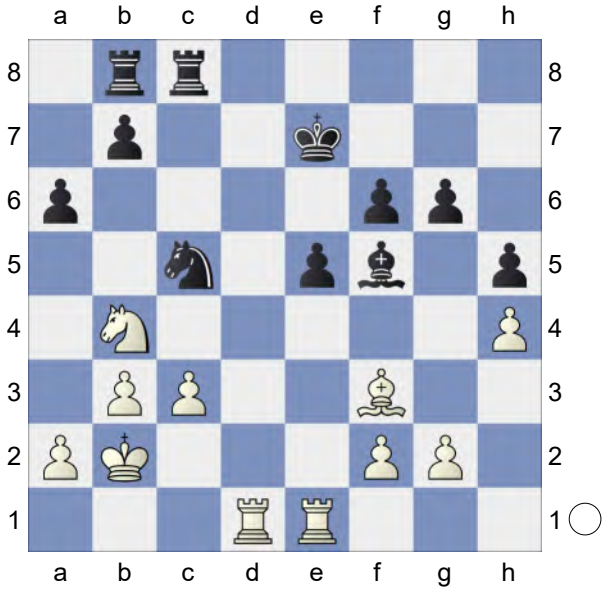
16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.Be2 Bd7 18.0-0-0 Ke7 19.Bf3 Rab8 20.Rhe1 g6



Inhibits Nf5+. **21.b3**

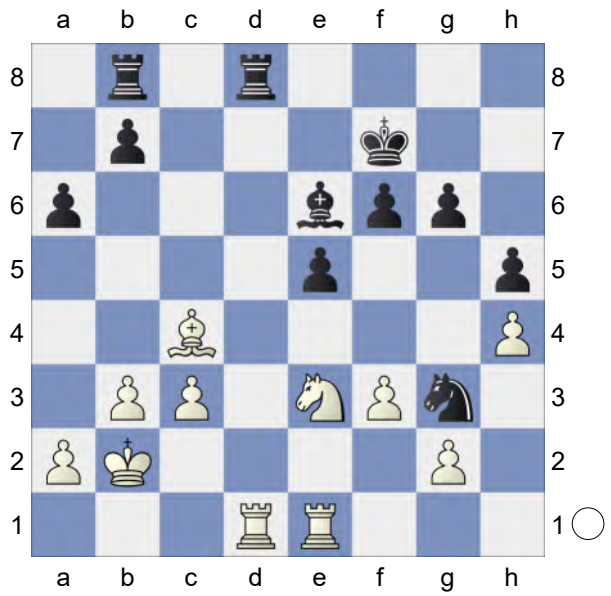
[21.b4!? Na4□ 22.c4=]

21...Rhc8 22.Kb2 f6 23.h4 e5 24.Nc2 Bf5 25.Nb4 Repels Nd3+ **25...h5**

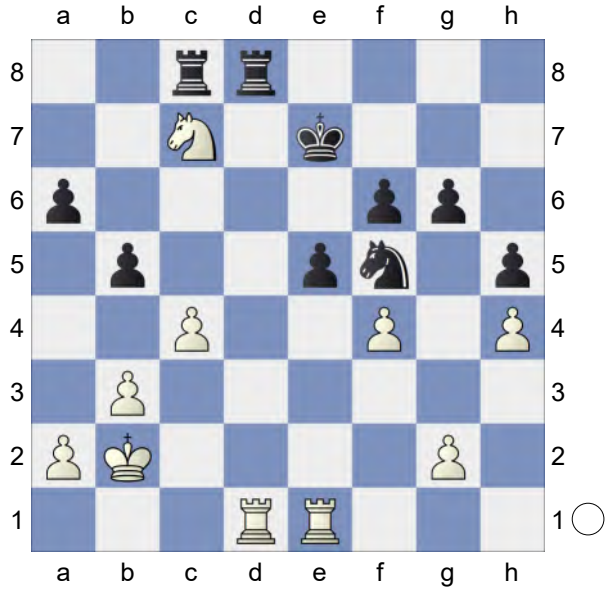


26.Be2 Ne4 27.Nd5+ Kf7! 28.f3 Ng3 29.Ne3 Rd8 30.Bc4+ Be6

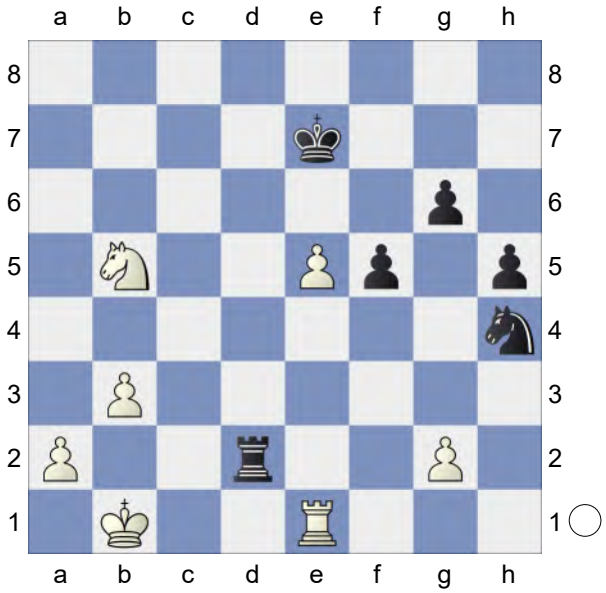
(Diagram)



31.Bxe6+ Kxe6 32.c4 Rbc8
[32...Nf5 simplifies 33.Nxf5 Kxf5 34.Rg1 Rxd1 35.Rxd1 Rg8]
33.Nd5 Nf5 34.f4 b5 35.Nc7+ Double Attack **35...Ke7**

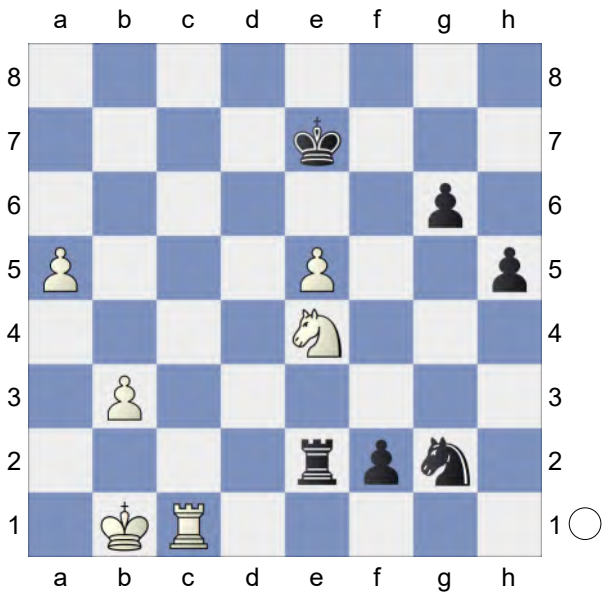


36.Rxd8 Rxd8 37.cxb5 axb5 38.Nxb5= -0.97/19 Endgame. KRN-KRN
[White should try 38.fxe5∓ -0.39/20 fxe5 39.Nxb5 Rd2+ *(39...Kf6 40.a4±)* 40.Ka3]
38...Rd2+∓ 39.Kb1 Nxh4 40.fxe5 f5 0.01/20
[40...Nxg2∓ -1.00/21 41.exf6+ Kxf6 42.Rf1+ Kg5]

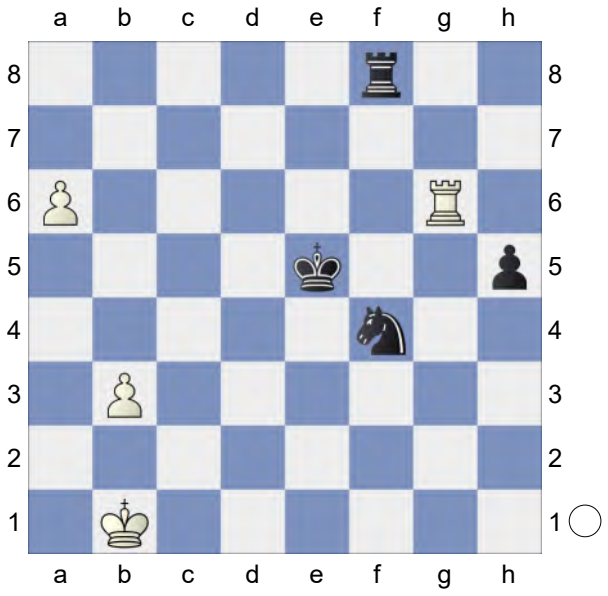


41.a4 Nxg2
[41...Rxg2 42.Nd4 Rg3 43.Nc6+ Ke6 44.a5+-]
42.Rc1 Strongly threatening a5. **42...f4** 0.70/20
[Better is 42...Rd3!= 0.01/19 43.Na7 Nf4 *(43...Rxb3+ 44.Ka2=)*]
43.Nc3? -1.05/22
[43.a5± 0.70/20 was the only good move.]
43...f3 44.a5 f2 -0.48/20 Black has more active pieces.
[Black should play 44...Rd3∓ -0.93/20 aiming for ...Ne3. 45.a6 f2]
45.Ne4!∓ Re2G 0.01/20
[45...Rd3∓ -0.36/22 46.Nxf2 Rxb3+ 47.Ka2 Rb5 48.Rc7+ Kf8]

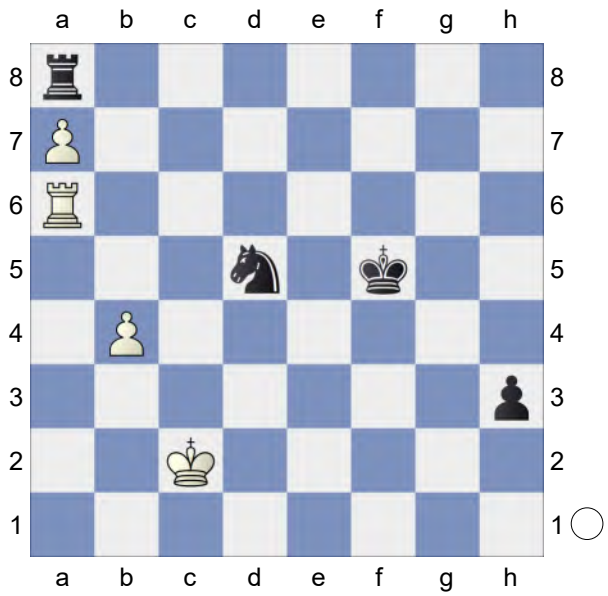
(Diagram)



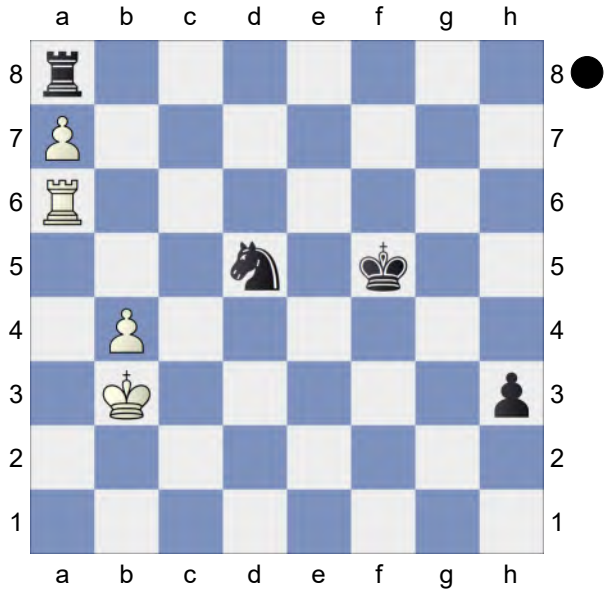
Black is fighting back **46.Nxf2!= Rxf2** KRN-KR **47.a6** -1.11/23
[47.Rc8= 0.01/22]
47...Rf8∓ White must now prevent ...Nf4. **48.Rc7+ Ke6** Hoping for ...Nf4! **49.Rc6+ Kxe5** Threatens to win with ...Nf4. **50.Rxg6 Nf4**



51.Rh6 -2.52/23 Loses the game.
[51.Rg7∓ -1.13/21]
51...Kf5!-+ 52.a7? -5.27/24
[52.Ka2 -2.41/21 Kg5 53.Rc6]
52...Ra8 53.Ra6 h4 54.Kc2 h3 55.b4 Nd5

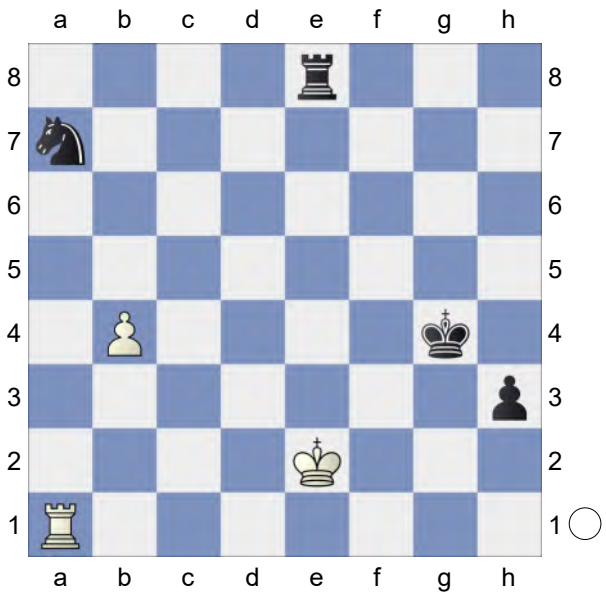


56.Kb3

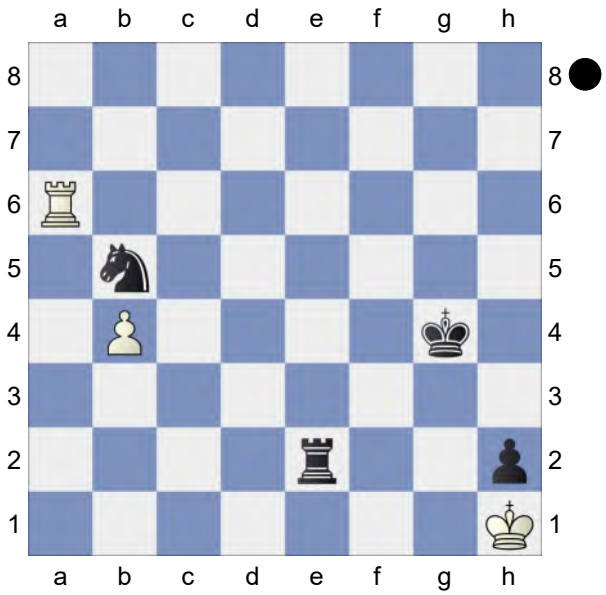


Nc7 57.Ra1 Nb5 58.Kc4 Nxa7 59.Kd3 Kg4 60.Ke2 -8.14/23
[⌓60.Rg1+ -4.84/21 Kh4 61.Rg7]
60...Re8+

(Diagram)

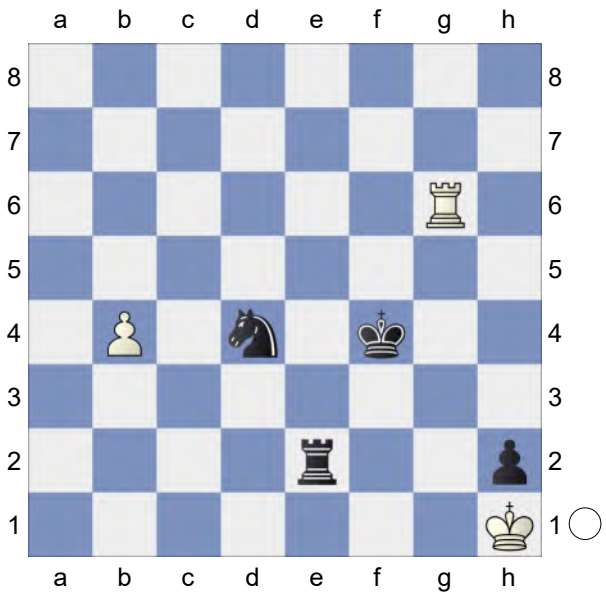


61.Kf2 Nb5 (-> ...h2) **62.Ra6 h2**
Black mates. **63.Kg2 Re2+ 64.Kh1**

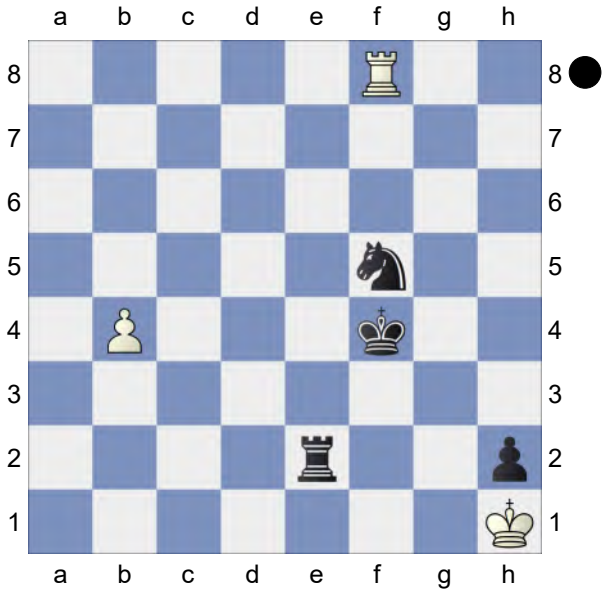


Nd4! 65.Rg6+ Kf4

(Diagram)

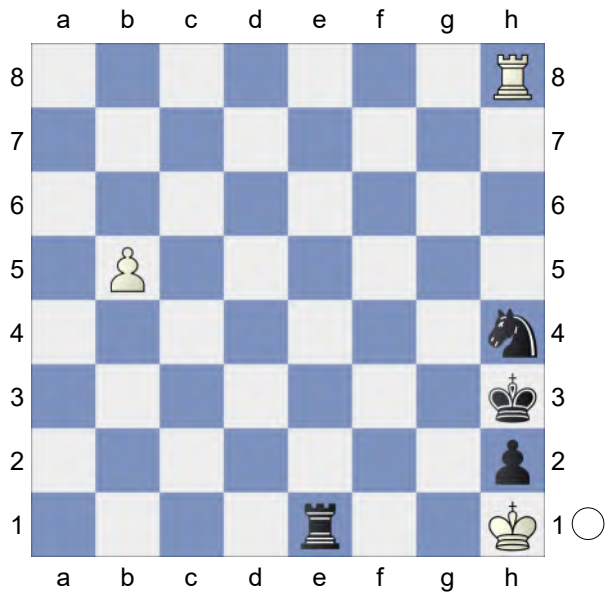


66.Rf6+ Nf5 67.Rf8



Kg3! 68.Rg8+ Kh3 69.Rh8+ Nh4
70.b5 Re1#

(Diagram)



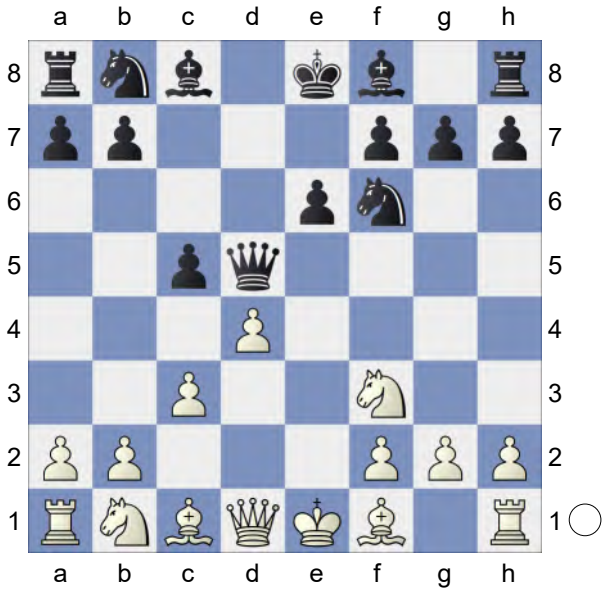
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.23 (precise)

0-1

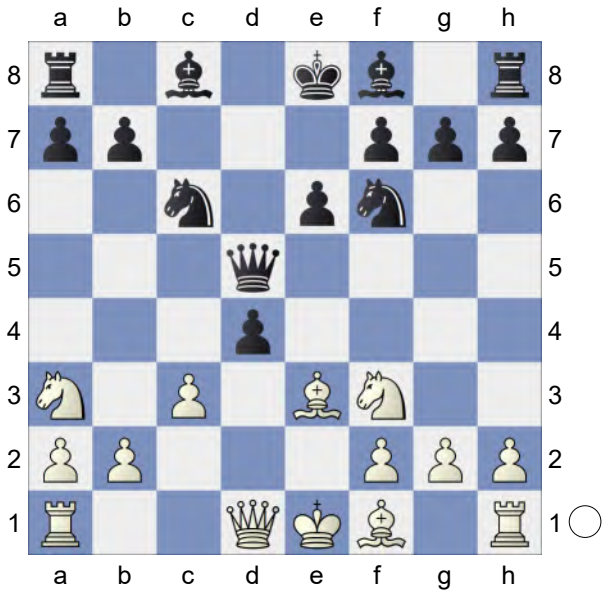
157 **B22**
□ **Orozbaev,Eldiar** **2376**
■ **Tologontegin,Semetey** **2337**
FIDE World Rapid Team (10.43) 04.08.24
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6



6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! **Qd7** Inhibits Nc7+. is more profitable than 8...Qd8 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 8...Dd8.

9.Nbxd4 a6

[9...Nd5 10.Bd2 Bd6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Nd4 Qb6 13.Bb5+ Kf8 14.0-0 Qc7 15.c4 Nf6 16.c5 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Be5 18.Bb4 Nd5 19.Ba3 Kg8 20.Re1 h5 21.Nf5 Bf6 22.Ne3 Bd7 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Bxd7 1-0 (50) 4. ♘c3 ♘d4 39213 (2622)-Pires,A (2715) 137/31 France 2018 (14)]

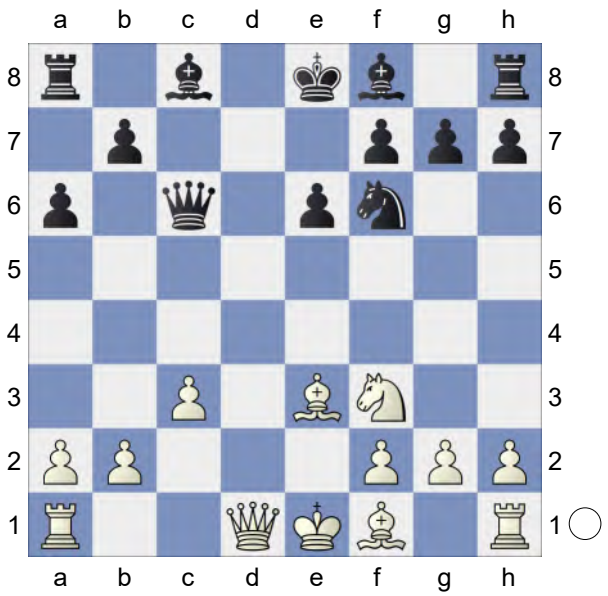
[9...Be7 10.a4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxd4 Kf8 13.g3 b6 14.Bg2 Bb7 15.0-0 Bc5 16.Bxc5+ bxc5 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Ke7 19.Rad1 Rhc8 20.Rd2 Rab8 21.Nc4 Rc7 22.Rfd1 Nd5 23.Re1 ½-½ Heinemann,J (2276)-Baenziger,F (2414) Guenzburg Kortschnoi Memorial 2023 (2)]

10.Nxc6N

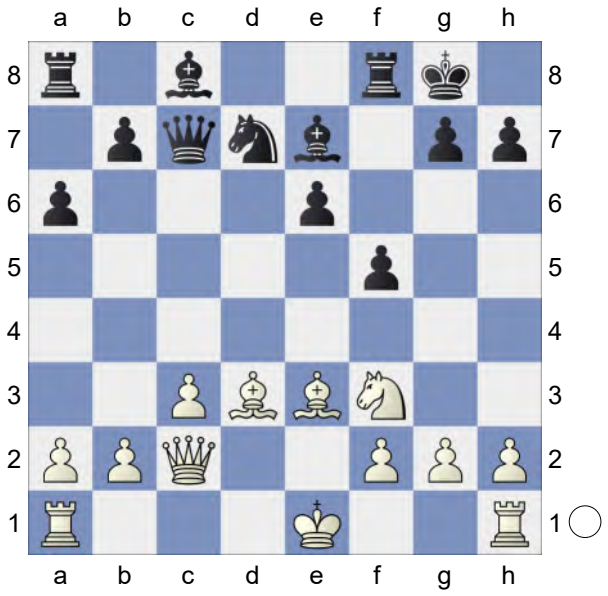
[10.Bd3 Be7 *(10...Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Bd4* 4. 2...d5-7. Be3 cxd4 8. Nb5 Qd7 with 9*)* 11.Qe2 b5 12.0-0-0 Bb7 13.Kb1 Nd5 14.Be4 Na5 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 Qe7 17.h4 h6 18.Ngf3 0-0-0 19.g3 Nc4 20.Rhe1 Kb8 21.Bd3 Rc8 22.Ne5 Nxb2 23.Kxb2 Nxc3 24.Nec6+ Bxc6 0-1 (32) Lalitaditaayyanar,B (2688)-Abdullah Al, R (2549) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (8)]

10...Qxc6

(Diagram)

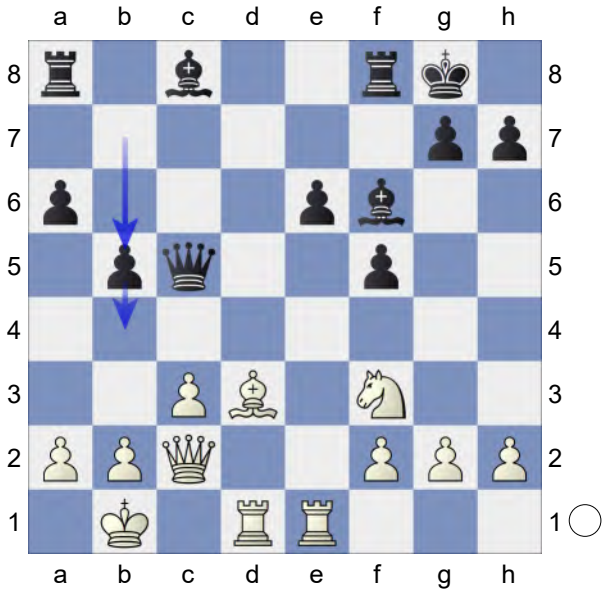


11.Ne5 Qc7 12.Qa4+ Nd7 13.Nf3N
[Vorgänger: 13.f4 Bc5 14.Bxc5 Qxc5 15.0-0-0 b5 16.Qe4 Ra7 17.Bd3 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Rd7 19.Bc2 0-1 Sankalp,G (2402)-Predke,A (2584) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (4)]
13...Be7 14.Bd3 0-0 15.Qc2 f5 0.40/20
[15...h6= 0.01/20]

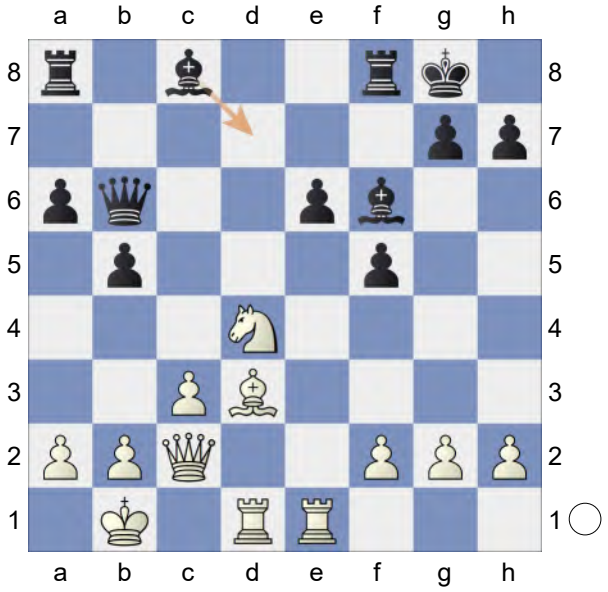


16.0-0-0 0.03/20
[16.0-0± 0.40/20 should be considered.]

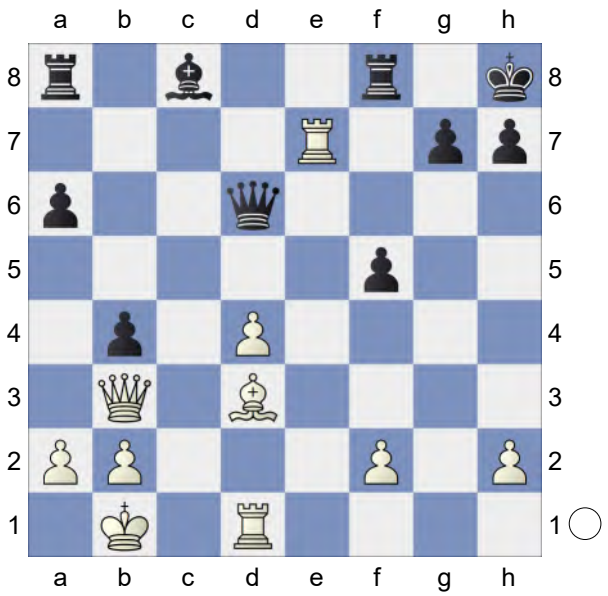
16...Nc5 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 18.Rhe1 Bf6
Against Nd4 **19.Kb1 b5**



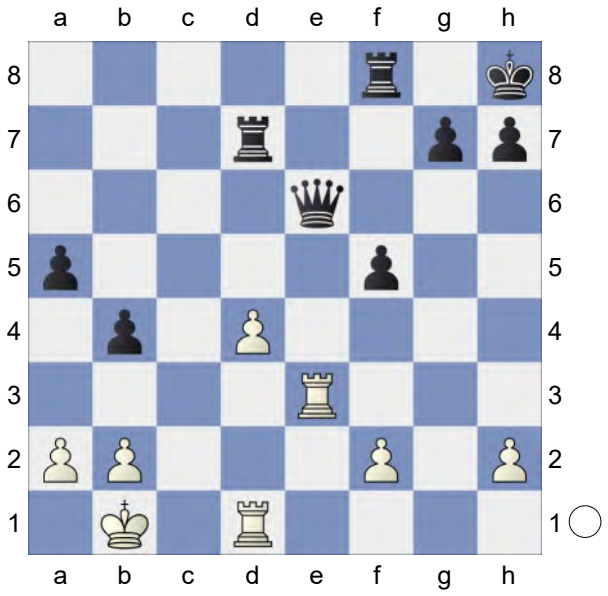
20.Nd4! Qb6
[20...Bxd4 21.cxd4]



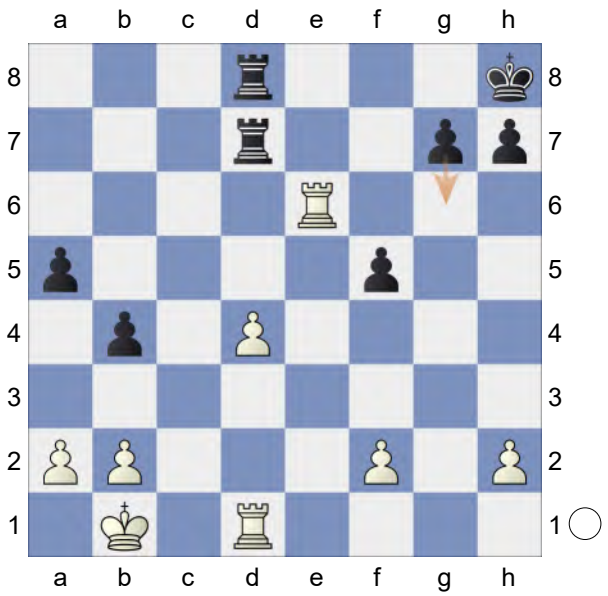
21.g4 b4 White must now prevent ... bxc3. **22.Qb3** White is more active.
[22.gxf5 bxc3 *(22...exf5 23.Bc4+ Kh8 24.Ne6±)* 23.Nxe6 Re8]
22...Bxd4 23.cxd4 Kh8 24.gxf5 exf5 25.Re7 0.09/23
[25.Qc4± 0.55/22]
25...Qd6=



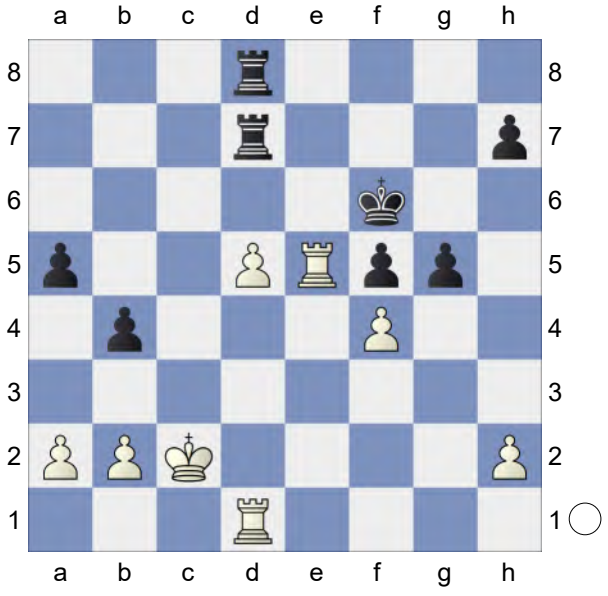
26.Re3 -0.36/20
[26.Rde1= 0.01/23]
26...Bd7 0.02/22
[26...Qxh2 27.Qd5 *(27.Qxb4 Bd7±)* 27...Ra7 *(27...Qxf2? 28.Rf3+-)* 28.Rde1=]
[26...Bb7∓ -0.36/20 might be stronger.]
27.Bc4 a5 28.Be6 Rad8 0.33/22
[28...Bc6= -0.07/22 29.d5 Be8]
29.Bxd7± Rxd7 30.Qe6 Qxe6



31.Rxe6= Endgame. KRR-KRR
31...Rfd8

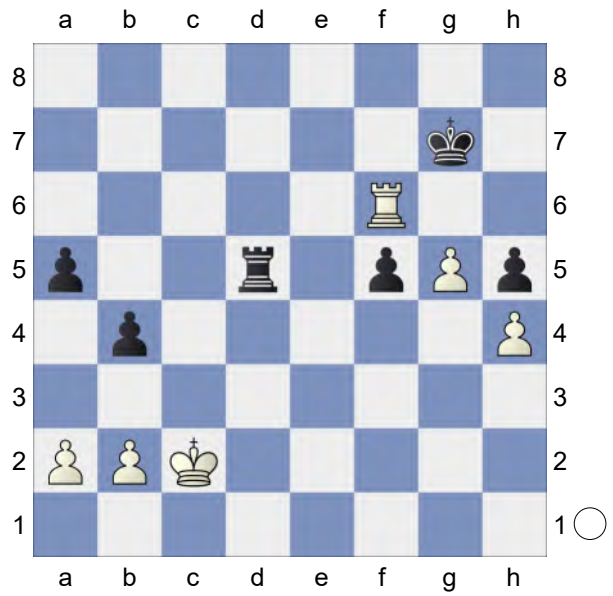


32.d5! -0.45/25 **g6!∓**
[32...Rxd5? loses. 33.Rxd5 Rb8 34.Rxa5+-]
33.Re5 Kg7 34.Kc2 Kf6 35.f4 g5 -0.01/25
[35...Rd6∓ -0.41/23 36.h4 h6]



36.Re6+= The position is equal. **36...Kf7**
37.fxg5 Rf6+ is the strong threat.
37...Rxd5 38.Rf6+ Kg7 39.Rxd5 Rxd5 KR-KR **40.h4 h5**

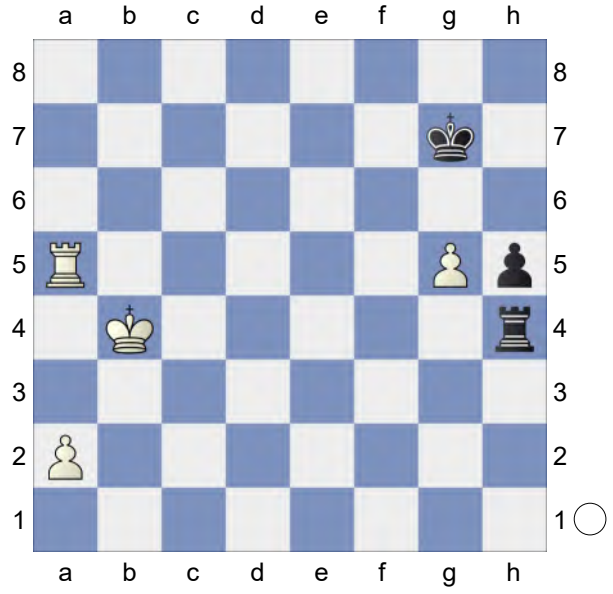
(Diagram)



41.Kb3

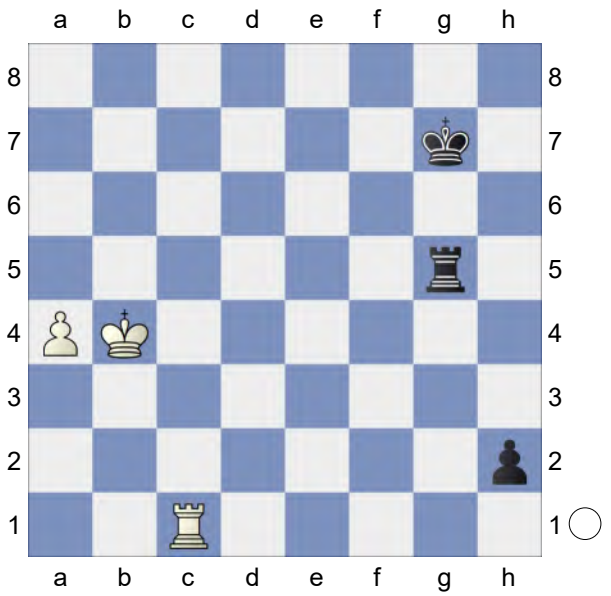
[41.gxh6+? is the wrong capture. Kxf6 42.Kb3 Kg6-+]

41...Rd3+ 42.Kc4 Rd2 43.Rxf5 Rxb2 44.Rxa5 Rh2 45.Kxb4 Rxh4+



46.Kb3 Rg4 47.a4 h4 And now ...h3 would win. **48.Rc5 h3 49.Rc1 Rxg5 50.Kb4 h2**

(Diagram)



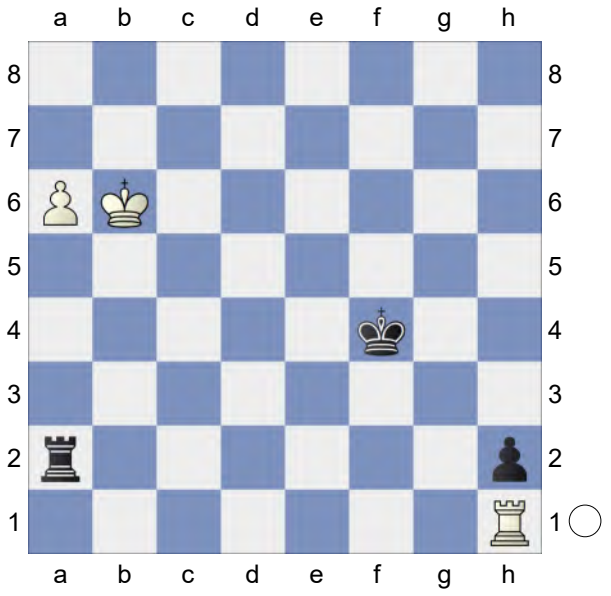
51.Rh1 Rg2 52.a5 Ra2 53.Kb5

[53.Kb3 simplifies Rxa5 54.Rxh2 Rb5+ 55.Kc2]

53...Kf6 54.a6 Ke5

[54...Kg5 simplifies 55.a7 Rxa7 56.Rxh2 Ra8]

55.Kb6 Kf4

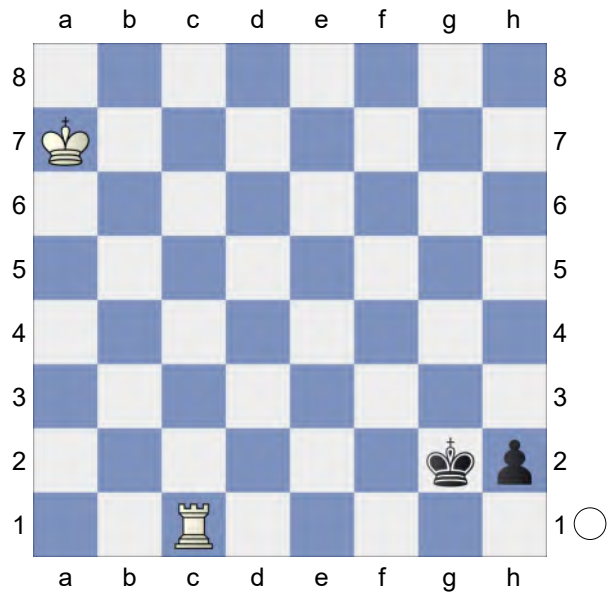


56.a7 Kg3

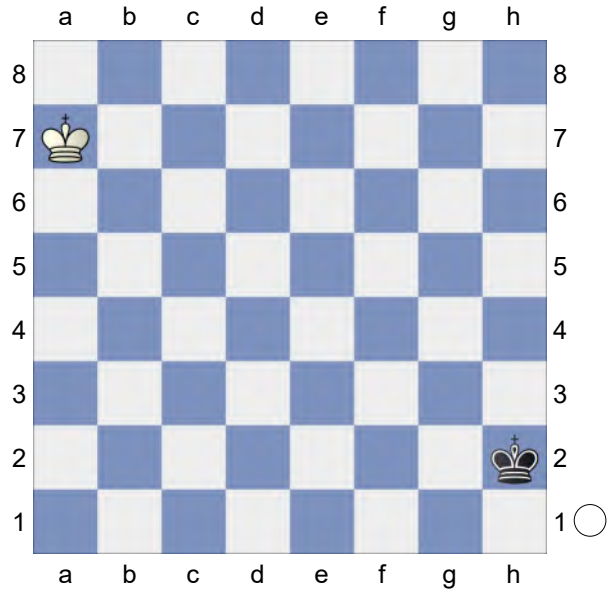
[56...Rxa7 simplifies 57.Rxh2 Ra8 58.Kc5 Kg5]

57.Rc1 Rb2+ 58.Kc7 Ra2 59.Kb8 Rxa7 60.Kxa7 Kg2

(Diagram)



61.Rc2+ Kg1 62.Rxh2 Kxh2

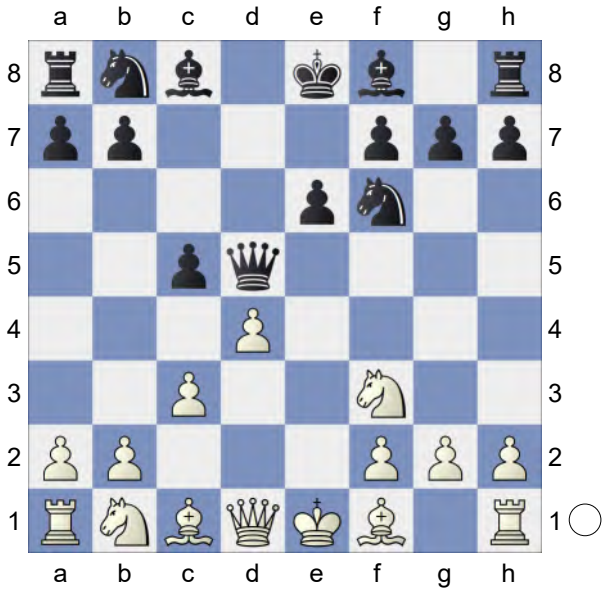


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

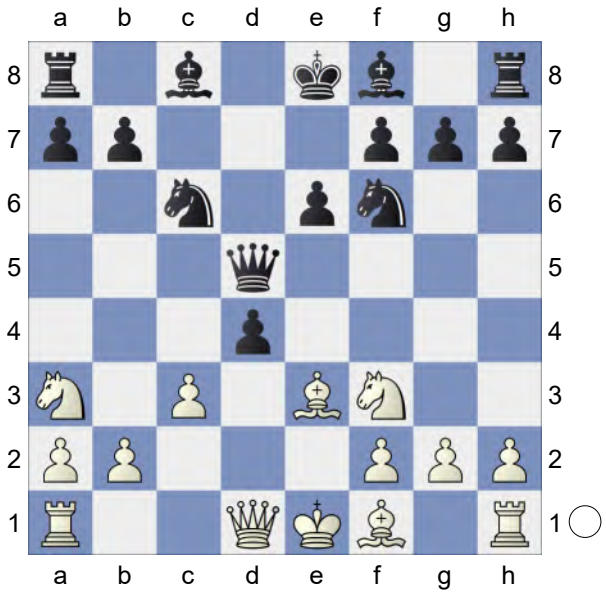
½-½

158 **B22**
□ **Sanket,Chakravarty** **2357**
■ **Fromm,Marius** **2465**
Wch U20 61st (8) 10.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

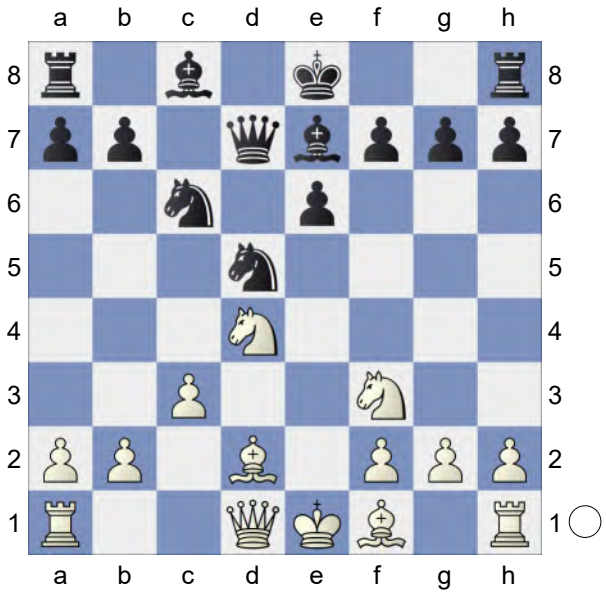
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



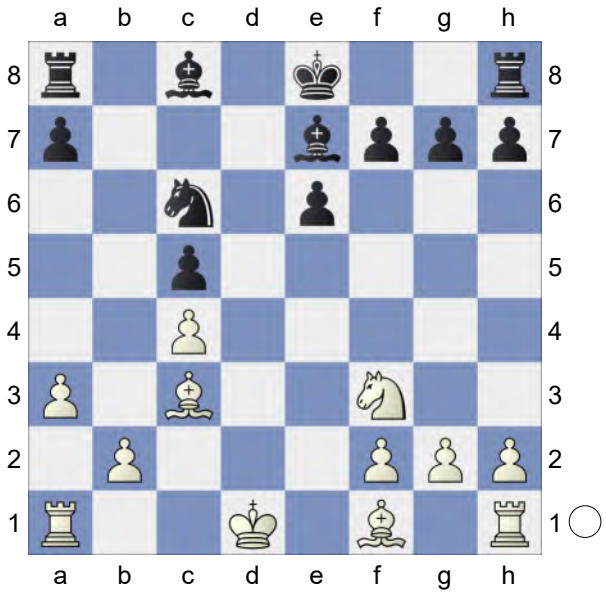
6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! **Qd7** Prevents Nc7+.is currently scoring better than 8...Qd8.wohl besser als 8...Dd8. **9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bd2 Be7**



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.c4 Nb4 13.Bc3 Qxd1+ 14.Kxd1 c5N 0.61/21
[14...Bb7= 0.11/21 15.a3 Rd8+ 16.Nd2 Nd3 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Kc2 Rd7 19.Rhe1 21) 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 N-5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd]
15.a3!±
[15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bc3 Bb7=]
15...Nc6



16.Kc2N 0.08/20
[Vorgänger: 16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.Bc3

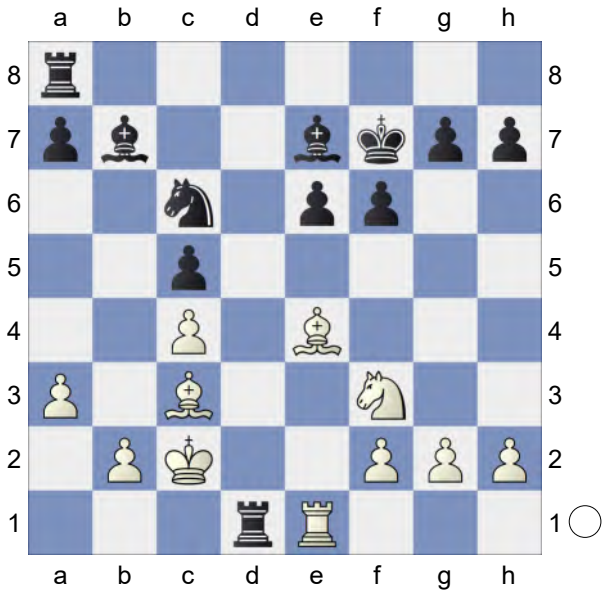
Bb7 18.Kc2 a5 19.Rd1 a4 20.Kb1 Na5 21.Ne5 Bxg2 0.80/25 *(21...f6± 0.34/19 might be stronger. 22.Nd3 e5)* 22.Bxg2± Rxg2 ½-½ Mohammadi,M (2062)-Divya,D (2389) Asian Continental (Women) op 20th 2023 (1)]

[16.Bxg7± 0.52/21 Rg8 17.Bc3]

16...f6= 17.Bd3 Bb7 18.Rhe1 Kf7 19.Be4 Rhd8 Prevents Rad1 **20.Rad1** The position is equal.

[20.Bxh7 f5 21.Re5 Rh8 22.Bxf5 exf5 23.Rxf5+ Kg8-+]

20...Rxd1

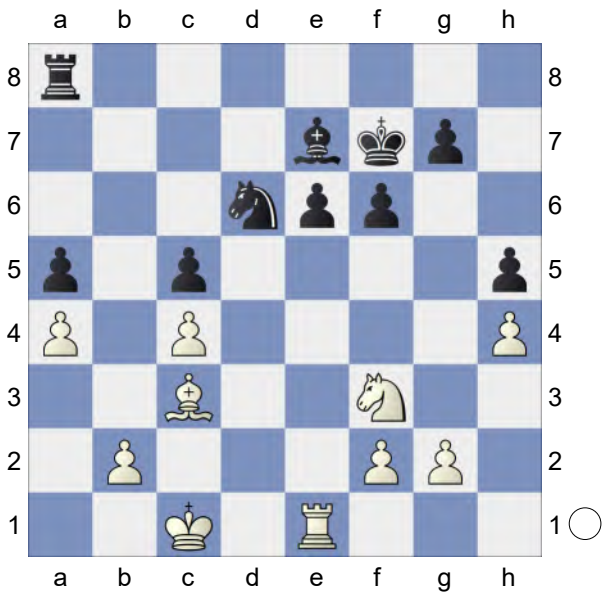


21.Kxd1

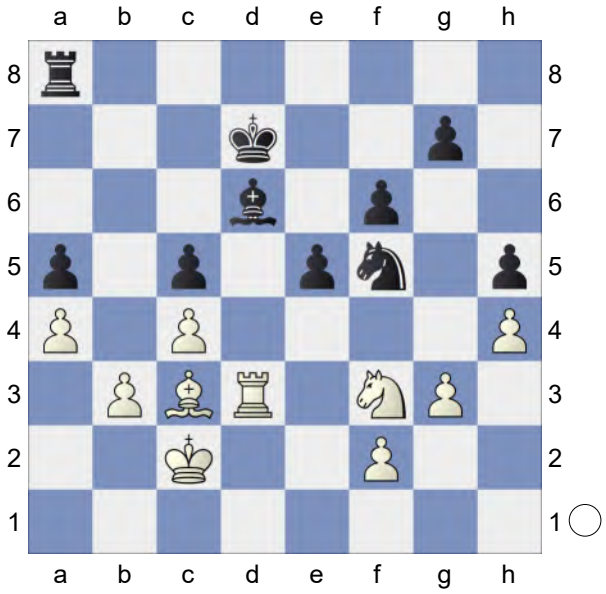
[21.Rxd1? perishes. Nb4+ 22.axb4 Bxe4+ 23.Kb3 cxb4-+]

21...h5 22.h4 a5 23.Kc1 Nd8 24.Bxb7 Nxb7 25.a4 Nd6

(Diagram)

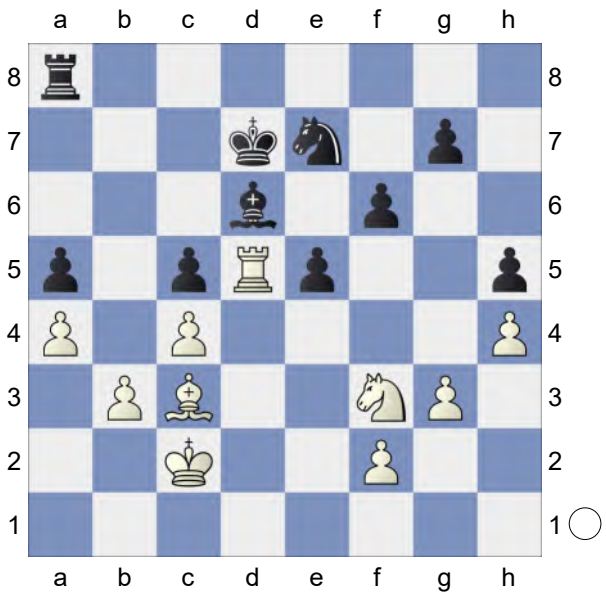


26.b3 Nf5 27.Rd1 Bd6 28.Kc2 Ke7 29.Rd3 Kd7 30.g3 e5



...e4 is the strong threat. **31.Rd5 Ne7 32.Rd1 Nc6 33.Rd5 Ne7 34.Rd1 Nc6 35.Rd5! Ne7**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

159 **B22**
□ **Gupta,Abhijeet** **2608**
■ **Puranik,Abhimanyu Sameer** **2597**
IND-chT 40th (5.1) 10.02.2020
[Gupta,Abhijeet]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

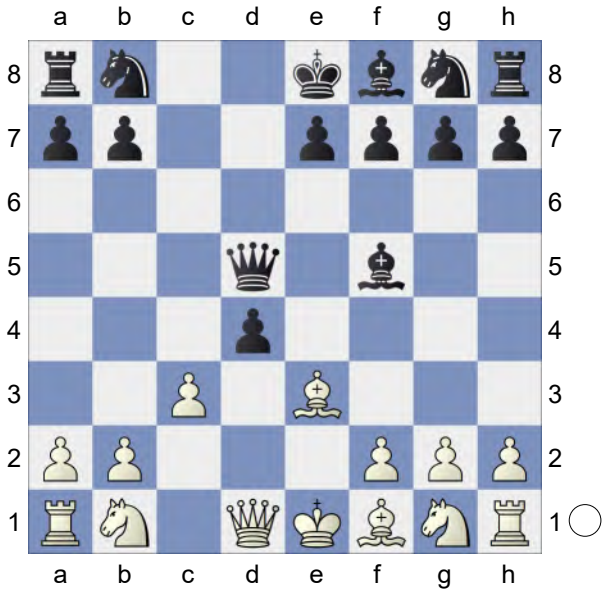
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Bf5 5.Be3 I myself have been playing Gruenfeld all my life and when people start asking you some questions in a particular line where you don't have a definite answer, it's better to ask the same question with the colour reversed :)

[5.Nf3 e6 6.Be3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Be4 8.Nd2 Nf6 9.Bc4 Qd7 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bb5 Nc6 12.Qf3 f5 13.g4 g6 14.0-0-0 Bd6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Bd3 Nf6 17.gxf5 gxf5 18.Bd4 Rf8 19.Rhe1 0-0-0 1-0 (44) Stoyko,S (2411)-Rokitta,U (1862) La 42/102 Havana 1986 (2.7)]

5...cxd4N

[5...Nc6 And Black threatens ...Ke6 with the idea of either ...b5 or ...Rxd7. 6.Na3 Is just losing because of *(6.dxc5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Nf6 8.Nf3 Nd5 9.Bb5 e6 10.Ke2 Nxe3 11.fxe3 Bxc5 12.Nbd2 0-0 13.Nb3 Bb6 14.Nbd4 Nxd4+ 15.exd4 Bc7 16.Bd3 Bxd3+ 17.Kxd3 h6 18.Rhe1 Rad8 19.Kc2 Rd7 20.Rad1 Rfd8* ½-½ (55) Exd5 (2038)-Heimsoth,S (1866) Beijing 79/(253) 2000 (6) *)*]

[5...e6 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Qd7 8.Qxd4 Nc6 9.Qa4 a6 10.Nf3 Rd8 11.Ne5 axb5 12.Bxb5 Nxe5 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Bb6 Rc8 15.0-0-0 Ngf6 16.Rhe1 Be7 17.Re5 h6 18.h3 h5 19.f4 h4 20.Ra5 1-0 (21) Vajda,L (2617)-Gagarin,V (2329) 2nd Grand Europe Open 2013 (5.28)]



6.cxd4

[6.Qxd4! Nf6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 0-0-0 *(9...e5)* 10.Na3 e5 11.Nc4 e4 *(11...f6)* 12.Nfe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Be6 14.Nc4+- Be7 15.g3 f5 16.Ne3+- Bc5?! 17.Bc4 Rhe8 is also a solid possibility, however, it creates more drawing chances as now Black has a target on d7. 18.Rd1!? with the idea of ...a5 followed by ...Ra7. Nxe3 19.Bxe6+ Rxe6]

6...Bxb1 7.Rxb1

[7.Qa4+= Nc6! was better. 8.Rxb1 e5

A) 9.Ne2 exd4 10.Rd1 Bb4+ 11.Nc3!

A1) 11...0-0-0 12.Qxb4!+- Nxb4?? 13.Nxd5 Rxd5 14.Bf4 -0.58/20 *(14.Rc1+= -0.21/20 Kd7 15.Bf4)* 14...Nf6∓ Threatens to win with ...Re8+. 15.Rc1+= Nc6 -0.01/19 is also winning. *(15...Kd8∓ -0.70/21 16.f3 Re8+ 17.Kd2*

Re7) 16.Ba6!= Re8+ 17.Kd1 bxa6 18.Rxc6+ Kd8 19.Rxa6;

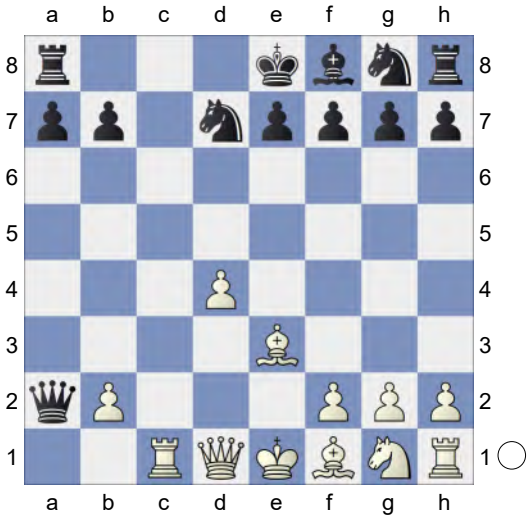
A2) 11...dxc3 12.Rxd5 cxb2+ 13.Qxb4! Nxb4 14.Bb5+ Kf8 15.Rd1 -1.21/21 *(15.Bc5+∓ -0.38/23 Ne7 16.Rd1 Nxa2 17.0-0)* 15...Nc2+∓ 16.Ke2 Nxe3! 17.Kxe3 Nf6 Repels Rd7;

B) 9.a3 Repels Bb4+ 9...exd4 10.Rd1!? 0-0-0 11.Nf3 Bc5 ...Qe6 is the strong threat. 12.Bb5 Qe6 *(12...Nge7* 0.20/19 12...Qe6 -0.37 *13.0-0)* 13.Bxc6 dxe3 Beautiful position - the elimination of counterplay is now complete. Now it's just a matter of putting Black in a zugzwang, which should be fairly easy as Black has 0 counterplay. 14.Bxb7+! Kc7! 15.Qf4+ -0.67/22 *(15.Rc1!= -0.28/22 exf2+ 16.Kf1 Kxb7 17.Rxc5)* 15...Bd6 *(15...Rd6!? 16.Bd5 exf2+ 17.Kf1 Qe3 18.Qxe3 Bxe3∓)* 16.Qg5 Nf6 17.Rc1+ Kb8! *(17...Kxb7* 0.01/20 17...Kb8 -0.62 *18.Qb5+ Ka8* And now the final maneuver: *19.Qc6+ Kb8 20.Qb5+)* 18.Qb5 -1.80/23 *(18.Nd4∓* -0.75/19 *Bb4+ 19.axb4 exf2+ 20.Kxf2 Ng4+ 21.Kf1 Rxd4 22.Bf3)* 18...exf2+-+ 19.Kf1 *(19.Kxf2 Ng4+ 20.Kf1 Bc7)* 19...Bc7!]

7...e5 0.64/20

[7...Qxa2 0.97/22 7...e6 0.44 8.Rc1 Nd7

(Diagram)



9.Bc4! Dodges e6 Qa5+ *(9...Qxb2 10.Nf3)* 10.Bd2 Qb6+- 11.Nf3! And now Ne5 would win. e6 12.0-0 Strongly threatening d5. Ngf6 13.Qa4 Perhaps now Black can try Rb6 which gives some counterplay. Be7 1.51/22 *(13...Qd6!± 0.70/20)* 14.Ne5 1.14/20 *(⌓14.d5* 1.51/22 *Kf8 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Qa1)*]

[7...Nf6 8.Ne2! Immediately seizing activity, and of course - counterplay. e6 *(8...Qxa2=* 1.30/19 8...e6 0.40 This position should be a draw, although White does have the liberty to try and annoy Black to the fullest. *9.Nc3?* simply gives away the advantage after *Qa5 10.Qb3)* 9.Nc3! Qd7 10.Bc4 Nc6 11.0-0 Rd8 12.Qe2 aiming for d5! Be7 13.Rbd1 Nd5!]

[7...e6= 0.19/22]

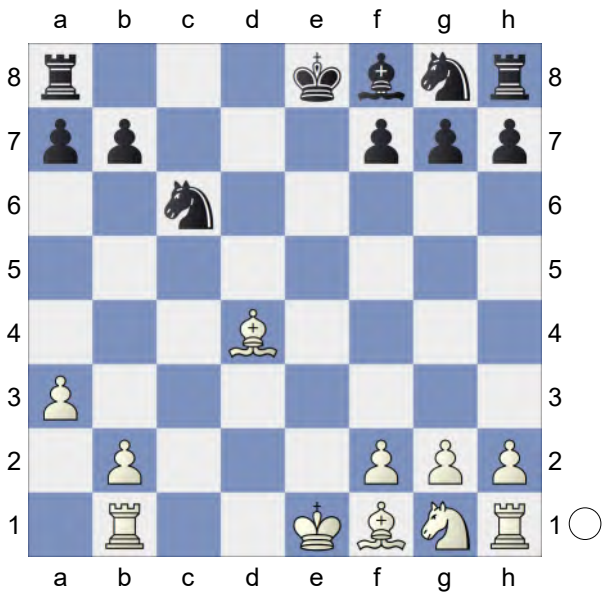
8.a3± White is slightly better. **8...exd4** **9.Qxd4** 0.42/21

[9.Nf3]

[9.Nf3± 0.86/22]

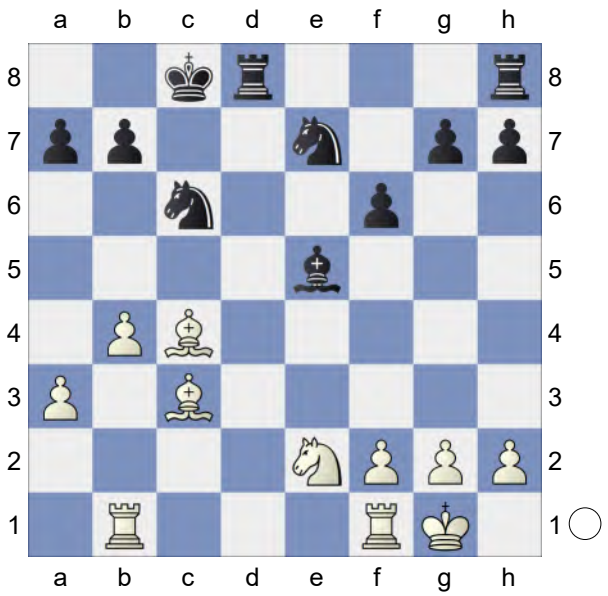
9...Qxd4 This approach is completely new but after having analysed it doesn't seems to be so bad. **10.Bxd4 Nc6**

(Diagram)



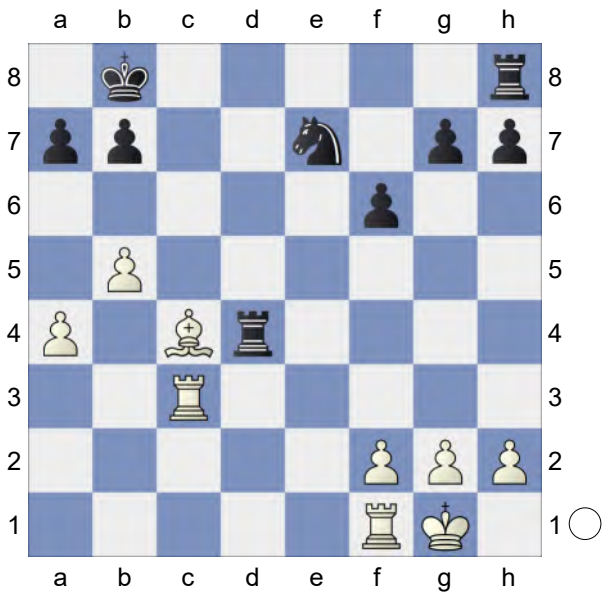
11.Bc3 A strong pair of Bishops.
11...0-0-0
[11...Nf6 12.Bxf6 gxf6!! Eliminating counterplay once again! Not letting black play Rb6 13.Nf3 Bh6]
12.Bc4 Here I felt if I can get h5-h6 in then I should be close to winning but hey nothing comes easy in life! **12...f6**
13.Ne2! Playing against Nc6 **13...Bd6**
14.0-0 Nge7
[14...Be5 followed by ...Rxd7 and Black should hold. 15.Ng3! Simply kills Black as now he will be a move late. Bxc3 If Black does not push this, White can march his king to e4-d5-d6 and would be completely winning. 16.bxc3 h5]
15.b4 Be5?!

(Diagram)

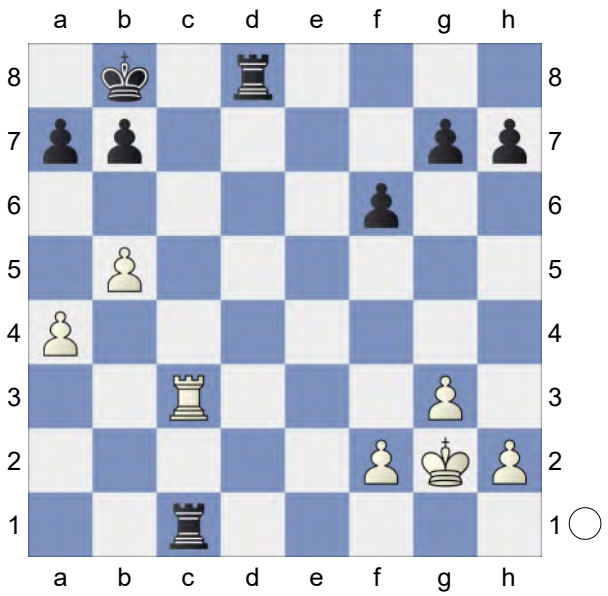


This gives me a free hand now **16.b5**
Nd4 17.Nxd4 Again not letting Black's queen go back to e7.
[17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Nf4 g5+- 19.Ne6! Hoping for Rbd1!would have been enough for equality. Rd6 20.Rfe1 0.62/19 *(*Better is *20.Rbd1±* 0.99/20 *Be5 21.a4)* 20...Ng6]
17...Bxd4 18.Rbc1 0.52/20
[White should try 18.Rfe1± 0.93/18 Ng6 19.Bb4]
18...Bxc3 Here instead of using simple prophylactic moves to deal with simple threats, I managed to find an idea to tie Black down and eliminate his counterplay in the long-term. White is a pawn down, but that is compensated by Black's undeveloped pieces which curently are a problem, to say the least. Therefore, White has a temporarily better position until Black gets ...Bb7.
19.Rxc3 Kb8 20.a4! Rd4

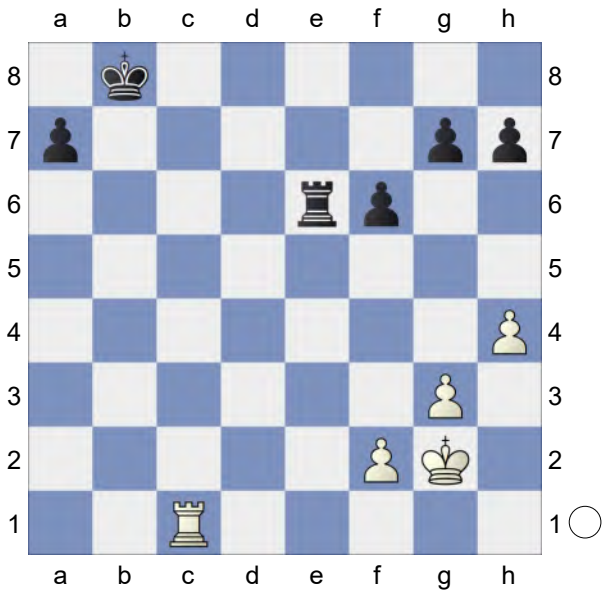
(Diagram)



...Rc8 would now be deadly. **21.Bb3 Rhd8 22.Rfc1** 0.19/21
[22.Re1± 0.66/21 should be considered.]
22...Nd5= 23.Bxd5 R4xd5 Endgame. KRR-KRR This is the position that I visualised when deciding to go d5 and all I asked myself was how does Black activate his pieces after taking the rook on c6? **24.g3!** The answer was he cannot especially after d7 **24...Rd1+ 25.Kg2 Rxc1**

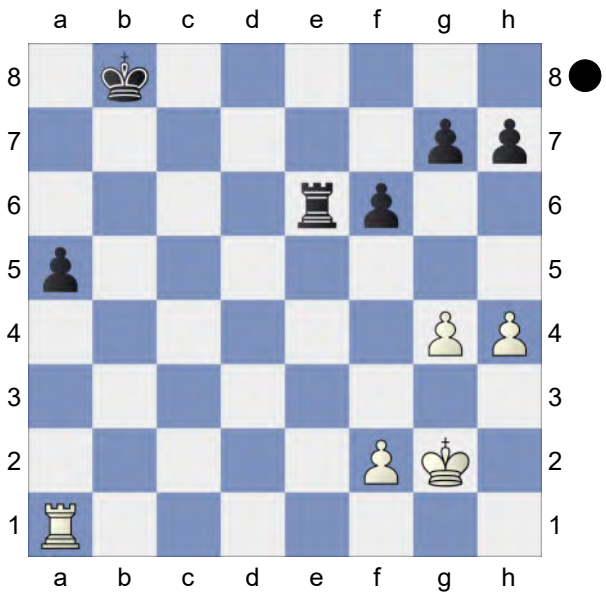


26.Rxc1 KR-KR **26...Rd4** Against Rc4
27.a5 -0.79/24
[27.Re1! Making sure Black doesn't have any counterplay.]
[27.Re1= 0.03/25 keeps the balance.]
27...Ra4∓ White is now going downhill.
28.a6 Deflection! got over-optimistic, thinking I have all the time in the world but unfortunately that's not the case.
28...bxa6 29.bxa6 Rxa6?? This normal looking move is in fact, a blunder. The logic is pretty simple: by pushing the pawn, Black increased the c6-bishop's mobility by giving it the a4-square.
30.h4? It is clear that I am enjoying the position and probably a little lazy to calcuate but luckily for me both of us didn't really spot the drawing idea for black. **30...Re6!**

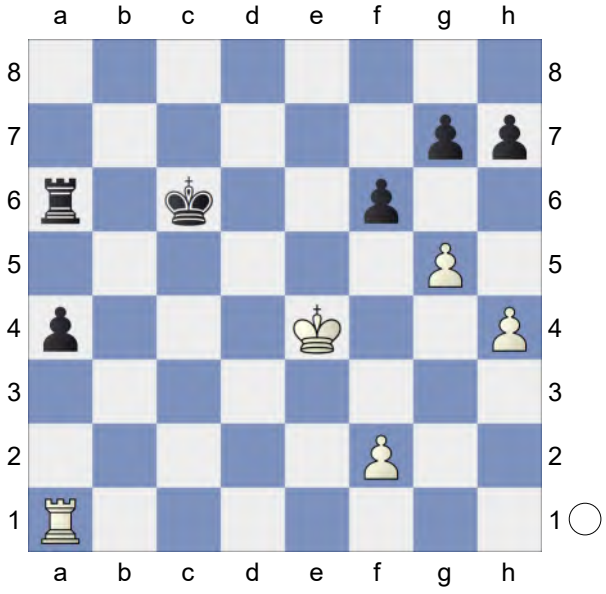


31.g4 -2.00/21
[31.Ra1∓ -1.08/21]
31...a5?-+ Black yet wastes another tempo, perhaps his plan was to play ... Rb5 and later changed his mind. **32.Ra1!**

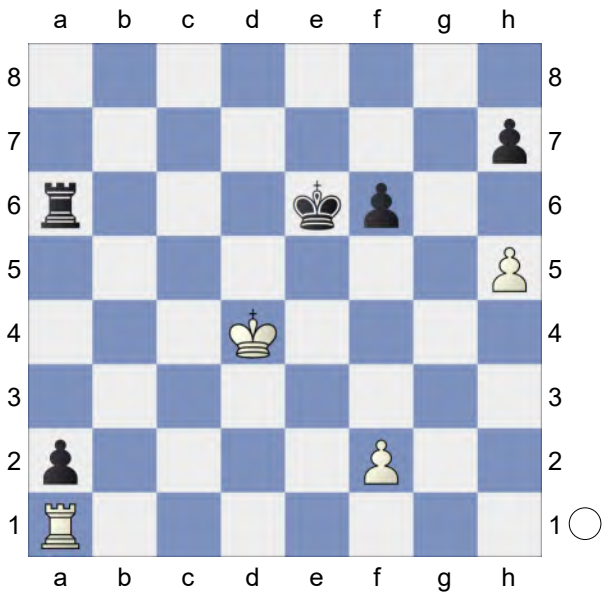
(Diagram)



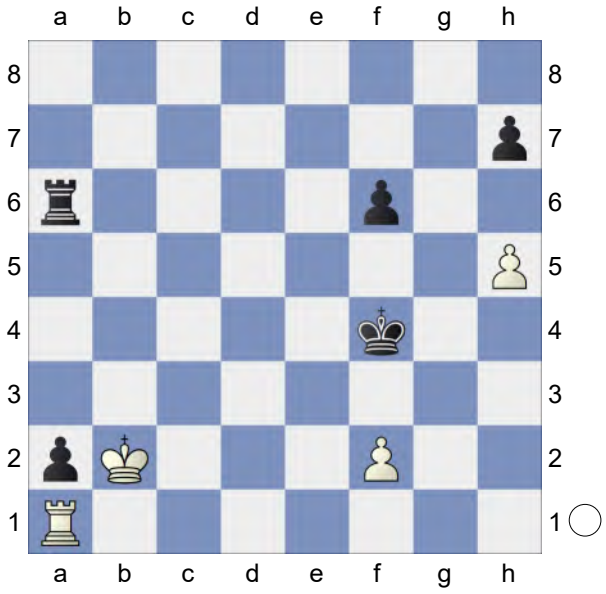
Now White is completely winning. **32...Ra6 33.Kf3! Kc7 34.Ke4! Kc6 35.g5** -3.37/23
[35.Kd3 -2.13/22 was necessary.]
35...a4



36.gxf6 gxf6 37.Kd4 a3 Black is clearly winning. **38.Kc4 a2 39.h5** Not a good technique but I will still take the point! **39...Kd6+-** would also be winning. **40.Kd4** Just does not work in this position as Black's rook is still inactive. **40...Ke6**
(Diagram)



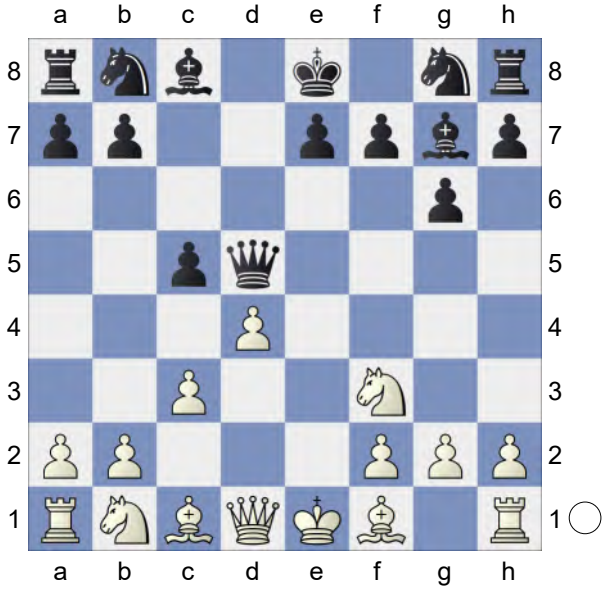
41.Kc3 Both Rd3 and Re8 should be winning, however, one is considerably more precise. **41...Kf5! 42.Kb2 Kf4**



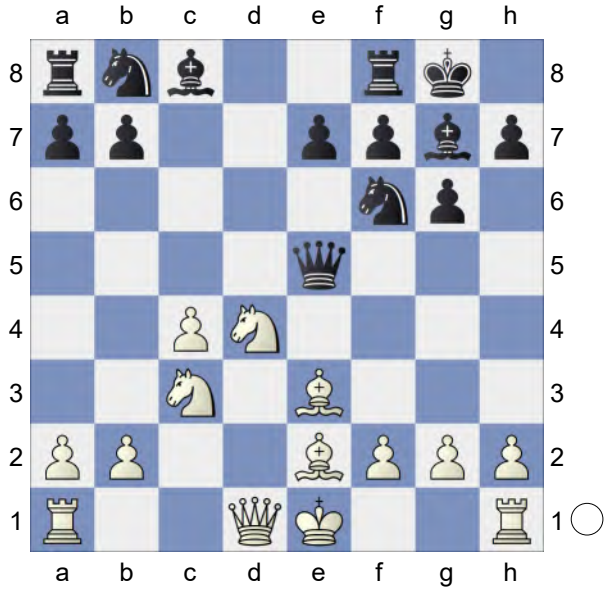
Weighted Error Value: White=0.58/ Black=0.07 (flawless) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

160 **B06**
□ **Bareev,Evgeny** **2690**
■ **Volkov,Sergey** **2605**
Olympiad-33 Elista (5.3) 03.10.1998
[Kitty Kat]

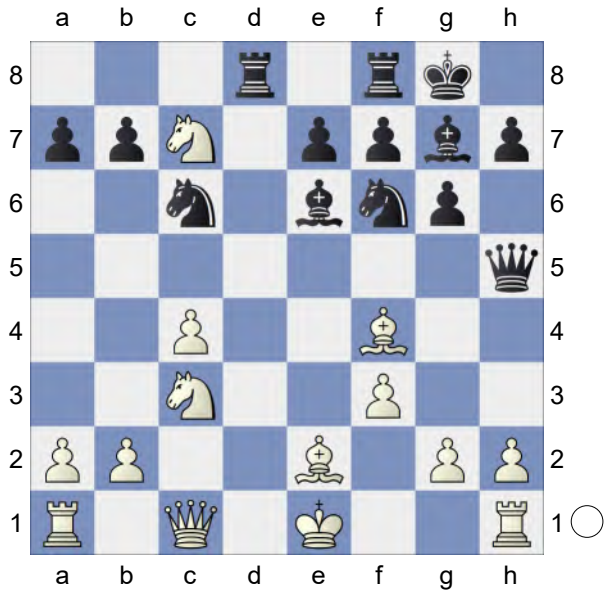
B06: Modern Defence
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7



6.c4
[6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qd8 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.N2f3 Qc7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Re1 Nbd7 13.Bb3 e6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Nxe6 Qb6 16.Nxg7 Kxg7 17.Qe7+ Rf7 18.Bh6+ Kg8 19.Qxf7+ Kxf7 20.Ng5+ Kg8 ½-½ (93) Stefansson,V (2452)-Wadsworth,M (2423) 26th HIT Open 2022 (4.3)]
6...Qe4+N
[6...Qd8 7.d5 e5 8.Nc3 Ne7 9.Bg5 f6 10.Be3 Na6 11.Be2 Nf5 12.0-0 0-0 13.a3 Nd4 14.b4 f5 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Nb5 Bd7 17.Rc1 Bxb5 18.cxb5 Nc7 19.Bc4 Kh8 20.Re1 Qd6 21.a4 0-1 (35) Szyszka,A (2449)-Bancroft,H (2698) CCOL5 fin-02 6568 1965 (4.2)]
7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 The position is equal. **8...Nf6** 0.46/20
[8...Nh6= 0.06/19]
9.Nc3± Qe5 10.Be2 Inhibits Ng4.
10...0-0

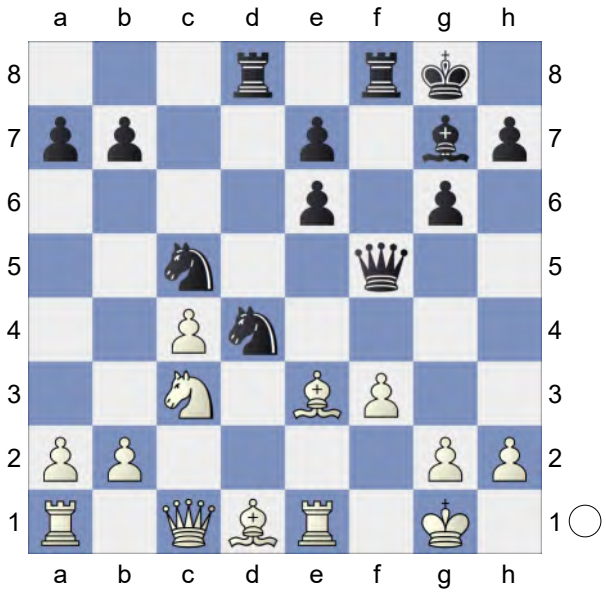


11.Ndb5 -0.29/20
[11.0-0± 0.40/17]
11...Nc6= 12.Qc1 Bg4 aiming for ... Bxe2. **13.f3 Be6**
[13...a6 14.Bf4 Qc5 15.Nc7±]
14.Bf4 Qh5 15.Nc7 Rad8



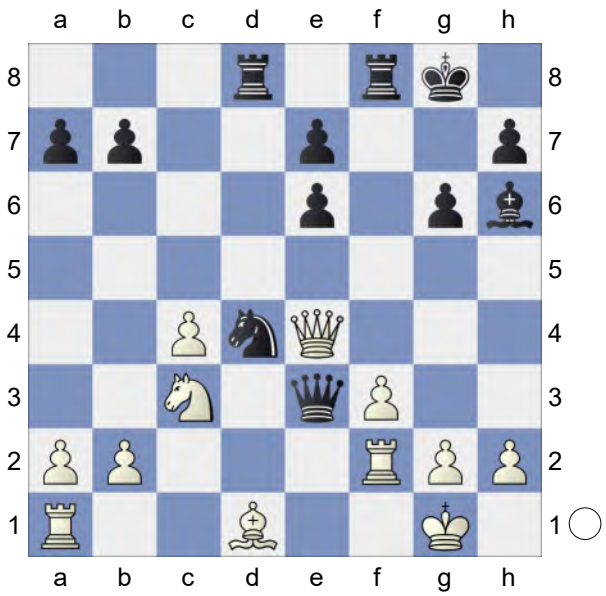
16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.0-0 Nd4 18.Re1 Qf5

-0.13/19
[18...Nd7∓ -0.53/19 19.Be3 Nc5]
19.Bd1 -0.73/21
[19.Rb1= -0.13/19 keeps the balance.]
19...Nd7∓ 20.Be3 -1.27/22
[⌓20.Bg5 -0.84/20 Ne5 21.Re4]
20...Nc5

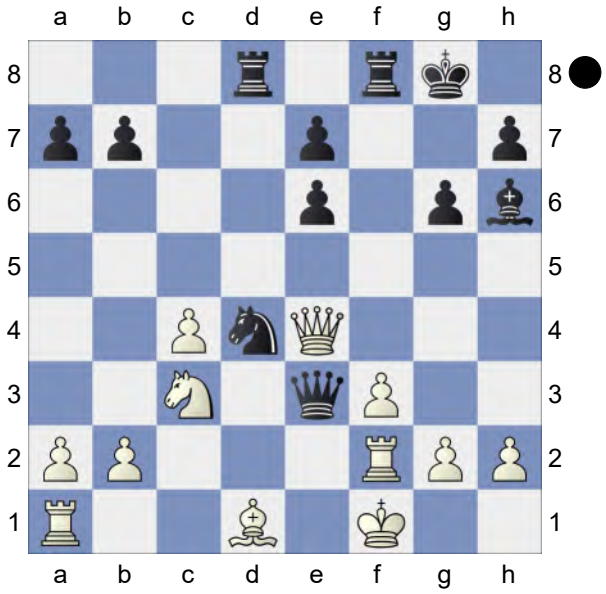


21.Rf1 Nd3 Excellent horsemanship.
22.Qb1 -1.78/22
[22.Qd2∓ -0.94/21]
22...Qe5 23.Bf2 -1.88/21
[23.Ne4∓ -1.46/22 was necessary.]
23...Nxf2-+ 24.Rxf2 White is weak on the dark squares **24...Qe3** Threatens to win with ...Nf5. **25.Qe4 Bh6→**

(Diagram)

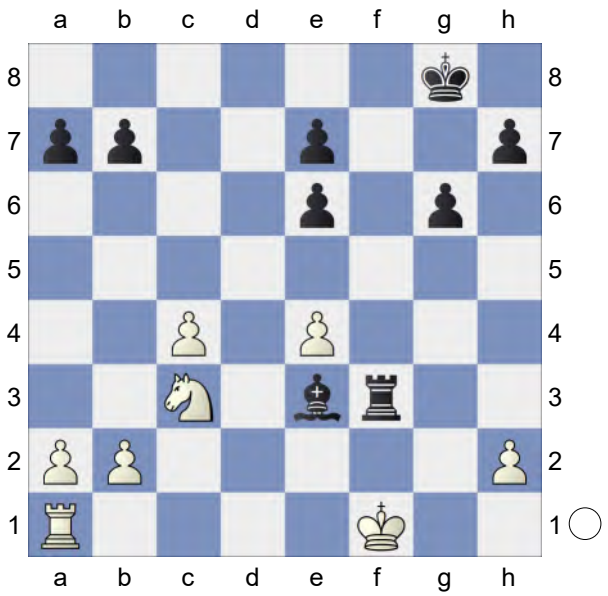


Black goes for the king. **26.Kf1**

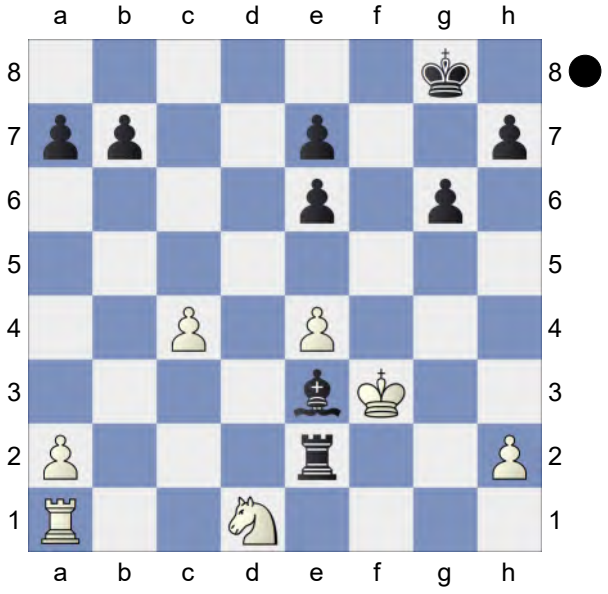


Qxe4! 27.fxe4 -3.04/22
[⌓27.Nxe4 -1.83/22 Be3 28.Re2 Nxe2 29.Kxe2]
27...Be3 Pin **28.Rxf8+ Rxf8+ 29.Bf3 Nxf3 30.gxf3 Rxf3+**

(Diagram)

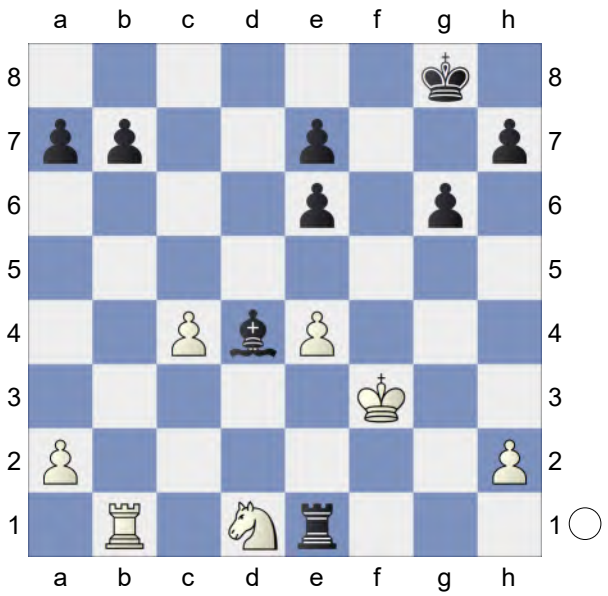


KRB-KRN **31.Kg2 Rf2+ 32.Kg3 Rxb2 33.Nd1 Re2 34.Kf3?** -4.92/22
[34.Nxe3 -3.03/22 was forced. Rxe3+ 35.Kf4]



34...Re1
[Not 34...Rxh2 35.Nxe3 *(35.Kxe3 Rh3+ 36.Kd2 Kf7±)* 35...b6 36.a4**±**]
35.Rb1 Bd4

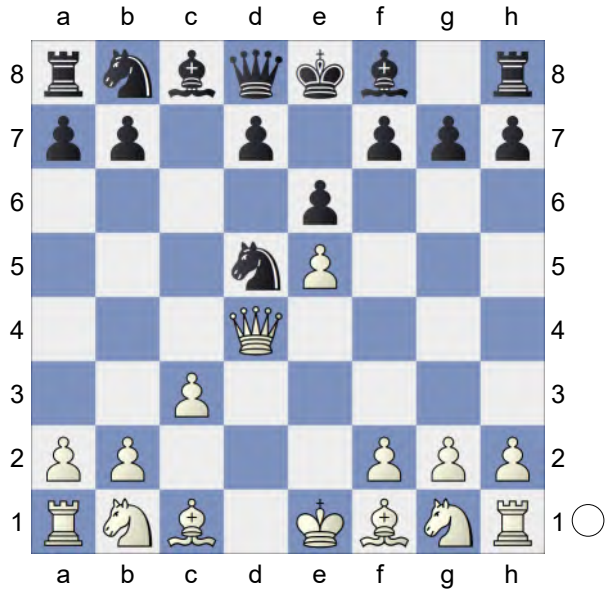
(Diagram)



Wards off Nc3.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.05 (flawless) . Loss on time!?
1-0

161 **B22**
□ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2595**
■ **Shanava,Konstantine** **2423**
Wch U18 Chalkidiki (7) 29.10.2003
[Gary Lane]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 The lines fluctuates in popularity but Mamedyarov is rated 2595 and this game helped him to win the World Junior Championship. Therefore, if it is good enough for him in an important game then it must be worth investigating. **5...e6**



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 d6 8.Bb5 I think this is the most challenging continuation which puts Black under pressure. **8...Bd7 9.c4 Nc7** 0.46/20
[Also possible: 9...Nb6 10.exd6 Bxd6
A) 11.0-0 a6 12.Rd1 Qe7 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 Bc5
A1) 15.Bxc5 is interesting with one sample line being: Qxc5 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 1.13/22 *(16...Qxc6= 0.13/20 17.Qg4 0-0)* 17.Qg4 0.31/20 *(17.Qxe6+± 1.13/22 Qe7 18.Qxe7+ Kxe7 19.b3)* 17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nxc4 19.Qxb7 0-0 20.Rd7 Qg5 0.57/22 *(20...Kh8= 0.05/21)* 21.Nc3 with a small initiative;
A2) 15.b4 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Hoping for Bxc6. axb5 17.Qxb6 bxc4 18.b5! Na5 19.Nc3
A2a) 19...0-0 is possible when 20.Qc7 -0.09/21 *(20.Rd6± 0.57/20)* 20...Rf7 is fairly level;
A2b) 19...0-0= 0.28/22;
A2c) 19...Kf7 1.39/20 20.Ne4 0.01/21 *(White should play 20.Rd6± 1.39/20)* 20...Rhd8=
A2c1) 21.Nd6+!? is the right way forward when Kg8 22.Qc7 e5 23.Rac1 -0.28/20 *(Better is 23.h3 0.23/21)* 23...Qe6 0.34/20 *(23...Kf8!= -0.28/20 24.Nxc4 Nxc4 25.Qxc4 Rac8)* 24.Ne4 about equal.;
A2c2) 21.Rac1= 0.01/21;
A2c3) 21.Nc5 -0.79/20 White is going astray by not increasing the pressure. 21...e5!∓
A2c31) 22.Nxb7 -1.60/22 22.Ne4 -0.75 Nxb7 23.Qxb7 Be6 24.Qxe7+ Kxe7 25.Rxd8 -1.83/22 *(25.Rdb1∓ -1.45/19)* 25...Kxd8 when the ending favours Black because the king can help to halt the advance of the queenside pawns;
A2c32) 22.Ne4∓ -0.84/21;
A2c33) 22.Rd5? -3.61/23

22...Nb3 -1.92/21 *(⌓22...Bf5! -3.61/23 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.Qxd8 Rxd8)* 23.Re1-+ Nxc5 24.Rxc5 Rac8 25.Nxe5+ -2.89/21 *(25.Rxc8* -1.92/20 was worth a try. *Bxc8 26.h4)* 25...fxe5-+ 26.Rcxe5 Qf6 27.Qxb7 Kg8 28.a4? -5.97/20 *(28.Qd5+* -3.41/18 *Kf8 29.Qe4)* 28...c3-+ 29.Qd5+ -7.82/21 *(⌓29.Rd5* -4.69/19 *c2 30.Rxd7)* 29...Be6! 0-1 Santos,M-Vescovi,G/Registo 1999.;

B) 11.Be3 c5 is the strong threat. 11...Bb4+ 12.Nbd2 0-0 13.0-0 a6 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Qg4 the queen swings across the board in an effort to engineer some attacking chances f5 16.Qf4 Nd7 17.Nb3 1-0 Andersson,C-Nill,J/Plovdiv 2003. led to equal chances in]

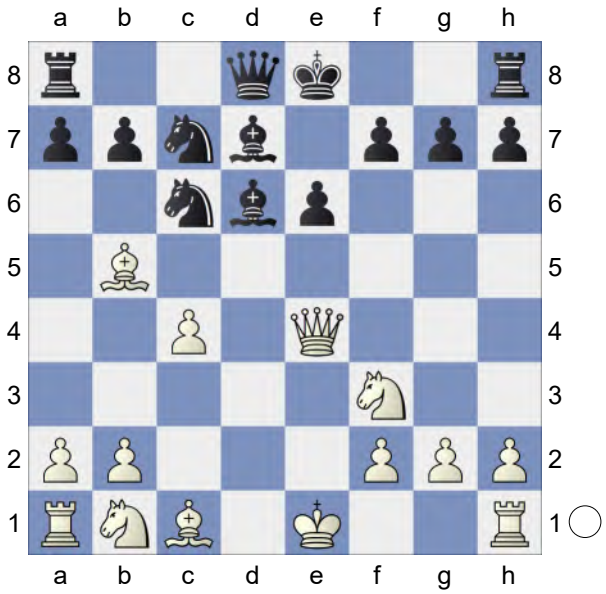
[9...Nb6= 0.10/20 might be stronger.]

10.exd6±

[The choice for White is a matter of taste and either line look like decent continuations: 10.Bg5 f6 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4 Qe7 Black has to be careful because his kingside is exposed so precautions have to be taken before castling on that side of the board. 13.Nc3 Bg7 0.82/20 *(13...Rg8±* 0.43/17 *)* 14.Rd1 a6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Qd3 Rd8 17.0-0 0-0 0.99/19 *(17...e5±* 0.52/20 deserves consideration.*)* 18.Nd4± Qf7 19.f4 gave White an edge in Schmittdiel, E-Atlas,V/AUT 1999.]

10...Bxd6

(Diagram)



11.0-0 Nb4 1.28/18

[Or 11...Nxb5 12.cxb5 Nb4 1.04/20 *(12...Ne7* is the safe alternative*;* *12...Ne7±* 0.68/21 *)* 13.Nc3± 0-0? 2.08/20 *(13...f5±* 1.36/18 *14.Qe2 0-0)* 14.Rd1!+- Qc7 *(14...Bc8 15.Bf4* is very good for White*)* 15.Qd4? 0.79/19 wins *(15.Ng5+-* 2.61/21 and White stays clearly on top. *f5 16.Qd4 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1)*]

[11...0-0= 0.29/19 remains equal.]

12.Bxd7+±

[Not 12.Qxb7 Nxb5 13.cxb5 Nc2∓]

12...Qxd7 13.Nc3

[Reject 13.Qxb7?! Nc2=]

13...Qc6 1.63/22

[13...0-0?! 1.77/21 13...Qc8 0.86 14.Rd1! aiming for Bf4! Qe7 15.Qxb7 and Black is in serious trouble.]

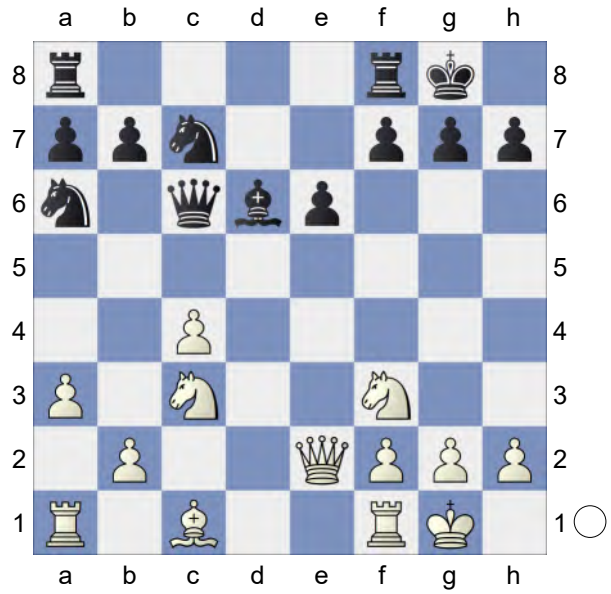
[13...Nc6± 1.05/20]

14.a3+- Nba6

[14...Qxe4?? 4.13/19 14...Nba6 1.35 simply loses outright upon 15.Nxe4 when Black has two pieces under attack.]

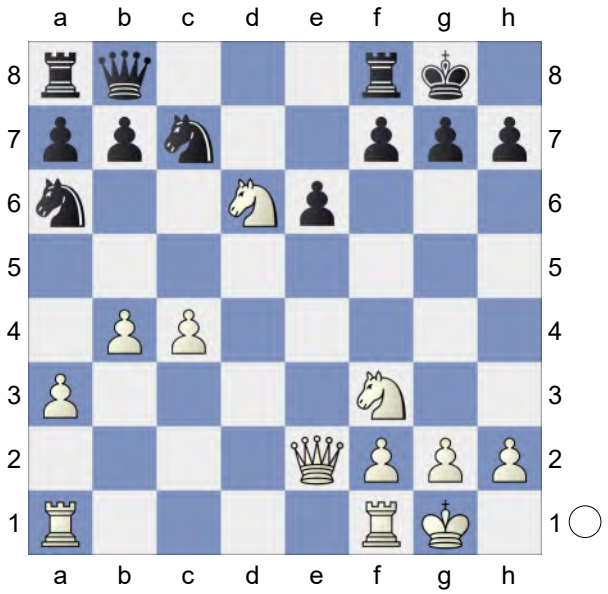
15.Qe2 0-0

[15...Nc5 is logical to manoeuvre his knight to a more central square.]

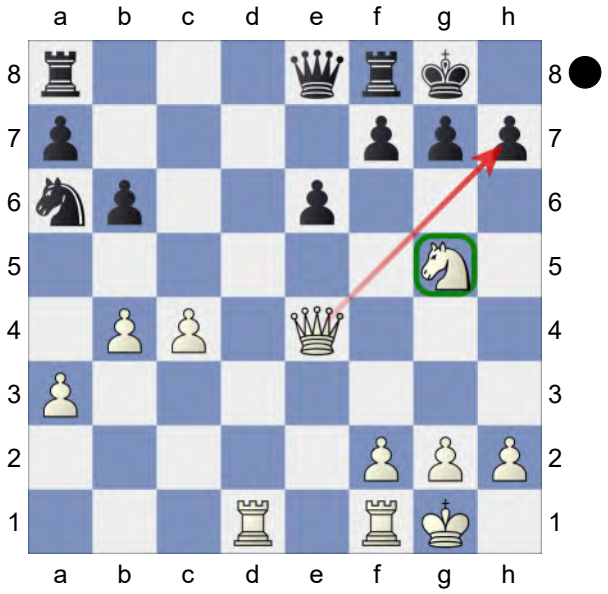


16.b4! An excellent move which severely restricts the wretched looking knight on a6. Mamedyarov is playing to his strengths by forcing Black into a passive position and will then seek to create some tactics. Prevents Nc5
16...Qe8N 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Bf4
The obvious threat is b5 to take way the defence of the c7 knight. A quick glance at the white pieces shows they are well co-ordinated with a space advantage. The big difference is that Black's pieces lack harmony indicating the primary problem. White is more active. **18...Qc8**
[Obviously 18...h6?? 2.73/20 18...Qc8 1.72 allows 19.b5 winning a piece.]
19.Bd6 Bxd6 2.24/22
[19...Qd8± 1.57/21 was called for.]
20.Nxd6 Qb8

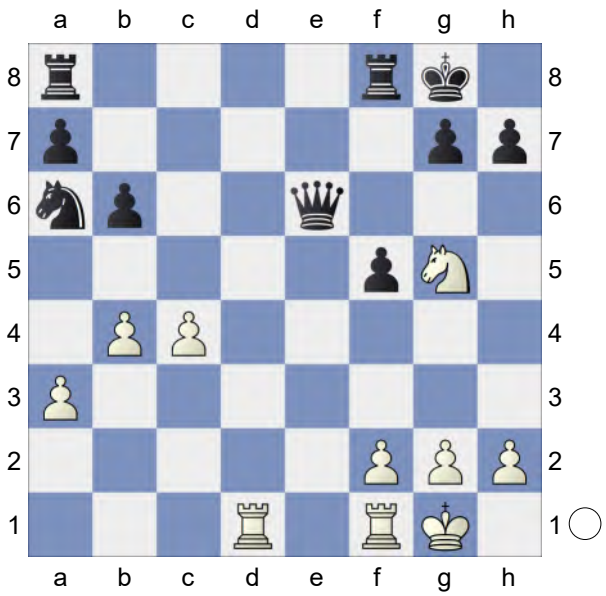
(Diagram)



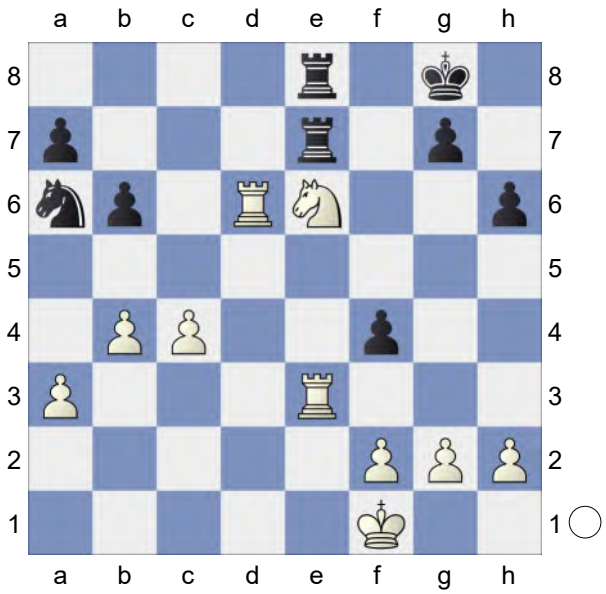
21.Qe4 b6 22.Rad1 Ne8 23.Nxe8 Qxe8 24.Ng5→



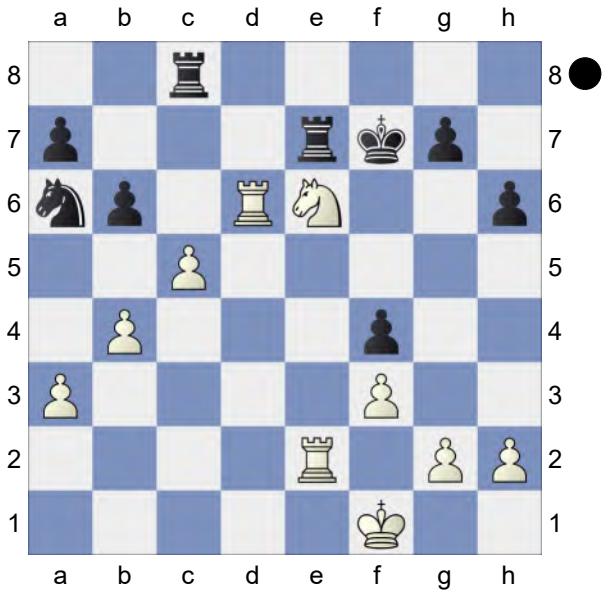
White to play and mate in one! White wants a kill. **24...f5**
[24...g6? 5.98/23 24...f5 2.21 25.Qh4 h5 26.Ne4 also spells disaster for Shanava because of the impending knight fork on f6. For instance:. Threatens to win with Nf6+. Kg7 27.Qf6+ Kh7 28.Qg5 And now Nf6+ would win. Kg7 29.Nf6 Qc8 30.Nxh5+ wins easily.]
25.Qxe6+ Qxe6



26.Nxe6 The ending with White a pawn up is clearly winning. **26...Rf7 27.Rfe1 h6 28.Rd6 Re7 29.Kf1 Rae8 30.Re3 f4**



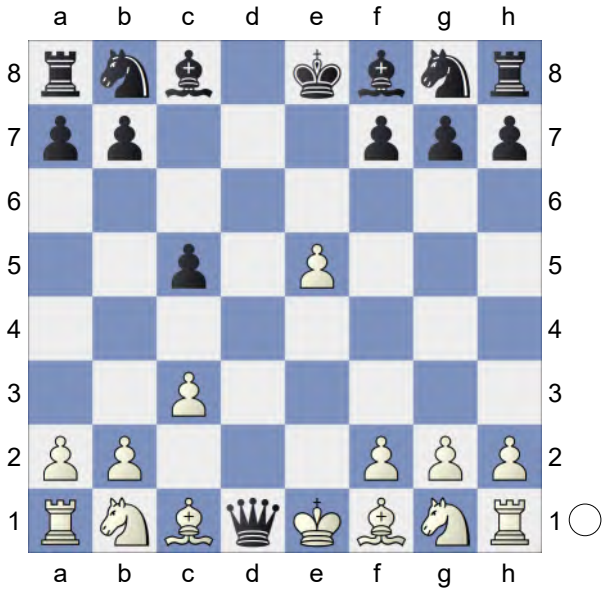
31.Re2 Rc8 32.f3 Kf7 4.26/24
[Or 32...Rxc4? 5.94/22 32...Nb8 2.91 33.Rd8+ Kf7 34.Rf8+ Kg6 35.Nxf4+ Rxf4 36.Rxf4 wins.]
[32...Nb8 2.71/23 might work better. 33.Nxf4 Rxe2 34.Nxe2 Nc6]
33.c5
[Weaker is 33.Nxf4 Rxc4 34.Ne6 Nc7±]



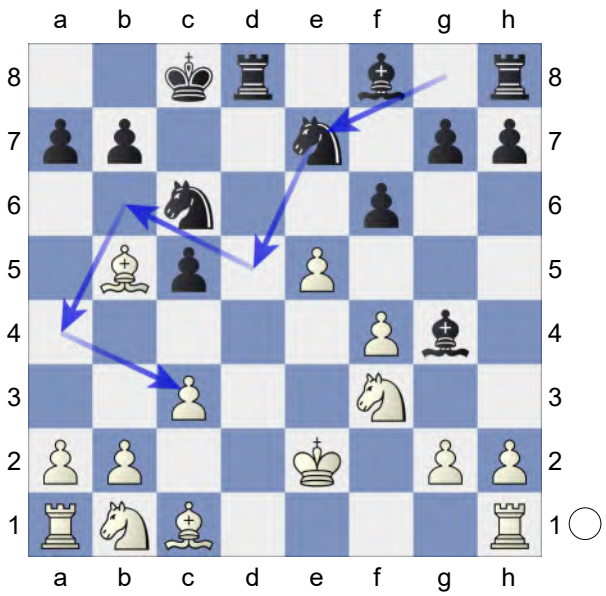
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.31
1-0

162 **B22**
□ **Bogner,Sebastian** **2598**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2705**
Qatar Masters op (2) 27.11.2014
[Kitty Kat]

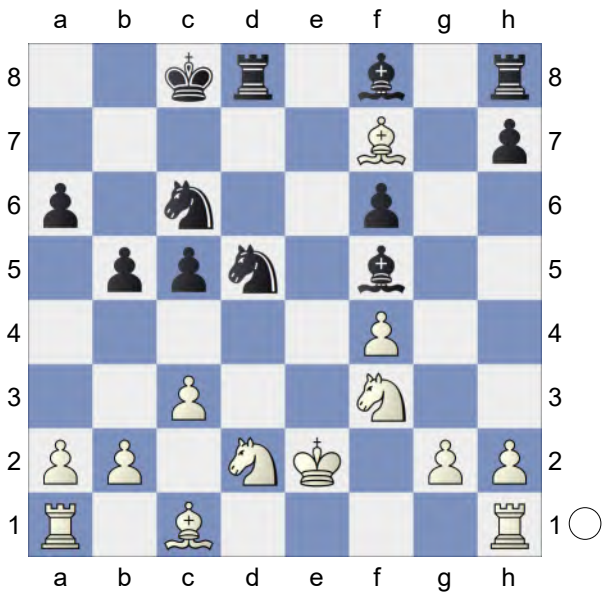
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e5 5.dxe5 Qxd1+



6.Kxd1 Nc6 7.f4 f6
[7...Bf5 8.Nf3 0-0-0+ 9.Ke1 f6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Kf2 Nh6 14.h3 g5 15.exf6 gxf4 16.Nc4 Nf5 17.Re1 Rxe1 18.Nxe1 Bh6 19.Ne5 Rf8 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Nd3 Rxf6 22.Nxf4 1-0 (40) 6. ♘c6 bc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8. ♘d (2605)-Milicevic,M (2565) Silivri 88/452 2003]
8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Bb5 0-0-0+ 10.Ke2N
[10.Nbd2 Nge7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Ke1 Bh6 13.g3 a6 14.Be2 Nd5 15.Kf2 Rhe8 16.h3 Bh5 17.Nc4 Re7 1-0 Smagin,S (2545)-Huberty,M (2120) Eupen op act 1994 (2)]
10...Nge7
(Diagram)



White has an edge. **11.exf6 gxf6**
12.Nbd2
[12.Kf2 simplifies a6 13.Bxc6 Nxc6 14.Nbd2]
12...a6 13.Ba4 -0.32/20
[13.Bd3± 0.52/19]
13...Bf5 0.23/20
[13...Nd5∓ -0.32/20]
14.Bb3 b5 ...c4 would now be deadly.
[14...Nd5 simplifies 15.Bxd5 Rxd5 16.Kf2 Be7]
15.Bf7 Nd5

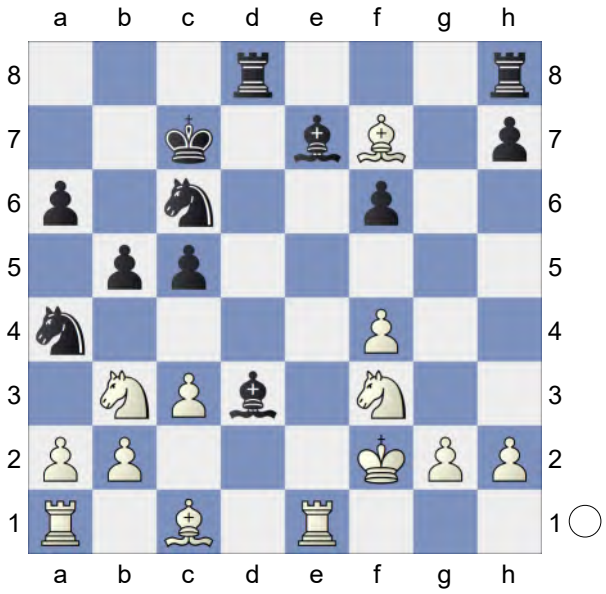


16.Nb3 Nb6 17.Be3 Bd3+

[17...Na4 is interesting. 18.Nh4 Be4 19.Rhd1 Nxb2]

18.Kf2 Na4 19.Rhe1 Be7 20.Bc1 Kc7 0.66/21

[20...Rhf8= 0.15/18 21.Bh5 Rd7]



21.Na5!± Deflection **21...Bd6**

[21...Nxa5 22.Rxe7+]

22.Nxc6 Kxc6 23.b3 -0.21/21

[23.Re6± 0.91/19]

23...Nxc3= 24.Bb2! b4 0.01/18

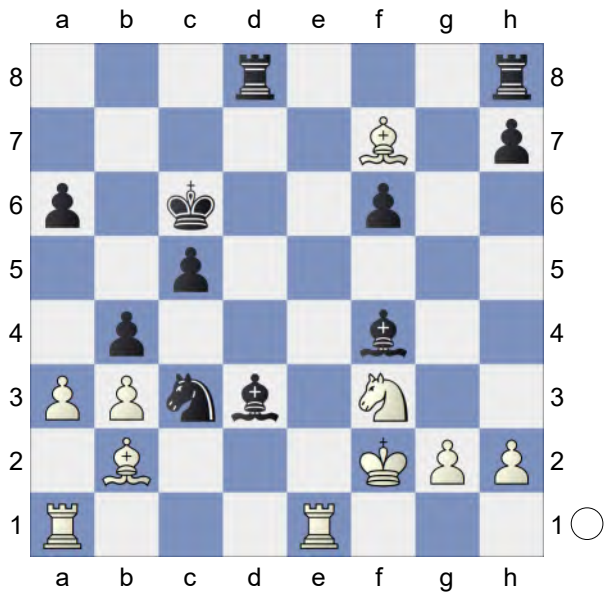
[24...Ne4+!∓ -0.40/20 25.Ke3 c4 26.Nd4+ Kb6 27.bxc4 bxc4]

25.a3 -1.03/22

[25.Rac1= 0.01/18]

25...Bxf4∓

(Diagram)



26.axb4 cxb4 27.Re6+ Rd6

Black is much more active. **28.Nd4+** -1.64/19

[28.Rxd6+∓ -1.11/20 Bxd6 *(28...Kxd6 29.Ne1∓)* 29.Ke3]

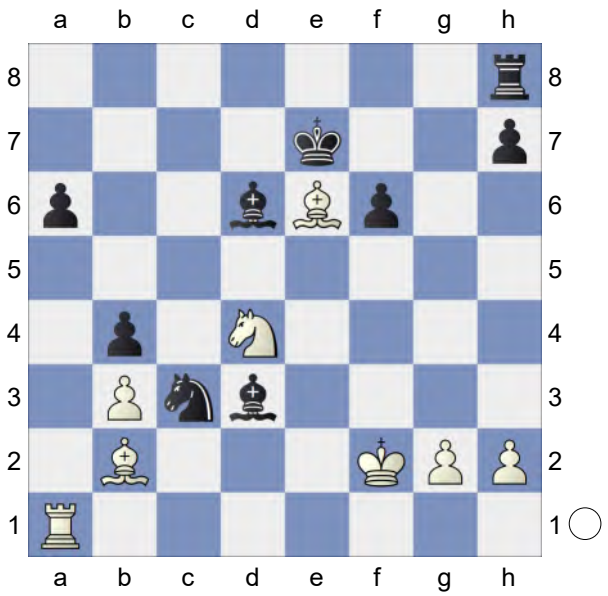
28...Kd7 -0.91/20

[Black should try 28...Kb6-+ -1.64/19 And now ...Rhd8 would win. 29.Rxd6+ Bxd6]

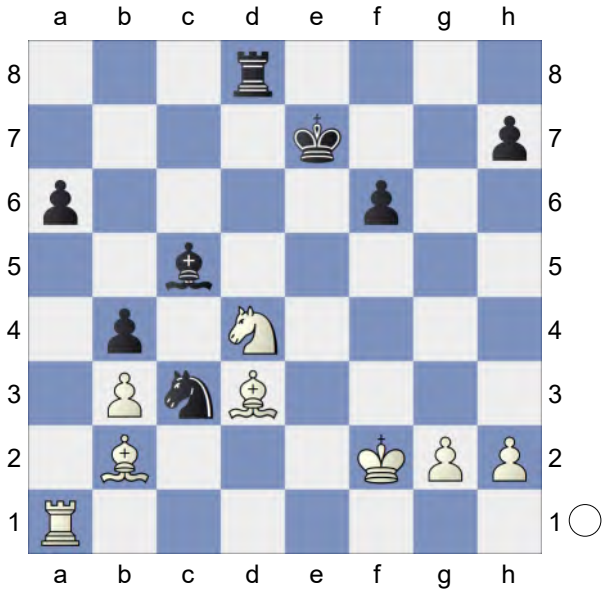
29.Rxd6+ Bxd6 30.Be6+ Ke7 -0.01/22

[Better is 30...Kc7∓ -1.00/22 aiming for ...Bc5. 31.Ke3 Bg6 32.Rxa6 Bxh2 *(32...Nd1+ 33.Ke2±)* 33.Rc6+ Kb7]

(Diagram)

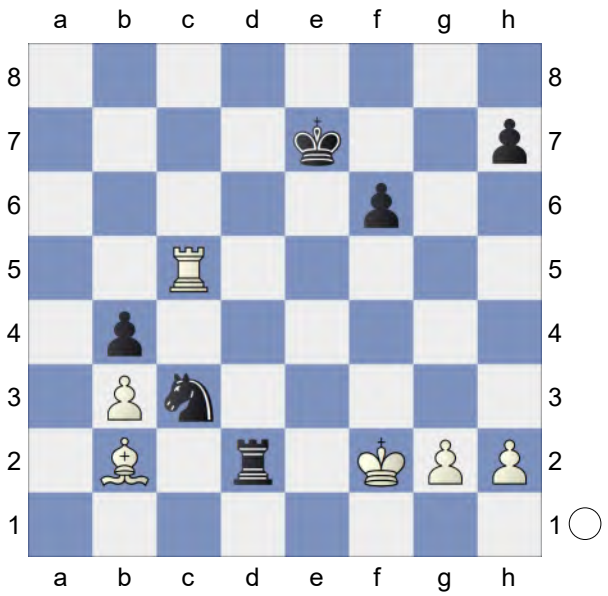


31.Bf5= Bc5 32.Bxd3 Rd8



33.Rxa6? -4.42/21 **Rxd4-+** Black is clearly winning. **34.Rc6** -11.78/22
[⌓34.Ke3 -4.38/22 Nd1+ 35.Ke2 Nxb2 36.Bxh7]
34...Rxd3+ 35.Rxc5 Rd2+ -5.31/21
[⌓35...Ne4+ -11.58/22 36.Ke2 Nxc5]

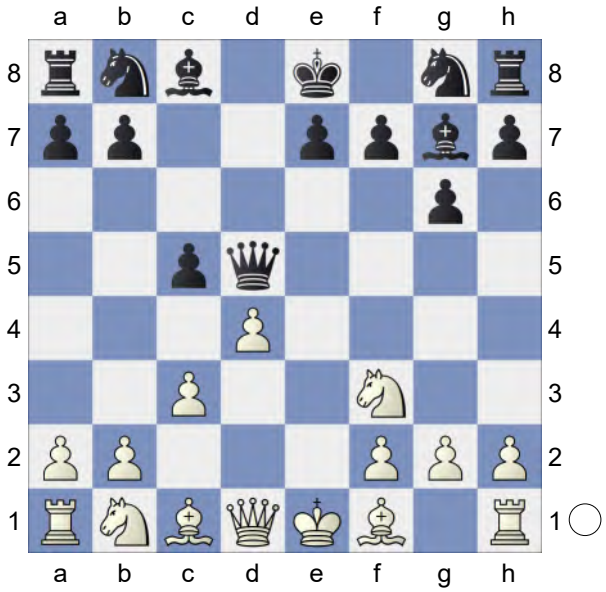
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.25 (precise)
0-1

163 **B22**
□ **Sveshnikov,Evgeny** **2575**
■ **Najer,Evgeniy** **2535**
RUS-ch51 St Petersburg RUS (10) 6.8.98
[Har Zvi]

B06: Modern Defence
1.e4 Har Zvi,Ronen Har Zvi,Ronen Har Zvi,Ronen Har Zvi,Ronen: 'Har Zvi' **1...c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7**

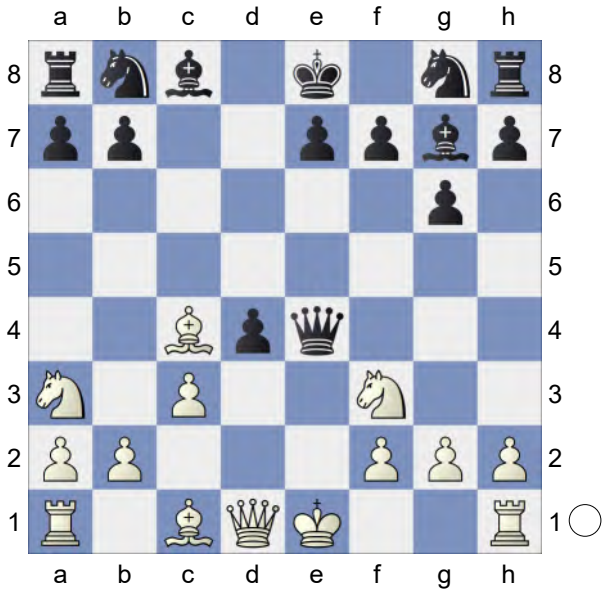


6.Na3 cxd4
[6...a6 0.65/20 6...Nf6 0.26
A) 7.dxc5!? 0.17/20 7.Bc4 0.63
A1) 7...Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Bg4 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Rc1± 0.18/19 *(10.h3± 0.58/18 Bxf3+ 11.gxf3)*;
A2) 7...Qxc5 8.Be3 Qc7 9.Nc4 Nd7 Repels Nb6 10.a4±;
B) 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Be3 Bh6 1.57/21 *(⌓8...Nh6 0.84/20)* 9.0-0!± Bxe3 10.fxe3 Nh6 11.Qb3 0.45/21 *(11.Qd2± 1.10/19 0-0 12.dxc5)* 11...e6± 12.Rae1 b5 13.Be2 c4 14.Qd1 Qxe3+ 15.Kh1 Nf5 0.97/21 *(15...0-0= 0.30/21)* 16.Bxc4 0.23/24 *(16.g4!± 0.97/21 Nd6 17.Bxc4* Discovered Attack*)* 16...Qh6= 17.Bd5 Ra7 18.Kg1 0-0 19.Be4± ½-½ Ivanov,V-Rashkovsky,N/RUS-Cup2 1996/EXP 56 (32);
C) 7.Bc4± 0.65/20 deserves consideration. Qd6 8.Ng5;
D) 7.Nc4 0.26/20 7...Nd7 8.Ne3 Qd6 9.d5 Ngf6 10.a4±]

7.Bc4!?
[7.Nb5
A) 7...Qd8 0.72/19 7...Na6 0.29 8.Bf4 Na6 Wards off Nc7+ *(8...e5 1.32/22 8...Na6 0.72 9.Nxe5+-)* 9.Nbxd4±;
B) 7...Na6 Inhibits Nc7+.
B1) 8.Nfxd4 e5 0.88/20 *(8...Nf6=* -0.15/20 *)* 9.Nf3 0.42/21 *(9.Qa4± 0.88/20 Bd7 10.Qxa6* Remove Defender *bxa6 11.Nc7+* Discovered Attack, Double Attack *Kf8 12.Nxd5 exd4 13.cxd4)* 9...Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Ke7 11.Be3 f6= 0.85/16 *(11...e4± 0.48/16 12.Nd2 Nf6)*;
B2) 8.Be3!?
B2a) 8...Nf6 9.Bxd4 0-0 10.Be2±;
B2b) 8...e5 1.50/23 8...Bd7 0.32 9.cxd4 exd4 10.Bc4! Qc5 11.Bxd4 Qb4+ 2.39/21 *(11...Bxd4± 1.23/21* keeps fighting. *12.Qxd4 Qxd4 13.Nfxd4 Nh6)* 12.Qd2± 1.26/20 --> ⊥ *(12.Nc3+-* 2.39/21 *Bf6 13.Qe2+ Be6 14.Bxe6 Bxd4 15.Bc4+* Discovered Attack (Check) *Kf8 16.Nxd4)*;
B2c) 8...Nf6= 0.07/21 9.Bxd4 0-0;
B2d) 8...Bg4 0.54/22

B2d1) 9.Nbxd4
B2d11) 9...e5 1.48/19 9...Nf6 0.37 10.Nb5± 0.68/21 *(10.Qa4+± 1.48/19 Kf8 11.Bc4)*;
B2d12) 9...Nc5 10.Bb5+±;
B2d13) 9...Nf6 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0±;
B2d2) 9.Qa4!? Threatens to win with Nc7+.
B2d21) 9...dxe3?? 6.28/21 9...Nc5 0.34 10.Nc7++-;
B2d22) 9...Qd7 10.Bxd4 0.71/20 *(⌓10.Nfxd4 1.22/20 e5 11.Nb3)* 10...Bxd4± 11.Qxd4 0.27/21 *(11.Nfxd4± 0.71/21 Kf8 12.h3)* 11...Qxd4= 12.Nfxd4±;
B2d23) 9...Bd7 10.Nfxd4 0.26/20 *(10.Bc4 Blatny,P Qc6 11.Bxd4±; 10.0-0-0± 0.62/22)* 10...Bxd4 1.08/21 *(10...Nf6= 0.26/20)* 11.Bxd4 0.36/21 *(11.Rd1± 1.08/21 Nf6 12.Qxd4)* 11...Qe4+± 12.Be2 Nf6∞;
B2d24) 9...Nc5= 0.26/23 remains equal. 10.Qa3 Rc8 11.Nbxd4 a6;
B2d25) 9...Kf8?! 0.81/22 10.Nfxd4± 0.22/19 1-0 Rausis,I-Permjakov,V/LAT-ch 1994/[Belov] (19) *(10.Nbxd4 Nc5∞; 10.Nbxd4± 0.81/22 Nc5 11.Qa3)*]

7...Qe4+N
[7...Qe4+!? 8.Be3 Nh6 *(8...dxe3? 9.Bxf7+* Decoy *Kxf7 10.Ng5+ Ke8 11.Nxe4+-)* 9.cxd4 0-0=]



this is interesting,that in his annotations to hisn game against Cvitan,Sveshnikov writes 7...Qe4? 8.Be3!± ,well it seems he is not wrong! and his opponent maybe have not seen this analyse?! **8.Be3! Nh6**
[8...dxe3?? 3.90/19 8...Nh6 0.34 9.Bxf7+! Kxf7 *(9...Kf8?* 11.15/22 9...Kxf7 3.24 *10.Qd8+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+)* 10.Ng5+]
[8...Bg4
A) 9.Nb5!? Qc6 Wards off Nc7+ 10.Bxd4 Qxc4 0.91/23 *(10...Bxf3±* 0.44/22 is more appropriate. *11.Qxf3 Qxf3 12.gxf3 Bxd4 13.cxd4 Na6)* 11.Bxg7± Qxb5 12.Bxh8 f6 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3± /+-;
B) 9.cxd4 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Qf5 11.Nb5↑]
[8...dxe3? 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 *(9...Kf8? 10.Qd8+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+ Kf6 12.Nxe4++-)* 10.Ng5+ Ke8 11.Nxe4+-]
9.cxd4 White has an edge. **9...0-0**

10.0-0 Bg4

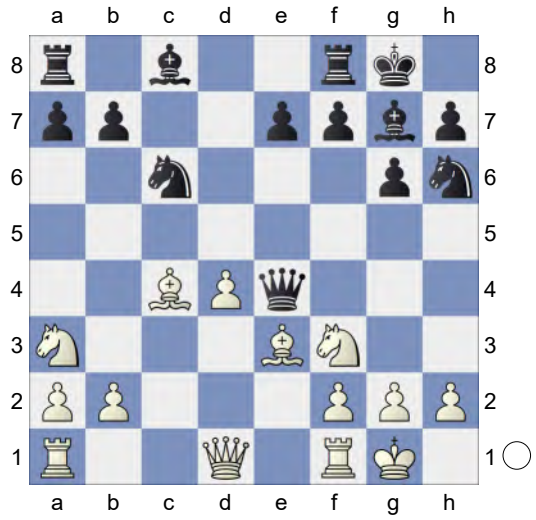
[10...Nf5 11.Re1

A) 11...Qc6 0.69/19 11...Nxe3 -0.02 12.Rc1 0.17/20 *(12.Bf4± 0.69/19)* 12...Qb6 13.Bb3 0.09/19 *(13.Bf4± 0.51/18 is superior.)*;

B) Better is 11...Nxe3= -0.02/20 12.Rxe3 Qf4;

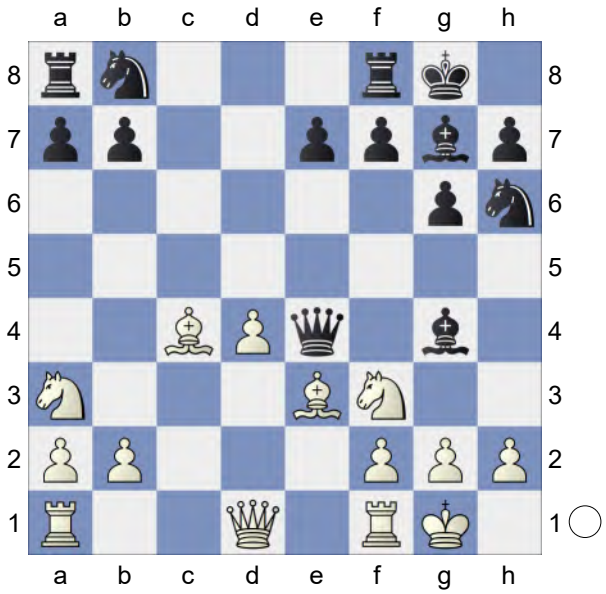
C) 11...Nh4 0.69/20 12.Nxh4± Qxh4]

[10...Nc6 1.33/22 10...Nf5 0.26



11.Re1! Hoping for Bxh6. Qg4 12.d5! *(12.Bxh6 0.50/20 12.d5 1.47 Bxh6 13.d5 Na5 14.Bd3↑)* 12...Na5 13.Bd3 Qd2 would now be deadly. Nf5 2.23/20 *(13...b6± 1.05/20)* 14.Qd2↑ 0.63/20 /± *(14.Bd2+- 2.23/20)*]

(Diagram)



this leads into a force line which is just good for white,black should try something else **11.Bxh6 Bxh6 12.Re1 Bxf3**

[12...Qf4 13.Rxe7 Nc6 14.Rxb7 Rab8 15.Rxb8 Rxb8 16.b3 Rd8 17.Nc2 Bg7 18.Qc1 Qxc1+ 19.Rxc1 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Re1 Kf8 23.Kg2 Bc3 24.Re2 Rd2 25.Rxd2 Bxd2 26.Kg3 h6 27.f4 0-1 (34) Chumfwa,S (2303)-Bacrot,E (2725) FIDE World Cup 2005 (1.1)]

13.Rxe4 Bxd1 14.Rxd1 Bg5

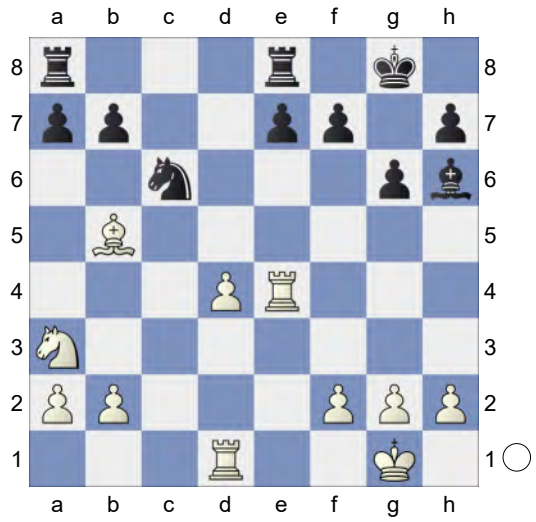
Black is weak on the light squares

[14...e6 15.d5 exd5 16.Bxd5 *(16.Rxd5↑)* 16...Nc6 17.Bxc6! bxc6±]

[14...Nc6 0.80/22 14...Bg5 0.23 15.d5±]

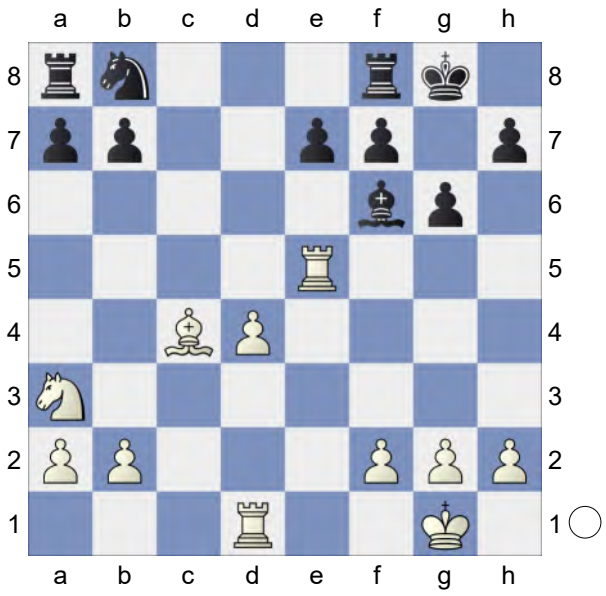
[14...Re8 15.Bb5 Nc6 1.69/21 *(15...Rd8± 1.13/23)*

(Diagram)



16.d5!+- Red8 17.Ree1 0.85/23 *(17.Be2+- 1.95/25* and White stays clearly on top. *f5 18.Rh4)* 17...Nb4± 18.Rxe7±]

15.Re5N Bf6



16.Rb5↑ White has good play. **16...Nc6 17.d5**

[17.Rxb7 Nxd4 18.Nb5 Nxb5 19.Bxb5 Rfb8=]

17...a6?! as it happenes many times,one does not want to play passive,and be in defence for some time,and chooses to get an active play even if he is probably much worse,here is a good example, after 17...Nd8 it seems black will survive while after 17...a6 he is a pawn down with no compensation

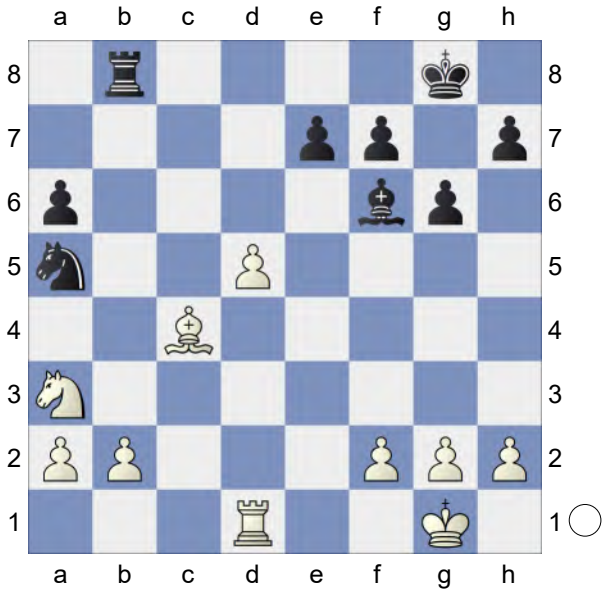
[17...Nd8□ 18.d6 exd6 *(18...e6!?* 0.65/19 18...exd6 0.01*)* 19.Rxd6 -0.38/22 *(19.g3=* 0.01/20 *)* 19...Kg7 0.01/20 *(19...a6∓* -0.38/22 was preferrable. *20.Rb3 Kg7)*]

[17...Rfd8 0.78/22 17...Nd8 0.34 18.Rxb7 Na5 19.Rb5 Nxc4 20.Nxc4 with a pawn up for white Har Zvi, Ronen: 'with a pawn up for white' Har Zvi,Ronen: 'Har Zvi: 'with a pawn up for white"]

18.Rxb7 Na5 19.Rb6 White is more active. **19...Rfb8 20.Rxb8+**

[20.Rxa6 Rxa6 21.Bxa6 Rxb2∓]

20...Rxb8



21.b3

[21.Bxa6 Rxb2 22.d6 Rxa2=]

21...Bb2! 22.Nc2

[22.Nb1 0.14/24 22.Nc2 1.09 Nxc4 23.bxc4 Rc8! 24.Nd2 Bc3! 25.Nb1 Bb2!=]

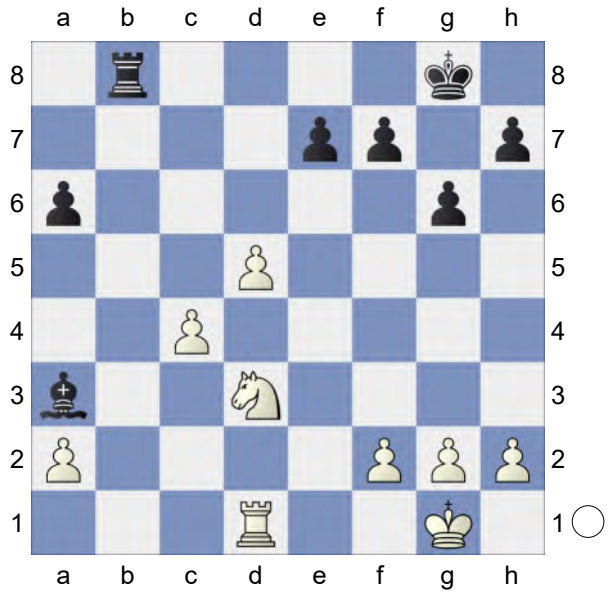
22...Nxc4 23.bxc4± Endgame. KRB-KRN **23...Be5?** a big big mistake,I am quite sure black had missed white next move Ne1! and after Nd3 white is probablt winning,so this was the

decisive mistake in the game,it seems that after Bc3 or Bf6 black has chances to make a draw since his rooks will be very active and white's "a" pawn is te target

[⌓23...Bc3!? 1.42/24 23...Rc8 0.97 24.Ne3 Rb2 25.a3 1.23/21 Wards off Bb4 (*25.a4?* 0.01/23 25.c5 1.81 *Bb4⩲; 25.c5+-* 1.67/22 aiming for c6. *Rb5 26.c6*) 25...Ra2 2.46/21 (*25...Bd2±* 1.23/21 was called for.)]

24.Ne1! Bd6 25.Nd3 Repels Rb2

25...Ba3



26.Kf1 f6?! 2.51/20

[⌓26...Rc8

A) 27.c5 Rb1 is the strong threat. Rc7 28.c6 Strongly threatening Rb1. e6 29.dxe6 1.24/25 (*29.Rb1+-* 1.71/23) 29...Bd6 1.98/21 (*29...fxe6? 30.Ne5+-; 29...Rxc6±* 1.24/25 *30.exf7+ Kg7*) 30.exf7+ 1.58/23 (White should play *30.e7+-* 1.98/21 *Bxe7 31.Rc1*) 30...Kxf7± 31.Rc1±;

B) White should try 27.c5 1.38/25 Rc7 28.c6;

C) 27.Ne5 0.84/21 27...Bd6 1.44/23 (⌓*27...Rc5* 0.84/21) 28.Nc6±]

[26...Rc8 1.62/21 was necessary.]

27.Rd2! Kf7 28.c5 Rd8? 3.07/23

[28...e6± 1.31/19]

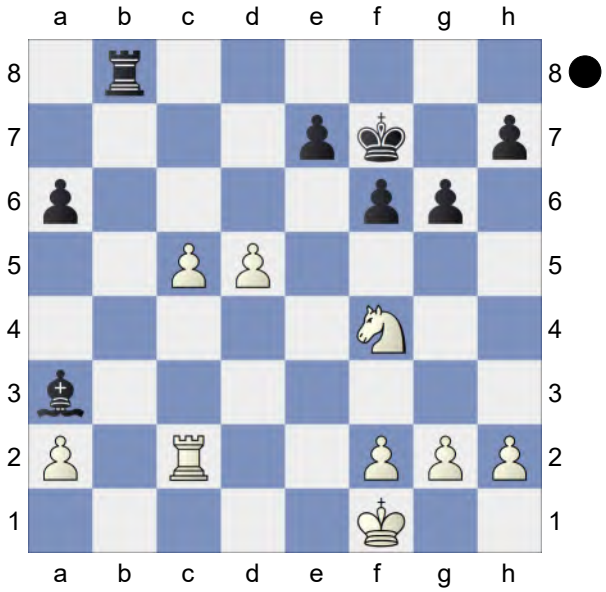
29.Nf4+-

[Not 29.c6 e6±]

29...Rb8

[29...Bxc5? perishes. 30.Ne6 Bb6 (*30...Rc8? 31.Rc2+-*) 31.Nxd8+ Bxd8 32.Rb2+-]

30.Rc2



black can continue for few more moves, but I do not believe the result would have changed.

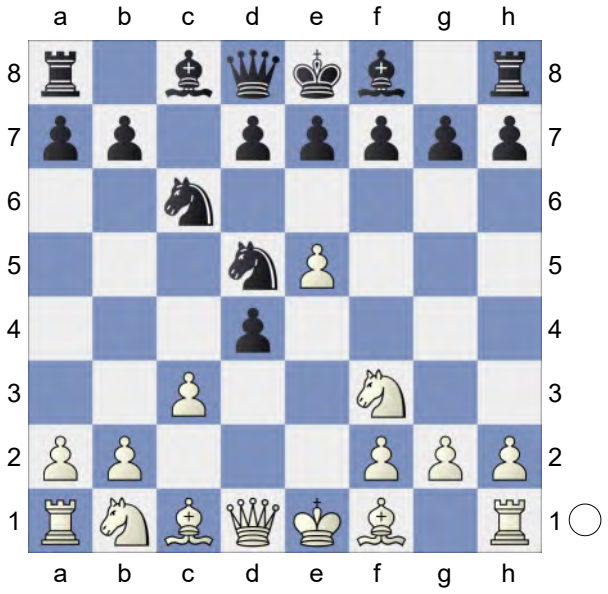
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

1-0

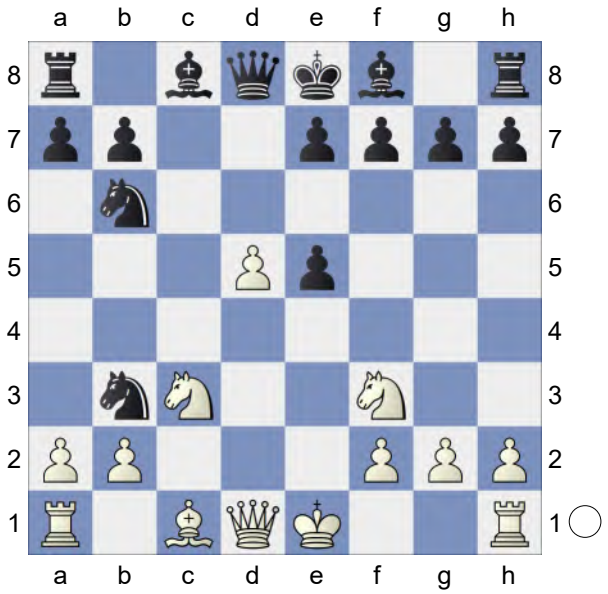
164 **B22**
□ **Fressinet,Laurent** **2636**
■ **Van der Wiel,John T H** **2542**
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (4) 14.01.2004
[Rogozenco,Dorian]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 Rogozenco,D **1...c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4**



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 dxe5 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 Nxb3



11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nxe5 White players developed this line very deep in the past 2-3 years. This is a natural consequence of the fact that different attempts in many other lines failed to prove any advantage for White. **12...Nxd5N** A natural reaction to the latest developments in the theory of Alapin Variation - some Black players start to research older variations, which were forgotten once because other possibilities to neutralize White's initiative were established to be better. This tendency to look for rare alternatives happens mainly because the amount of theory in Anti-Sicilians increased dramatically lately and knowing just few general variations is not really enough any longer for Black to equalize. And instead of studying carefully many new games with lots of analysis, a reasonable alternative is to pick up more rare variations.

This approach is quite justified, since objectively Black has more possibilities to reach reasonable play in Anti-Sicilians. When one side is trying to reach opening advantage in sidelines (basically, all Anti-Sicilians are sidelines), there must be more than just one acceptable possibility to react. The more White players will analyze and find some mini-improvements in equal variations, the more their opponents will answer by finding clear ways to neutralize White's ideas. In this game Van der Wiel Black demonstrates another way for Black to solve opening problems against this particular line. In fact it's the merit of Pavel Tregubov, who showed that Black might easier solve all problems here than after 12...exd5.

It is curious that 2.c3 Sicilian remains a good research field for any level, appart

from the very top (World Championship matches, Candidate tournaments and matches, elite tournaments etc), which speaks a lot about its objective value. On that level the Alapin Variation does not pretend to represent even slightest headache for Black.

[12...exd5 13.Be3 Bd6 14.Qb5+ leads to complicated positions, with lots of new games and many resources for White to prove compensation for the pawn. It is not easy to play it with Black without very good knowledge of last developments of theory .Rogozenko: 'führt zu komplizierten Stellungen mit vielen neuen Partien und vielen Ressourcen für Weiß, um Kompensation für den Bauern zu beweisen. Für Schwarz ist die Variante ohne sehr gute Kenntnisse der neuesten Entwicklungen in der Theorie nicht leicht zu spielen.' Kf8 15.Nf3 *(15.0-0-0 Be6 16.Nf3 Rc8 17.Kb1 h6 18.Rhe1 Kg8 19.Nd4 Nc4 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxa7 Be5 22.Bd4 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Qf6 24.Qd7 Kh7 25.Rg4 Nd2+ 26.Kc2 Ne4 27.Kb1 Nc5* ½-½ Chargelegue,T (1924)-Guedon,S (2214) Sautron op 14th 2014 (5) *)* 15...Bd7 16.Qb3 Be6 17.Nd4 Kg8 18.0-0 Rc8 19.Rfe1 Qd7 20.Ncb5 Bb8 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.Qxd5 Qc6 24.Qxc6 bxc6 25.Rac1 g6 26.Re7 Kg7 27.Nxa7 Bxa7 28.Rxa7 Rhe8 29.Kf1 1-0 (64) Pavasovic,D (2596)-Halkias,S (2560) Vidmar mem 15th 2003 (1)]

[12...Bd6 13.Qb5+ Kf8 14.dxe6 Bxe6 15.Bf4 Bxe5 16.Qxe5 Nc4 17.Qe4 g5 18.Rd1 Qe7 19.Bc1 Rg8 20.0-0 Rg6 21.Rfe1 Rc8 22.Qd4 Kg8 23.Nd5 Qd8 24.b3 Nb6 25.Bb2 1-0 Kazakov,V (2399)-Gajsin,E (2426) 85/424 Kharkov 2002 (12)]

13.Qb5+ Bd7 14.Qxb7 Bb4 The resulting positions are pretty drawish, which might represent a kind of justification for White's opening choice - there is practically no risk of losing. In fact this represents the biggest drawback of 2...Nf6 against 2.c3 - in many variations Black simply must make a draw without any chances to play for a win.

[14...Nxc3 0.53/19 14...Bd6 0.16 15.bxc3 Qc8 1.40/21 *(15...Rc8±* 0.54/21 *)* 16.Qf3± is known to be bad. Rogozenko: 'ist als schlecht bekannt.']

[But Aber 14...Qc8 is perfectly playable as well :ist ebenfalls vollkommen spielbar 15.Qxd7+ Qxd7 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.Nxd5 exd5=]

[14...Qc8 simplifies 15.Qxd7+ Qxd7 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Be3 Bb4+]

15.Bd2 A new attempt.Rogozenko: 'Ein neuer Versuch'

[15.0-0 Qc8 16.Qxc8+ *(16.Qxd7+ Qxd7 17.Nxd7 Bxc3! 18.bxc3 Kxd7 19.c4 Nb6! 20.Rd1+ Kc6 21.Bb2 f6 22.Rd4 Rhd8∓* ½-½ Vlassov,N-Baikov,V/Moscow 1996 (59)*)* 16...Bxc8 *(16...Rxc8 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Nxd7 Kxd7=)* 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Nc6 Bd6 19.Be3

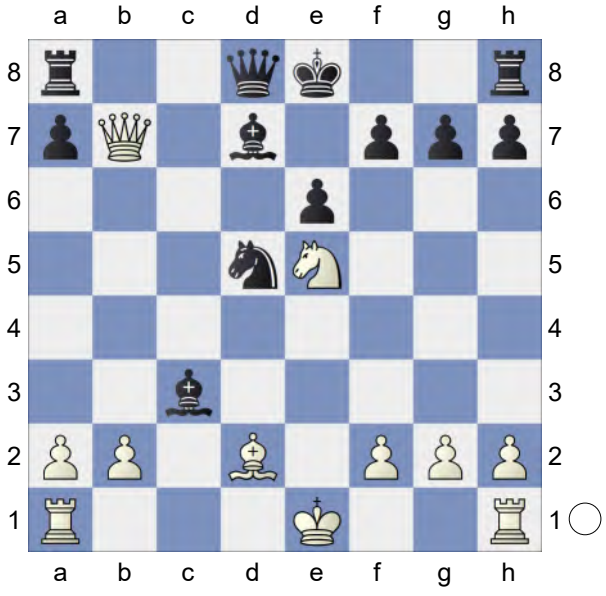
A) 19...a6!? 20.Bd4 Rg8 0.55/19 *(20...0-0=* 0.12/20 was preferrable. *)* 21.Rfe1+ Be6=;

B) 19...Bd7 20.Rac1 0-0 0.85/21 *(20...a5±* 0.34/19 *)* 21.Rfd1± ½-½ Rei,A-Wedemeyer,U/Baltic Sea tt6 corr9196 1991 (36)]

[15.Nxd7 Strongly threatening 0-0.

Qc8! The point of 14...Bb4. Rogozenko: 'The point of 14...Bb4.' 16.Nc5 *(16.Qxc8+ Rxc8 17.Bd2 Bxc3 18.Bxc3 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Kxd7∓* 0-1 De Kleuver,E (2159)-Kurenkov,N (2455)/Dieren 2005 (50)*)* 16...Qxb7 17.Nxb7 Rb8! 18.0-0 *(18.Nd6+ Bxd6 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.0-0 0-0 21.Rd1 Rfd8=* ½-½ Zambor,N-Stocek, J/Pardubice 1998 (27)*)* 18...Bxc3 19.Nd6+ Ke7 20.bxc3 Kxd6 21.c4 Nc3 Inhibits Rd1+. 22.Re1 Bf4+ would now be deadly. Kc6 0.57/19 *(22...Rbc8=* 0.13/22 *)* 23.Bf4± *(23.Bd2!? Na4□ 24.Bf4=)* 23...Rb2 White must now prevent ...Ne2+. 24.Be5 Rc2! 25.Bxg7 Rg8 26.Bxc3 Rxc3 27.Rac1 0.33/21 *(* White should try *27.Re5±* 0.77/21 *)* 27...Rxc1!± 28.Rxc1 Rb8≅ ½-½ Lautier,J-Tregubov,P/Reykjavik 2003 (51)]

15...Bxc3



16.bxc3 Qc8 17.Rb1 Nb6 18.Qf3 Black is weak on the dark squares **18...0-0 19.Qg3** Bh6 is the strong threat.

[19.0-0 And now Qg3 would win. Nc4=]

[19.Rb4?! -0.45/18 19.Qg3 0.01 f6]

[19.0-0 simplifies f6 20.Nxd7 Nxd7 21.Bf4]

19...Nd5

[19...Kh8 20.Rb4!]

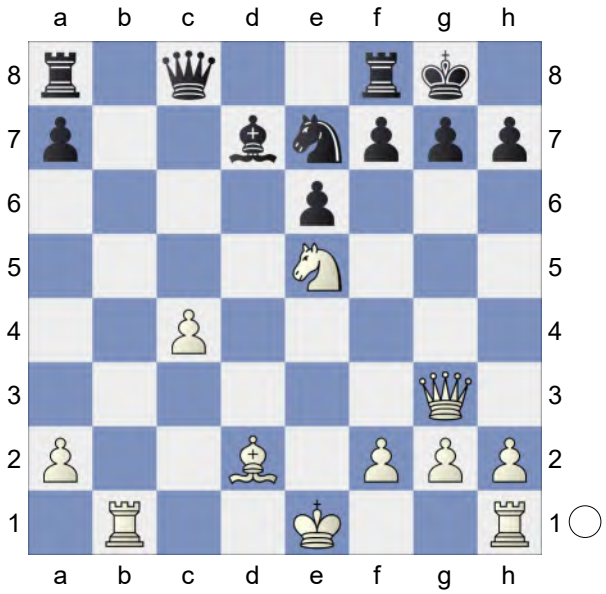
[Wrong is 19...f6? 20.Bh6 g5 21.Bxf8 Kxf8 22.Qf3+-]

20.c4

[20.0-0 Threatens to win with Bh6. Ne7= *(20...f6?* 3.71/21 20...Ne7 0.06 *21.Bh6!+-)*]

[20.Bh6 -0.79/21 20.0-0 -0.01 Qxc3+ 21.Qxc3 Nxc3]

20...Ne7!



21.Bb4 Re8 22.Qf3

[22.0-0 Nf5=]

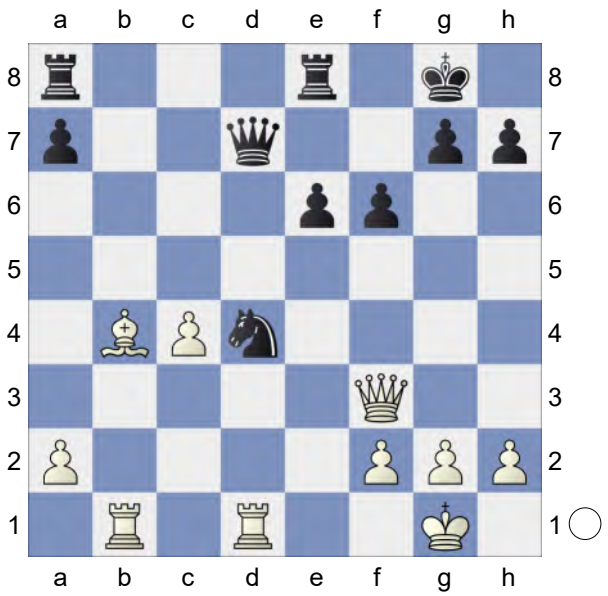
22...f6 0.38/20

[22...Nf5!? 23.g4 Ba4! Hoping for ... f6! 24.gxf5 *(24.0-0 Qc7)* 24...exf5"]

[22...Nf5= 0.00/24]

23.Nxd7± Qxd7 24.0-0 next Bxe7 is good for White. **24...Nf5= 25.Rfd1G** White is not keeping still **25...Nd4**

(Diagram)



26.Qd3 e5 27.Bc5 Rad8 28.Bxd4 Qxd4 29.Qxd4 0.01/21

[29.Qb3± 0.44/21 Qb6 30.Qa3]

29...exd4 Endgame. KRR-KRR

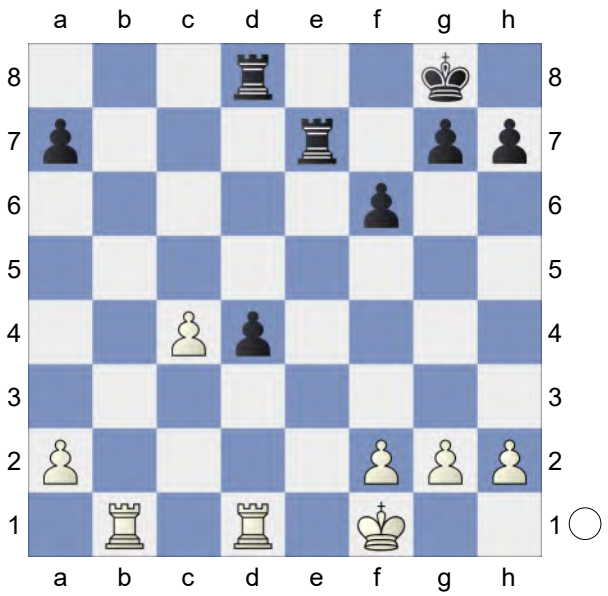
The endgame is of course a draw. A slight weakness of Black's kingside pawn formation (the pawn on f6, which weakens the seventh rank) does not change the evaluation.Rogozenko: 'Das Endspiel ist natürlich Remis. Eine leichte Schwäche in der schwarzen Bauernstellung am Königsflügel (der Bauer auf f6, der die 7. Reihe schwächt) ändert dieses Urteil nicht.' **30.Kf1**

Dodges Re2

[30.Rb7 Rc8]

30...Re7

(Diagram)



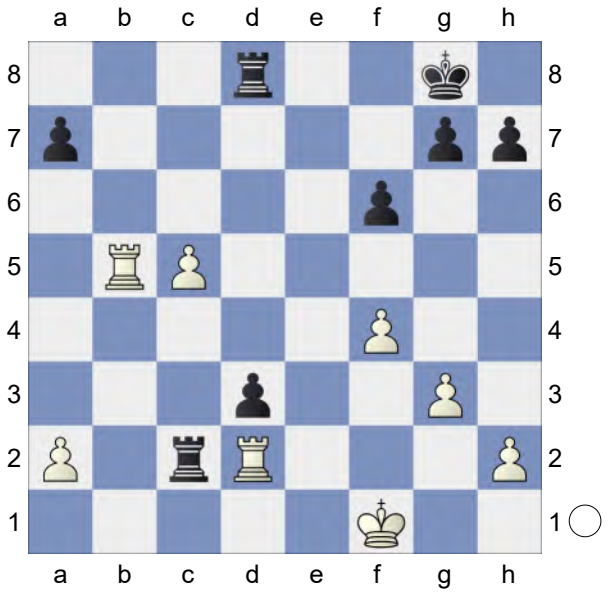
31.Rb5 Re5 Wards off Rd5 **32.f4** -0.22/20

[⌓32.Rxe5 0.21/19 fxe5 33.Ke2]

32...Re4 33.g3 d3 34.c5 Rc4 35.Rd2

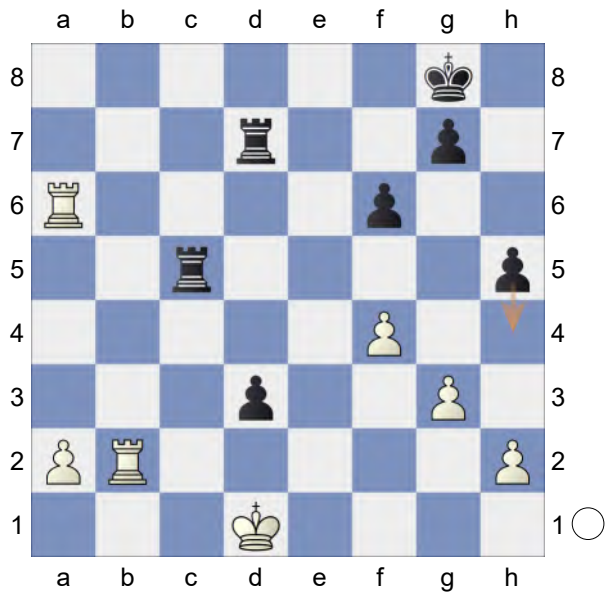
[35.Rb3 simplifies Rxc5 36.Rbxd3 Rxd3 37.Rxd3 Ra5 38.a3]

35...Rc2

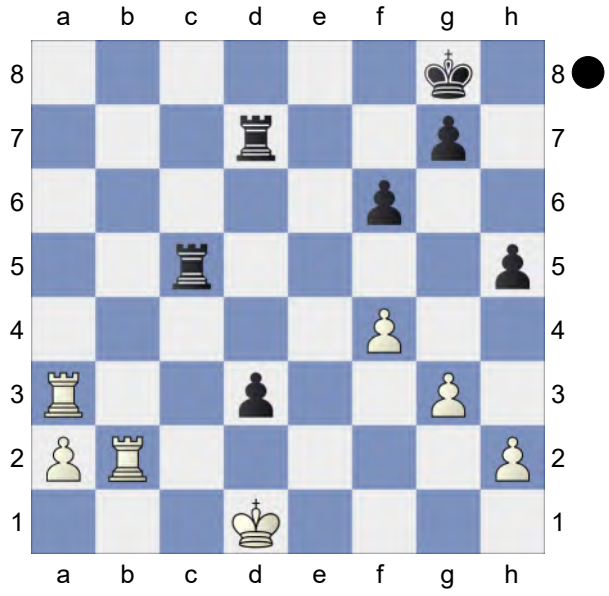


36.Ke1 Rd7 37.Kd1 Rc4 38.Rdb2 a6 39.Ra5 h5 40.Rxa6 Rxc5

(Diagram)

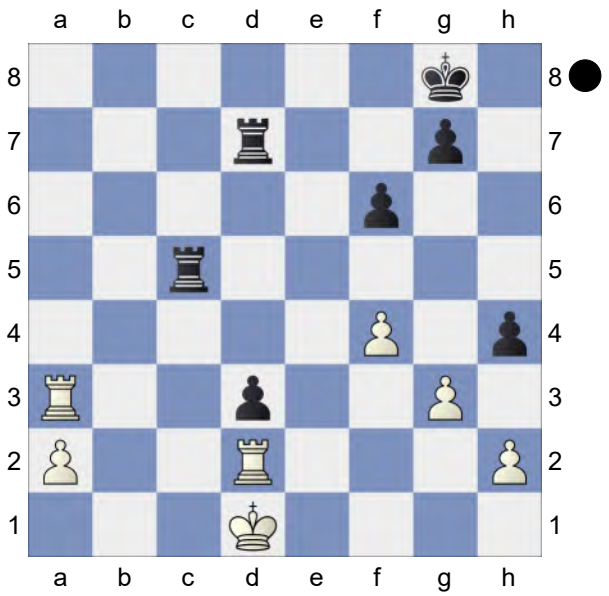


41.Ra3

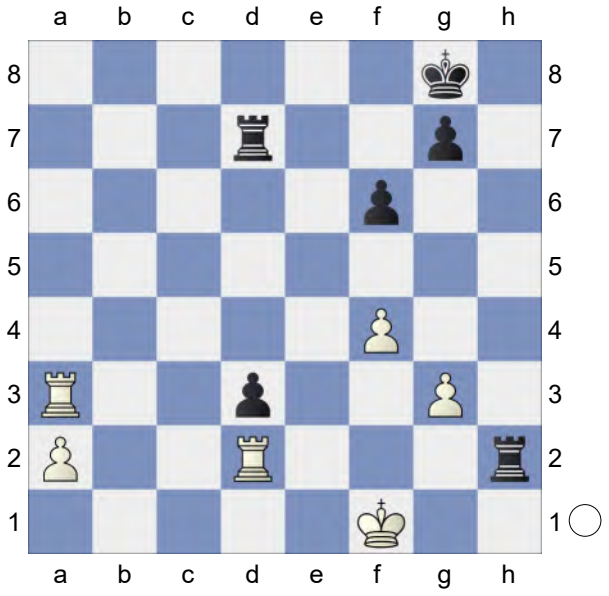


h4! 42.Rd2

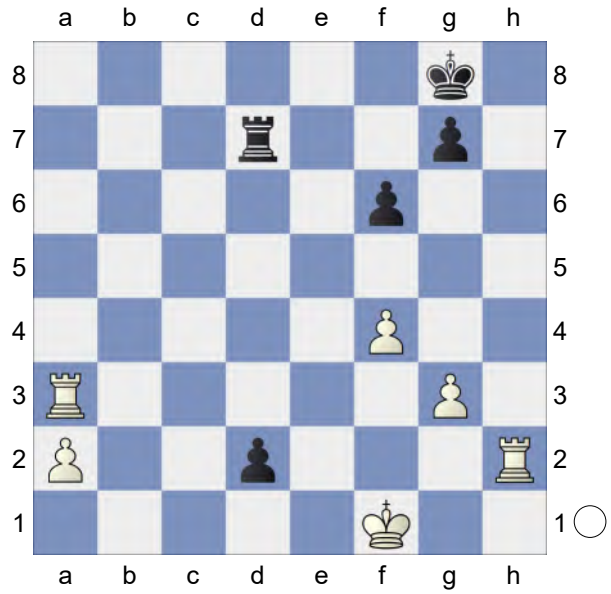
(Diagram)



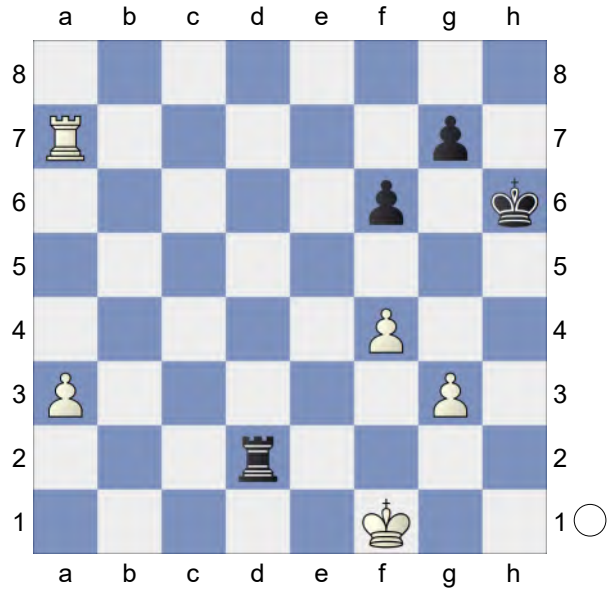
Rcd5 -0.01/21
[Black should play 42...hxg3!∓ -1.00/20 43.hxg3 Rb7 44.Rdxd3 Kh7]
43.Ke1 The position is equal. **43...hxg3**
[43...Rh5 simplifies 44.Rdxd3 Rxd3 45.Rxd3 hxg3 46.Rd8+ Kf7]
44.hxg3 Rh5 aiming for ...Rh1+. **45.Kf1**
[45.Rdxd3 Rxd3 46.Rxd3 Rh1+ 47.Kf2 Rh2+ 48.Kf3 Rxa2]
[45.Raxd3 simplifies Rxd3 46.Rxd3 Rh1+ 47.Ke2]
45...Rh2



46.Rxh2 d2

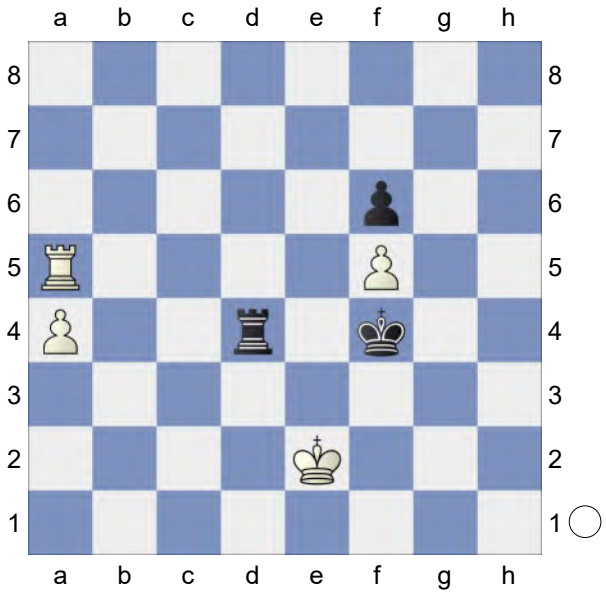


47.Rxd2 Rxd2 KR-KR **48.Ra5 Kh7 49.a3 Kg6 50.Ra7 Kh6**

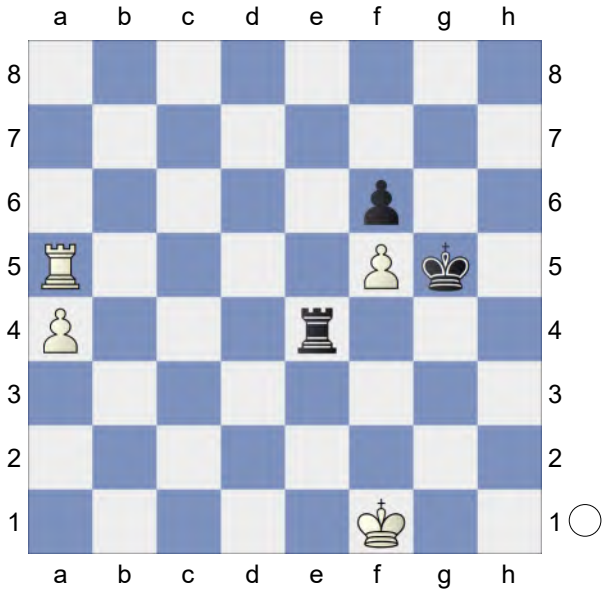


51.a4 g5 52.Ra5 gxf4 53.gxf4 Rd4 54.f5 Kg5 55.Ke2 Kf4

(Diagram)



56.Kf2 Re4 57.Kg2 Kg4 58.Kf1 Kg5

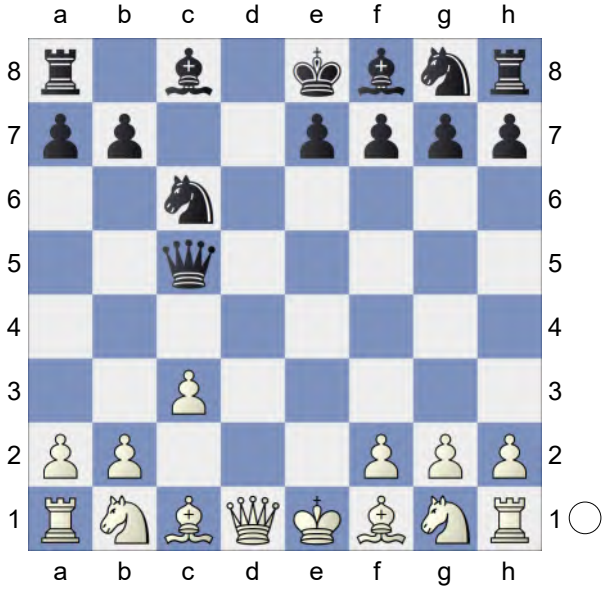


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

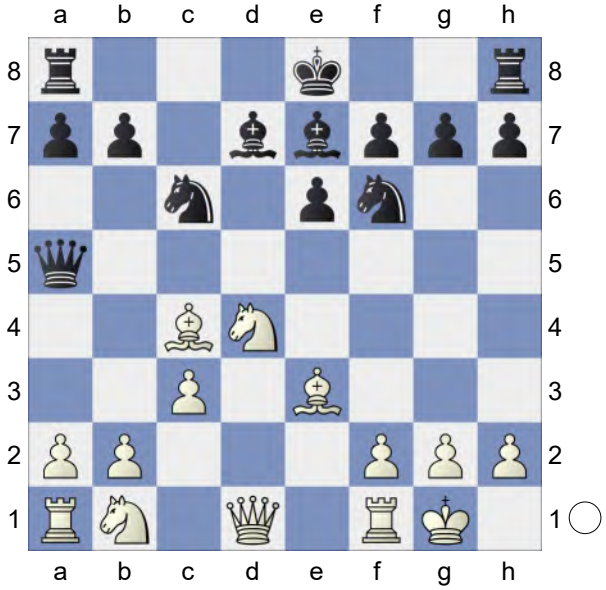
½-½

165 **B22**
□ **Yudasin,Leonid** **2615**
■ **Polgar,Zsuzsa** **2510**
Pamplona 9091 1st 1990
[Kitty Kat]

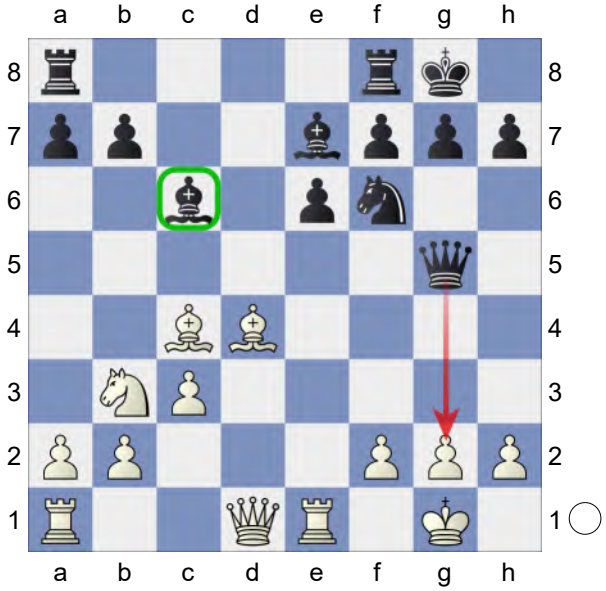
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.dxc5 Qxc5



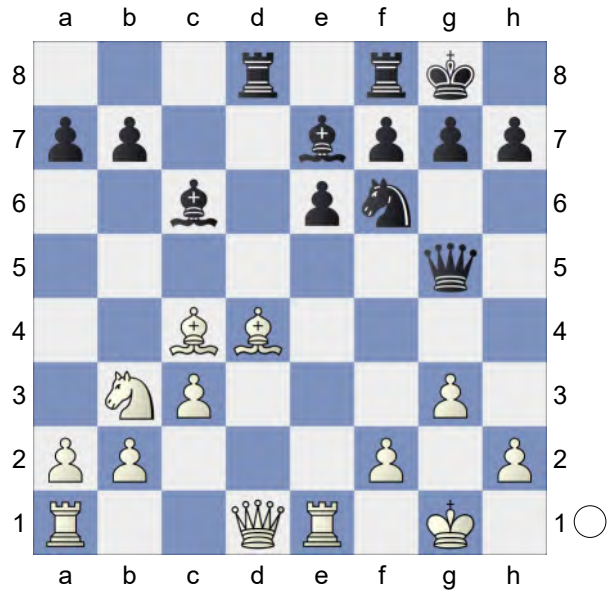
6.Be3 Qa5 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Bc4N
[8.Nbd2 e6 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.Bd3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qc2 h6 13.Rad1 b6 14.Nbd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Bb7 16.Be5 Qc6 17.b4 Rad8 18.b5 Qc8 19.Nd4 Nd7 20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.Bxg7+ Kxg7 22.Nxe6+ fxe6 (30) 120: Black 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qxh6 Nf6 25.Bc2+ Kg8 26.Qg6+ Kh8 27.Rde1 Bc5 28.Re5 Rd5 29.Rxd5 Bxd5 30.Qh6+ 120: White]
[8.Na3 Bg4 9.Qb3 0-0-0 10.Ng5 Nd4 11.Qc4+ Kb8 12.Bxd4 Qxg5 13.Nb5 Nd5 14.Bxa7+ Ka8 15.Bd4 Qf4 16.f3 Bf5 17.Qa4+ Kb8 18.Qa7+ Kc8 19.Qa8+ Qb8 20.Qxb8+ Kxb8 21.0-0-0 f6 22.c4 g6 1-0 (48) Schmittdiel,E (2455)-Polgar,J (2550) Dortmunder Schachtage-B 18th 1990 (11)]
[8.Qb3 e6 9.Nd4 e5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nd2 Qc7 12.Nc4 Be7 13.f3 0-0 14.Be2 Be6 15.g3 Nd5 16.Bf2 c5 17.Qc2 Nb6 18.Qe4 Bf6 19.Ne3 g6 20.h4 Bg7 21.g4 f5 22.gxf5 gxf5 0-1 (38) Selebran,H (1937)-Rate,B (2066) Sautron op 15th 2015 (6.47)]
8...e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nd4 The position is equal. **10...Bd7**



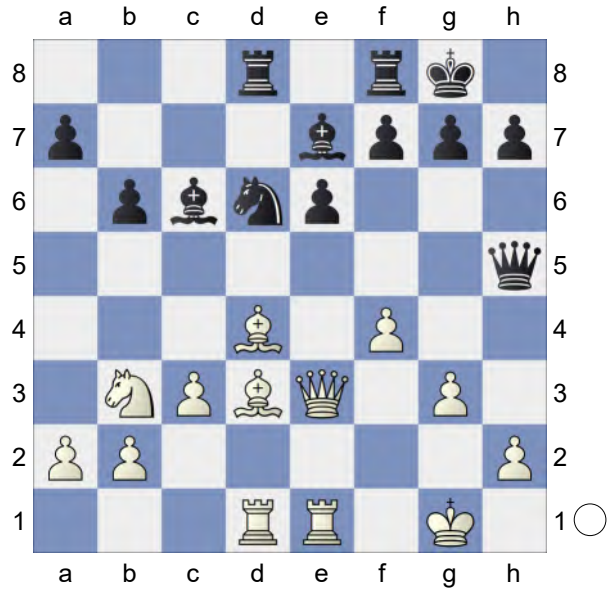
11.Nd2 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bc6 13.Re1 0-0 14.Nb3 Qg5



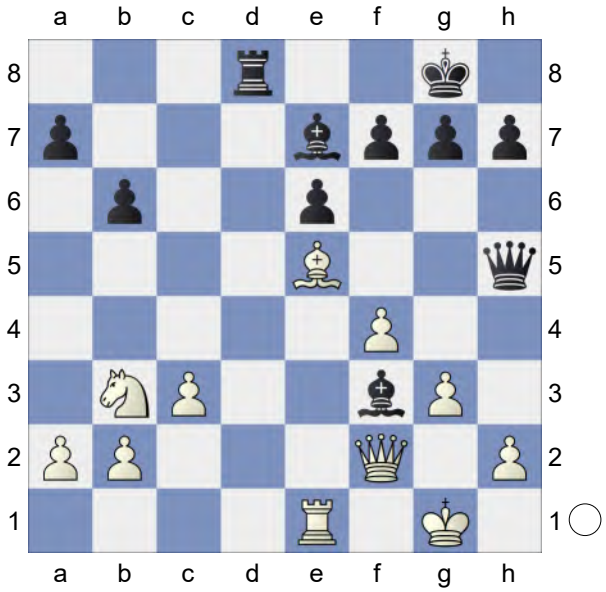
15.g3 Rad8



16.f4
[16.Re5 simplifies Qxe5 17.Bxe5 Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rc8 19.Be2]
16...Qh6 17.Qe2 Ne4 18.Qe3 -0.51/18
[18.Bxa7? Nxg3 19.Qg4 Ne4-+]
[White should try 18.Bd3= 0.11/19 f5 19.a4]
18...b6 19.Rad1 Nd6 20.Bd3 Qh5

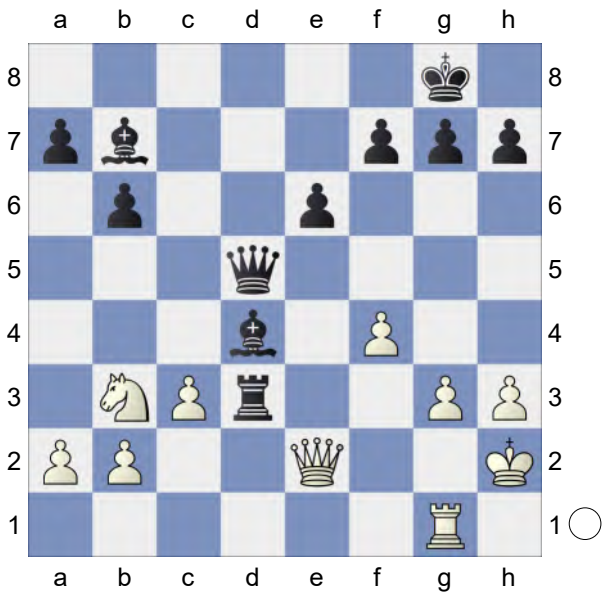


21.Be5 -1.75/21
[21.Qe5∓ -0.31/20 Qh6 22.Rd2]
21...Nf5 -0.75/21
[21...Nc4!-+ -1.75/21 is more deadly. 22.Qf2 Nxe5 23.fxe5 Bf3]
22.Qf2∓ Nh4 23.Be2 -1.10/21
[23.gxh4? loses. Bxh4 24.Qe2 Bf3-+]
[23.Nd4∓ -0.70/22 Rxd4 24.Be2 Nf3+ 25.Bxf3 Remove Defender Bxf3 26.Rxd4 *(26.cxd4? too greedy. Bxd1 27.Qd2 Bg4-+)*]
23...Nf3+ 24.Bxf3 Bxf3 25.Rxd8 Rxd8
[Resist 25...Bxd8 26.Nd4 Bb7 27.Qe2 Qxe2 28.Rxe2=]

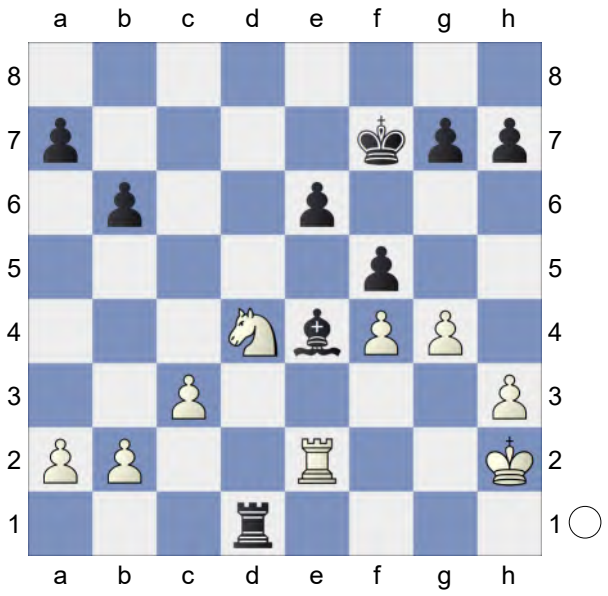


26.h3 -2.19/22 **Bb7** This pair of bishops is nice. **27.Kh2** White is weak on the light squares **27...Rd3 28.Bd4 Qd5 29.Qe2 Bf6→** White must now prevent ...Bxd4! Black wants a kill. **30.Rg1 Bxd4**

(Diagram)

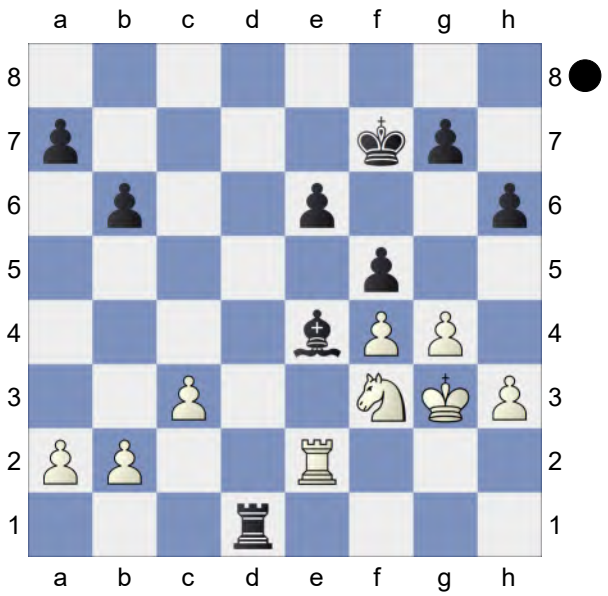


31.Nxd4 Qe4 Black is more active.
32.Qxe4 Bxe4 Endgame. KRB-KRN
33.Re1 f5 34.g4 Kf7 35.Re2 Rd1

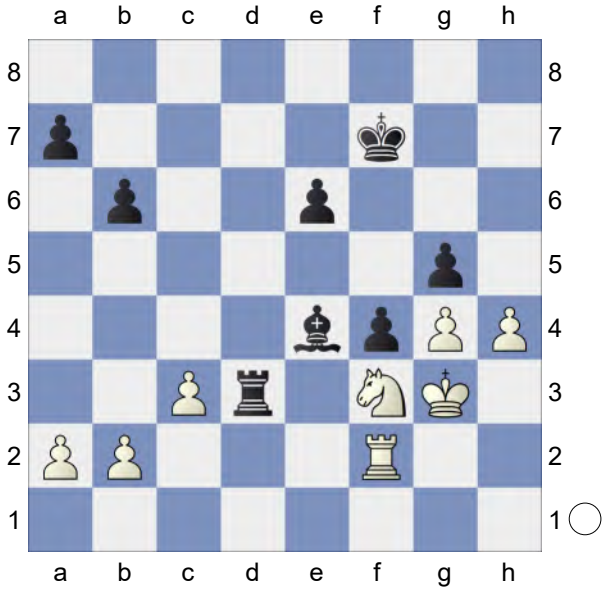


36.Kg3 -1.55/21
[⌓36.g5 -1.17/21]
36...h6 37.Nf3? -2.96/21
[37.Re3∓ -1.42/21 keeps fighting.]

(Diagram)

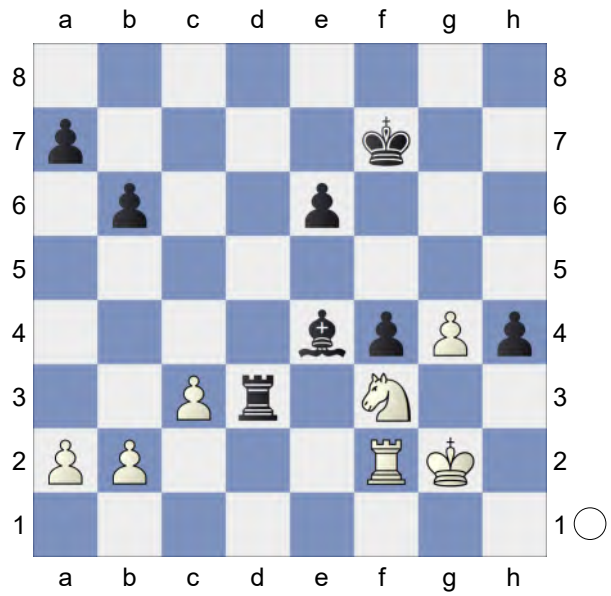


37...Rd3!-+ 38.Rf2 g5 39.fxg5? -4.73/22
[39.c4 -2.35/23]
39...hxg5 Black is clearly winning. **40.h4** -11.79/23
[⌓40.Kg2 -4.95/24]
40...f4+



Deflection **41.Kg2 gxh4**

(Diagram)

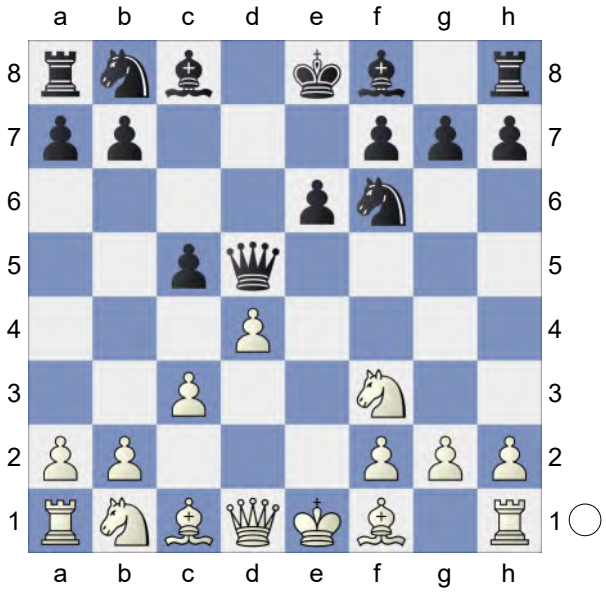


Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

0-1

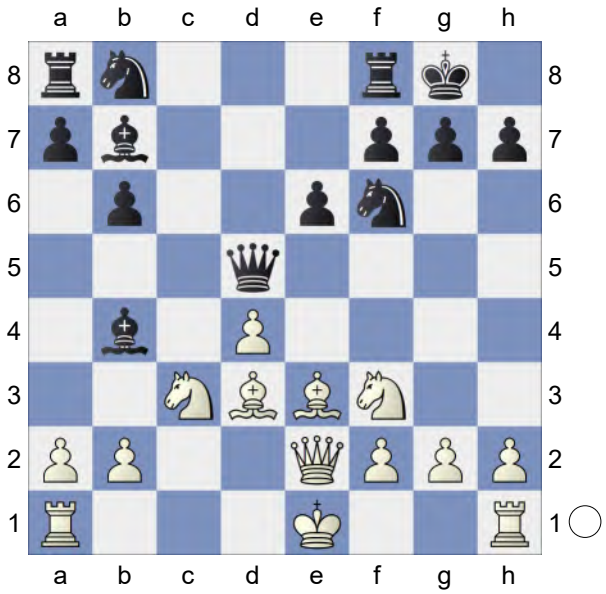
166 **B22**
□ **Bortnyk,Olexandr** **2604**
■ **Durarbayli,Vasif** **2628**
Titled Tuesday intern op 08th Mar Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



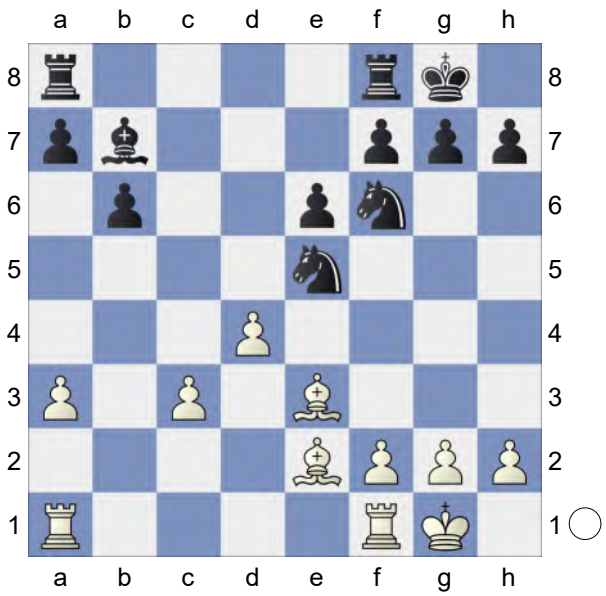
6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bd3 b6 10.Qe2 White has an edge.
[10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.Qe2 Nb8 14.c4 Qe4 15.Ne5 *(15.Qb2 Nc6 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.Rfd1 h6 18.h3 Rfd8 19.a4 Qf5 20.Qb5 Qxb5 21.axb5 Na5 22.Nd2 Ne8 23.Rc3 Nd6 24.Rdc1 Rd7 25.Kf1 Rdc7 26.Bf4 Nxb5 27.Rg3 Nxc4 28.Bxc7 Nxd2+ 29.Ke2 Ne4* 1-0 (48) Sutovsky,E (2619)-Bartel,M (2631) Biel MTO op 48th 2015 (8)*)* 15...Nbd7 16.f3 Qb7 17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.a4 Rfc8 19.a5 h6 20.Rfc1 Qc6 21.Qd2 Qd6 22.Bf4 e5 23.dxe5 Qxd2 24.Bxd2 Nxe5 ½-½ (29) Stevic,H (2619)-Grachev,B (2680) Open Biel 2011 (10)]

10...Bb7

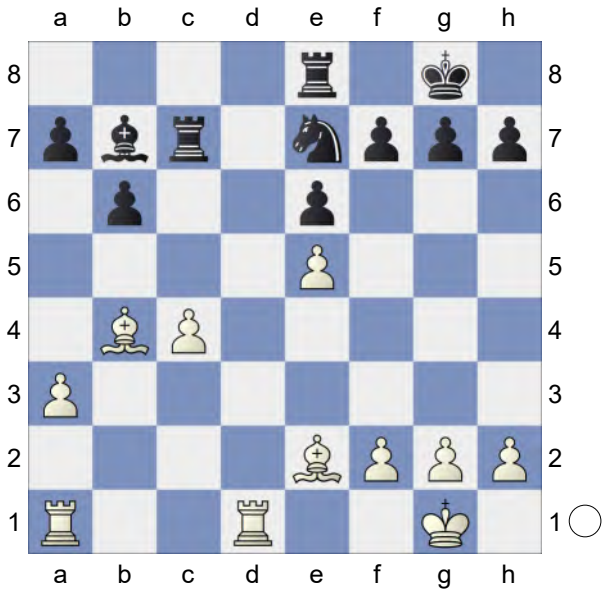


11.0-0 Qh5 12.Ne5N
[12.a3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Qxf3 14.gxf3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nc6 16.Rfc1 Rfd8 17.Ba6 Na5 18.Rab1 Nd5 19.Bd2 Nc7 20.Bd3 Rac8 21.f4 g6 22.Bf1 Ne8 23.Ba6 Rc7 24.f5 exf5 25.c4 Nc6 26.d5 Ne5 0-1 (52) Hoeppenstein,M (2399)-Kazantzoglou,S (2238) (m/4) 59/(31) 1992 (7.5) 27.Rb3 Nd6 28.c5 Rxc5 29.Rxc5 bxc5 30.Ba5 Rd7 31.f4 Nec4 32.Bc3 Nb6 33.a4 Ne4 34.a5 Nxc3 35.axb6 axb6 36.Rxc3 Rxd5 37.Rd3 Rxd3 38.Bxd3 Kg7 39.Kf2 h6 40.h4 Kf6 41.Kg3 g5 0-1 (52) Ringoir,T (2399)-Fischdick,G (2238) BL2-West 0910 2009 (7.5)]
12...Qxe2 13.Bxe2 Nbd7 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nxe5

(Diagram)

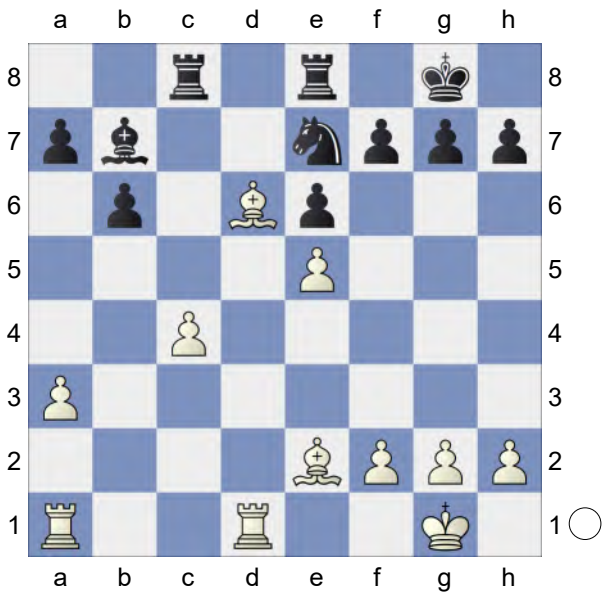


16.dxe5 Nd5 17.Bd2! Rac8 0.32/22
[17...Ne7= -0.10/20]
18.c4± Ne7 19.Bb4 Rfe8 20.Rfd1 Rc7 0.83/20
[20...Ng6= 0.12/20]

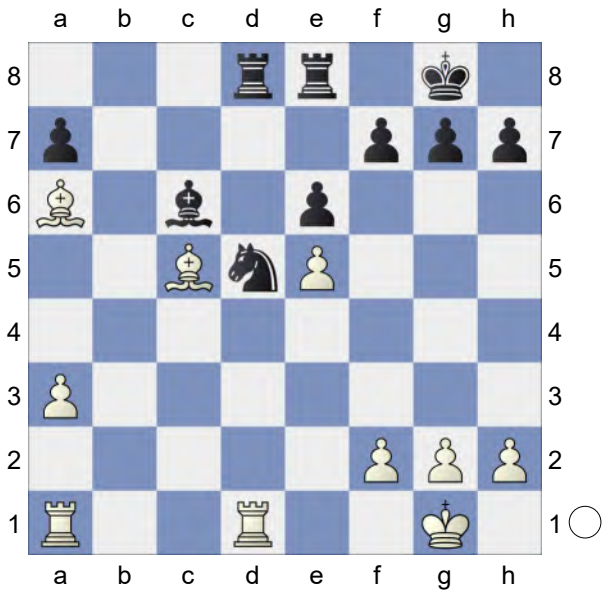


Repels Rd7 **21.Bd6 Rcc8** 1.01/21
[21...Rd7± 0.65/22]

(Diagram)

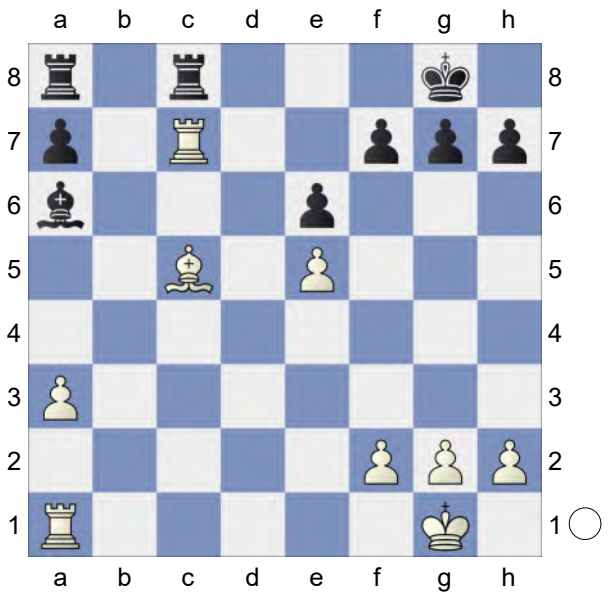


22.c5 0.43/20 **bxc5 23.Bb5 Bc6 24.Ba6** Strongly threatening Bxe7! This pair of bishops is nice. **24...Rcd8 25.Bxc5 Nd5**

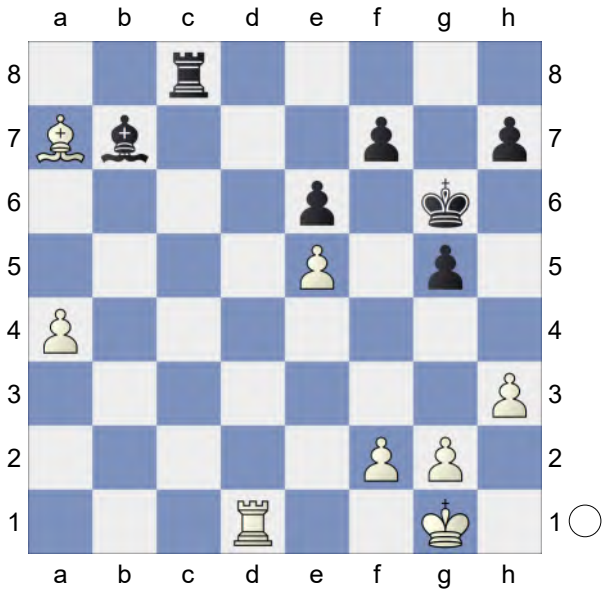


26.Bd6
[26.Bxa7 Ra8 27.Rac1 Ba4-+
(27...Bd7? 28.Rxd5
Remove Defender *exd5 29.Rc7-+)*]
26...Nc3 27.Rdc1 Bb5 28.Rxc3 Bxa6 29.Rc7 Ra8 30.Bc5 Rec8

(Diagram)

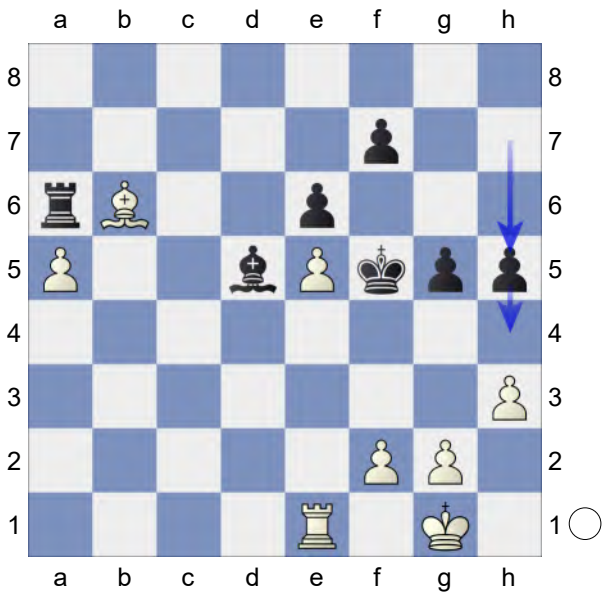


31.Rxc8+ 0.12/22
[Better is 31.Rxa7± 0.67/23 Rxa7 32.Bxa7]
31...Rxc8 0.74/23
[31...Bxc8= 0.12/22 32.Rd1 h5]
32.Bxa7 Endgame. KRB-KRB **32...g5 33.h3 Kg7 34.a4 Kg6 35.Rd1 Bb7**

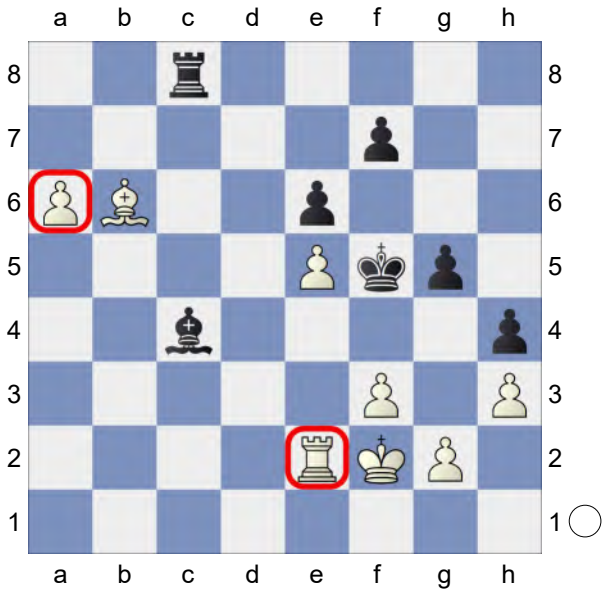


36.a5 Bd5 1.18/22
[36...Rc2± 0.67/22]
37.Bd4 Rc6 38.Ra1 Ra6 39.Bb6 Kf5 40.Re1 h5

(Diagram)

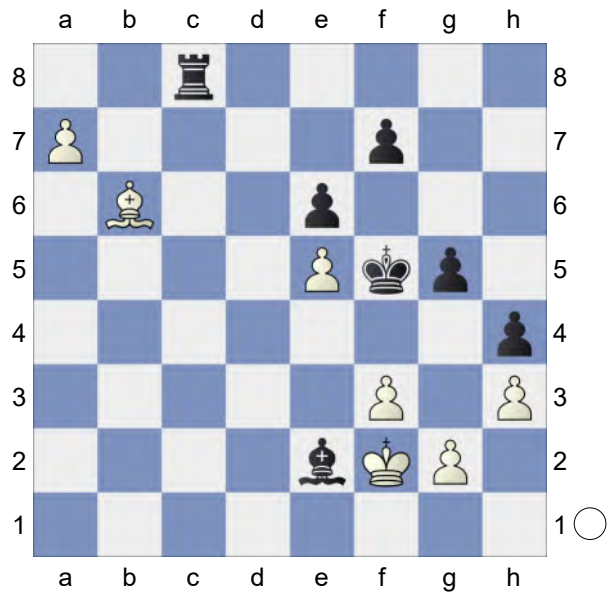


41.f3 h4 42.Re2 Ra8 43.Kf2 0.47/21
[White should play 43.Kh1± 0.89/23]
43...Rc8! 44.a6 -0.01/25
[White should try 44.Rd2± 0.88/20]
44...Bc4!=



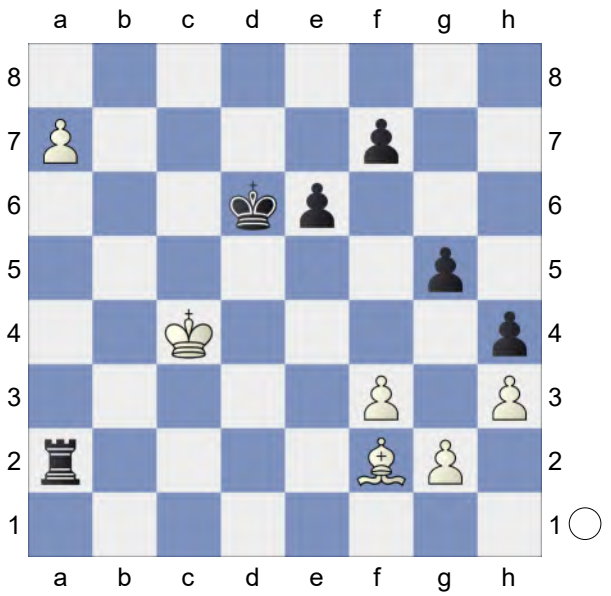
45.a7 -1.31/24 **Bxe2∓**

(Diagram)



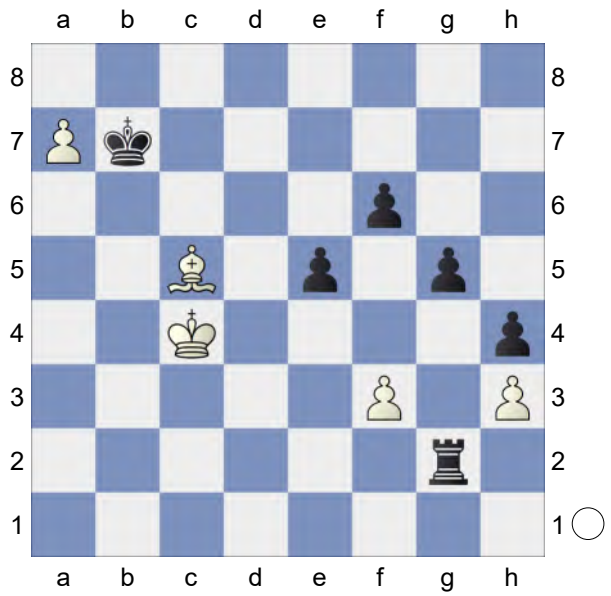
46.Kxe2 KR-KB **46...Rc2+** -0.01/28
[46...Kxe5∓ -1.25/26 ...Rc2+ is the strong threat. 47.Bc5 Kf4 *(47...Rxc5? 48.a8Q+-)*]
47.Kd3= **Ra2** Threatens to win with ... Kf4!
[47...Rxg2? 48.a8Q *(48.a8B Kg6∓)* 48...Kf4 49.Qb7+-]
48.Bd4? -2.09/27 This costs White the game.
[48.Kc4= -0.01/27 Kf4 49.Kb4]
48...Kf4!-+
[48...Rxg2? 49.a8Q *(49.a8B? Kg6-+)* 49...Kf4 50.Qg8+-]
49.Bf2 **Kxe5** White must now prevent ... Kf4!
[49...Rxf2? 50.a8Q+- *(50.a8B? Rxg2 51.Kc4 Rh2-+)*]
50.Kc4? -4.14/25
[50.Bg1 -2.26/24 might work better.]
50...Kd6 -2.11/24
[50...Rxf2? 51.a8Q *(51.a8B? Kf4-+)* 51...Rc2+ 52.Kd3+-]
[⌓50...Kf4 -4.14/25 51.Kc3 Ra4 *(51...Rxf2? 52.a8Q+-)*]

(Diagram)

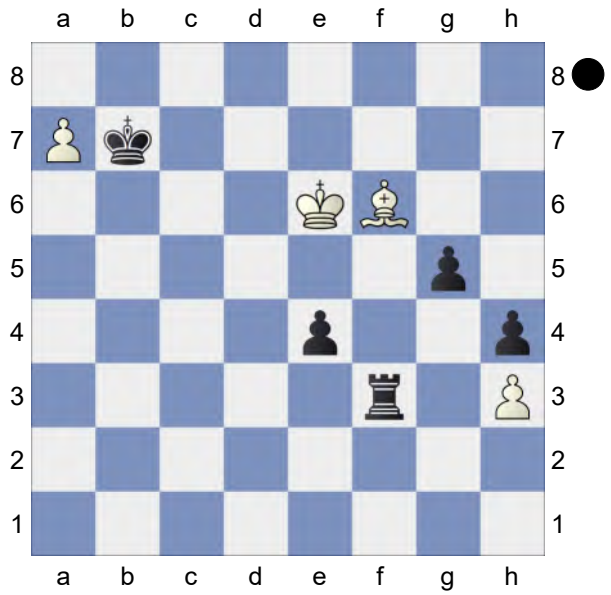


51.Kb5? -5.47/31
[51.Kb3 -2.11/24 is a better chance. Ra6 *(51...Rxf2? 52.a8Q+-)* 52.Bg1]
51...Kc7
[51...Rxf2? 52.a8Q *(52.a8B Rxg2 53.f4 Rb2+ 54.Kc4 gxf4-+)* 52...Rxg2 53.Qf8+ Ke5 54.Qxf7+-]
52.Be3 **f6**
[52...Rxg2 53.a8Q *(53.a8B? Rg3-+)* 53...Rb2+ 54.Kc4 Rc2+ 55.Kb3+-]
53.Kc4 **Kb7**
[53...Rxg2? too greedy. 54.a8Q+- *(54.a8B? Rg3-+)*]
54.Bd4 **e5** **55.Bc5** **Rxg2**

(Diagram)

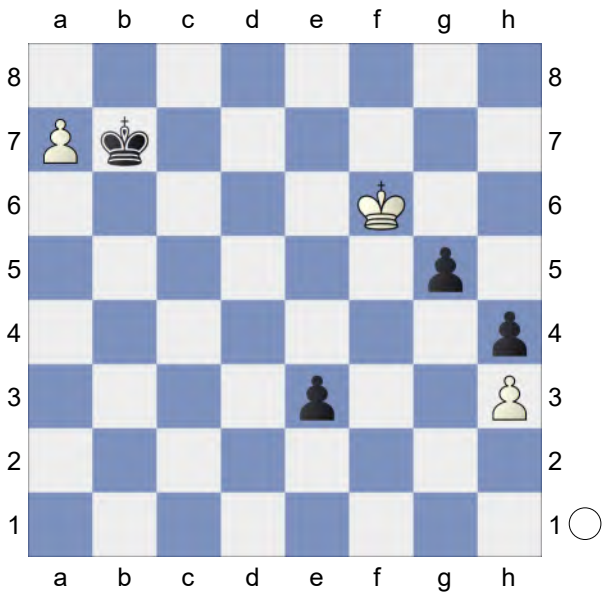


56.Kd5 Rg3 57.Ke6 Rxf3 ...e4! would now be deadly. **58.Be7 e4 59.Bxf6**



Rxf6+! Promotion **60.Kxf6 e3**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.16 (very precise)

0-1

167 **B22**
□ **Narayanan,Sunilduth Lyna** **2669**
■ **Muradli,Mahammad** **2540**
World Blitz 2022 (6.33) 29.12.2022
[Fitzsimons,David]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bb5+!? This is a rare try to avoid the absolute mainlines after 5 d4 cxd4 6 cxd4 Nc6, which White may not have been aiming for with the 4 Nf3 move-order. It's definitely worth knowing how to meet this with Black, as the theory is still in its infancy and best play has yet to be seen OTB. **5...Bd7!**
[5...Nc6?! gives White very good chances of an opening advantage. 6.0-0 e6
A) 7.d4!? is a more typical Alapin approach. cxd4
A1) 8.Qxd4 Bd7! Breaking the pin immediately seems to be the best bet. *(8...Qb6?!* gives White some pressure after *9.Qxb6 Nxb6* 0-1 (66) Shimanov,A (2581)-Leitao,R (2592) chess.com INT 2022 *10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Rd1 Be7 12.Ne5* nabbing the two Bishops: *Bd7 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.Nd2 0-0-0* Black's lead in development isn't quite enough to offset the Bishop pair after *15.Nc4 Nde5 16.Be3±)* 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Re1!?N Probably White's best attempt, but Black should be OK. *(10.Bg5?!* 1-0 (58) Broca Jimenez,F (2075) -Sammed Jaykumar,S (2449) chess.com INT 2023, looks logical, but Black has a good response: *Be7 11.Bxe7 Nxe7! 12.exd6 Nf5 13.Qf4 Qxd6 14.Qxd6 Nxd6 15.Nd4 Ke7 16.Nxc6+ bxc6∓* Black's split Queenside pawns can't easily be attacked and he has clear play down the b-file.*)* 10...dxe5 11.Nxe5 Qb6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Nd2 Rd8 This looks like a typically solid outcome from the Alapin for Black. 14.Nc4 Nf6 15.Qh4 *(15.Ne5* can be met by *Rxd4 16.Nxc6 Ra4!? 17.b3 Ra6!=* and the Rook looks to be doing a decent job on an unusual square! *)* 15...Be7 16.Ne5 Qc5 White can't exploit Black's King in the centre and Black castles successfully after 17.Qa4+ b5 18.Qc2 0-0= with no problems at all.;
A2) 8.cxd4 This position usually arises with the Bishop on c4 instead of b5. 8...Bd7
A2a) 9.Bc4!? is another option. White is a tempo down on the ...e7-e6 mainline as Black has managed to get in ...Bc8-d7 "for free". This move is generally useful for Black, but it's more often combined with ...Bd7-c6 and ...Nb8-d7. In this particular position, the extra tempo for development shouldn't hurt Black, but he must be wary of losing a pawn on d5 in several variations.
A2a1) 9...dxe5 10.dxe5 Rc8!? is also logical, as the d-pawn is poisoned. 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Bg5! looks best, but it should peter out to equality after

(12.Qxd5? runs into *Nb4 13.Qxb7 Nc2 14.Nc3 Nxa1* White can regain the material by playing *15.Bg5 Qc7 16.Qxc7 Rxc7 17.Rxa1* but Black's extra exchange is to be preferred following *Rb7∓)* 12...Be7 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nc3 Bg4! 15.Nxd5 Qe6 White can't hang on to the extra pawn. 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 0-0 18.Rad1 Qxe5=;

A2a2) 9...Nb6 This is an interesting approach for Black, trying to chase down White's light-squared Bishop. 10.Bb3 dxe5 11.dxe5 White's spatial advantage is potentially a serious issues and Black must play concretely: Na5!N *(11...Be7?!* isn't challenging: *12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qe2±* is comfortably better for White. *Qb8?!* 0-1 (53) Kretainis,K (2258)-Kovalenko,I (2611) Riga 2014 *14.Qe4±* looks very strong, with the typical Bb3-c2 to follow. *)*

A2a21) 12.Bc2 gives Black the chances to exchange Queens with Bb5! 13.Re1 Qxd1 and White doesn't have a comfortable way to recapture: 14.Bxd1 *(14.Rxd1 Be2! 15.Re1 Bxf3 16.gxf3 0-0-0∓* Black's better structure outweighs White's pair of Bishops. *)* 14...Nc6 15.Nc3 Bd3∓ Black has easy play here. He can put the Queen's Rook on d8, target the Knight on c3 with ... Bf8-b4 and put pressure on the e5-pawn with ...Nb6-d7.;

A2a22) 12.Nc3! White should simply continue developing and force Black to lose further time exchanging the light-squared Bishop. 12...Nxb3 13.axb3! This looks like the most challenging approach, placing the activity of the pieces above all other considerations. *(13.Qxb3* is also possible. For example, *Be7 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Nb5!?* looks dangerous at first, but it simply leads to another typical structure after *Bxb5 16.Qxb5+ Qc6! 17.Qxc6+ bxc6 18.Be3 Nd5 19.Rac1 Kd7* Black's powerful Knight on d5 should offset his Queenside weaknesses. *20.Bc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rhb8 22.b3 a5* A standard plan for Black in this type of structure. *23.Nd4 a4 24.Rxc6 axb3 25.axb3* White has won a pawn, but it's hard to see it making much of an impact on the game after *g5!?⩲* with good

compensation for Black.*)* 13...Be7 14.Nd4 0-0 15.Qf3± retains the initiative for White, with Qf3-g3 to follow (assuming Black protects the b-pawn).;

A2b) 9.Nc3!? White "falls" for a typical pin-breaking idea, but this may well be the most dangerous approach. 9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 Nxe5!? This is critical, but the other capture on e5 is also perfectly possible. *(10...Nxe5!? 11.Rb1 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 d5=)*

A2b1) 11.Rb1!? is another interesting try. Bxb5 12.Rxb5 Qd7 can be met by the dangerous-looking 13.Rxe5!? dxe5 14.Nxe5 Qc7! 15.Qa4+ Kd8 16.Bf4 Once again, however, Black can equalise without too much trouble: f6! 17.Ng6 Qd7! forces the exchange of Queens, and the Knight won't make it out of the corner alive after 18.Qxd7+ 1.33/5 *(18.Qa5+= 0.08/22 b6 19.Qh5 hxg6 20.Qxh8)* 18...Kxd7± 19.Nxh8 Bd6! 20.Bxd6 Kxd6 21.Nf7+ Ke7 22.Rb1 b6!= with an equal Rook ending.;

A2b2) 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Rb1

A2b21) 12...exd4!?N looks best.

A2b211) 13.Bg5!? is a very tempting move, but Black seems to be fine after Qc8!= *(while 13...Qxg5!?* is also not out of the question: *14.Bxd7+ Kxd7 15.Rxb7+ Kc8 16.Rxf7 Rb8 17.cxd4 Kd8!=* stepping off the open c-file and preparing to run to the safety of the Kingside. White clearly has enough play for the piece, but Black should be fine. *)*;

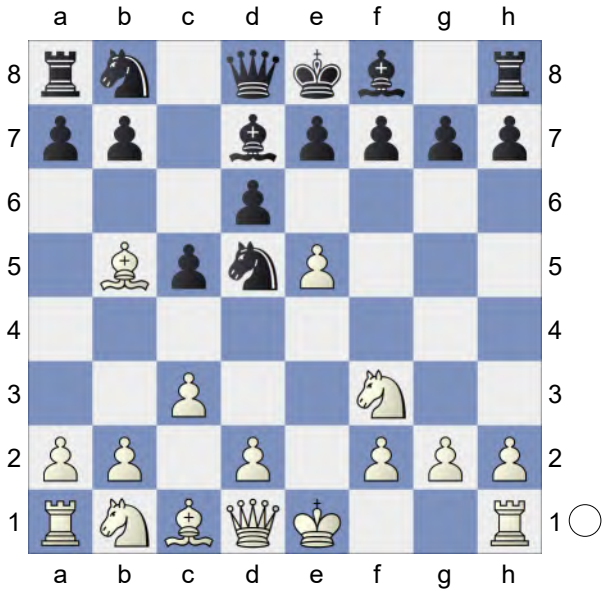
A2b212) 13.Qf3!? Bxb5 14.Rxb5 Bd6! Black is fine as long as he doesn't get greedy! 15.Rxb7 0-0 16.cxd4 Qa5= with equal chances.;

A2b22) 12...b6= -0.12/21;

A2b23) 12...Be7?! 0.48/21 This natural developing move was tested in a recent GM encounter, but it's not the most accurate. 13.Qg4!± White develops a strong initiative after this. Bxb5?! 14.Rxb5 Qd7?? 1.86/21 Black's desire to castle is understandable, but the King is not at all safe on the Queenside after *(14...exd4* is stronger, although Black won't have an easy life after *15.Qxg7 Bf6 16.Qh6±; 14...exd4!±* 0.67/22 *15.Qxg7 Bf6)* 15.Qxg7+- 0-0-0 16.Qxe5+-

with a clear extra pawn and attacking chances, 1-0 (54) Ganguly,S (2582)-Ivic,V (2572) Almaty KAZ 2022;

B) 7.c4!? This looks like the simplest route to an edge for White, but it leads to position types that more commonly arise from the Rossolimo/Grand Prix Attack. 7...Nb6!?N looks like the best response, but White still retains a pleasant advantage after *(7...Nc7?* This is a very poor square for the Knight and generally serves no other purpose than to encourage White to execute the exchange on c6, which is part of the plan anyway! *8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.d4* White is so well-developed, it actually makes sense for him to open up the position by liquidating Black's weak c5-pawn. *d5* 0-1 (31) Malek, J (2376)-Krzyzanowski,M (2538) Bialystok POL 2022 *11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Qc2 h6* Castling would run into a Nf3-g5 sortie. *13.Rd1 0-0 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Be3±* 0-1 The foremost c-pawn may have disappeared, but the c5-square is still a sore point for Black, and White in fact has time to play c4-c5 and Ne4-d6 as well, with a clearly superior position.*)* 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.d3± Black's doubled c-pawns and limited light-squared Bishop give White excellent chances. Black is generally advised to avoid this structure in the analogous lines of the Grand Prix Attack and with good reason: White's position is easy to play as the c5-pawn in particular presents him with a clear target.]



This is definitely the safest way to play. **6.Bc4** Black can't capture on e5 immediately and has to deal with the threat to the Knight. If he wasn't planning to play the ...e7-e6 set-ups, he has to go for 6. ..Nb6, and this gives White the interesting option of capturing on f7. **6...e6** This is very reliable, as ... Bc8-d7 is a useful move for Black in several lines of the usual ...e7-e6 set-ups. However, Black has been denied the opportunity to play variations involving ...b7-b6 and may have to sacrifice a pawn on d5 in certain lines as well.

[6...Nb6 I guess this hasn't been chosen very often because of the capture on f7, but this doesn't hold any theoretical terror for Black. 7.Bxf7+!? *(7.Bxf7+!? Kxf7 8.Ng5+! Ke8 9.e6∓)* 7...Kxf7 8.e6+!

A) 8...Kg8? 0.83/19 8...Kxe6 -0.01 Black has chosen this on the two occasions where this position has arisen, but these have been online games where Black was

presumably surprised in the opening. There's no reason why Black shouldn't capture on e6, and both choices transpose to each other. 9.exd7 Qxd7

A1) 10.d4 is also good for White. cxd4 11.cxd4 g6 1.16/21 *(Black should play 11...e6* 0.79/20 *)* 12.0-0± Bg7 13.Re1 Nc6 14.Nc3 Rf8 15.a4± Black has issues completing his development and White has a strong initiative, 1-0 (36) Shevchenko,K (2652) -Vokhidov, S (2536) chess.com INT 2022;

A2) 10.0-0 e5 11.Re1± *(11.d4!?± also looks good.)* 11...c4?! 12.d4!± is excellent for White, opening the position up long before Black is ready. *(12.b3±* is also strong, but White mouse-slipped later on, 0-1 (18) Mikhailovsky,V (2215)-Salem,A (2677) chess.com INT 2023 *)*;

B) =8...Bxe6!?N 9.Ng5+ Kf6 10.Qf3+! Bf5 transposes to 8... Kxe6.;

C) 8...Bxe6± 0.48/23 should be considered. 9.Ng5+ Kf6 10.Qf3+ Bf5;

D) 8...Kxe6!?N 0.01/17 This definitely looks hairy for Black at first glance, but his position is very resilient despite the wandering King. 9.Ng5+= Kf6 10.Qf3+ Bf5 This position can arise from either capture on move eight. transposes to 8...Kxe6. *(10...Kxg5??* #7/16 10...Bf5 0.01 *11.Qf7!+-* is mate in 6!*)* 11.g4 e6 12.Ne4+ Ke7! As awkward as this looks for Black, his position is completely fine and White can't really exploit the King on e7. 13.gxf5 Prevents Nxd5 exf5 14.Qxf5 Qd7= is just equal.]

7.Bxd5N Not the most challenging approach from White. There's no need to take on d5 so early. I think Narayanan simply mixed up his lines here as this was a blitz game, and probably just forgot to include 7 d4 cxd4 before capturing on d5.

[7.d4!? cxd4 *(7...Bc6 8.0-0 Nd7!?* Perhaps Narayanan was trying to avoid this set-up from Black, as it also looks very solid: *9.Bb3 cxd4 10.exd6! d3!? 11.Qxd3 Bxd6=* looks quite active for Black.*; 7...dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nc6 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Bb3 cxd4 11.Nf3 dxc3 12.Nxc3 Be7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.g3* 23) 2...Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6-4.Nf3 d6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 e6 *)*

A) 8.cxd4

A1) 8...Nb6 9.Bb3 Bc6?! *(9...dxe5 10.dxe5 Bc6!=* is more accurate, as the Queen exchange favours Black thanks to White's over-extended e-pawn. *)* 10.0-0 Be7 *(10...dxe5 11.Nxe5±* gives White some initiative as Black isn't quite ready for confrontation with most of his pieces still undeveloped.*)* 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Bf4 dxe5!?N Now that Black has castled, he is now ready to transform the structure into an IQP and retains a solid position after *(12...Bxf3?* 0.67/20 12...dxe5 0.24 isn't a good idea, despite the fact that it was played by Korobov: *13.Qxf3 d5* 0-1 (34) Khristovoy,D (2005)-Korobov,A (2683) chess.com INT

2020 *14.Qh3!±* The combination of the closed centre and Black's King's Knight miles from the action on b6 gives White a free hand to attack on the Kingside.*)* 13.Nxe5 Bd5 14.Bc2 Nc6 15.Re1 Bf6" with a typical IQP struggle.;

A2) 8...Bc6!? looks completely fine for Black. 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Qe2 -0.03/17 *(10.Bxd5!?* is another possibility, but Black retains good control of the centre after *Bxd5 11.Nc3 Nb6=; 10.Bxd5±* 0.39/20 *Bxd5 11.Nc3)* 10...Be7= with a typical Alapin struggle, but one where Black has put the extra tempo with ... Bc8-d7 to excellent use, 0-1 (32) Shevchenko, K (2652)-Vokhidov, S (2536) chess.com INT 2022;

B) 8.Bxd5!? This is more dangerous for Black than Narayanan's choice as White intends to gambit a pawn and race ahead in development. 8...exd5 9.0-0!? Black needs to play accurately here to equalise.

B1) 9...Be6 10.Nxd4

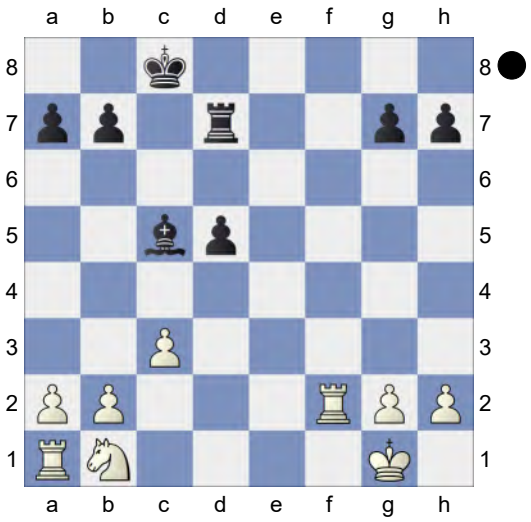
B1a) 10...dxe5?! is too cooperative: 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ Kd7! 13.c4!± 0.01/17 gives White a raging initiative with Black's King stuck in the centre, 1-0 (63) Blomqvist,E (2544) - Nandhidhaa,P (2358) Stockholm SWE 2023 *(13.Qxe5±* 0.60/19 *Nc6 14.Qh5)*;

B1b) 10...Qd7!N This should ultimately neutralise White's initiative. Wards off c4 11.Bf4 dxe5 12.Bxe5 Nc6 13.Qe2!? Probably the best try to pose problems, but Black shouldn't be unhappy to grab the dark-squared Bishop as well. *(13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Bg3 Bd6* should be fine for Black with careful play: *15.Qh5+ g6 16.Qg5 Qe7! 17.Qe3 Bxg3 18.Qxg3 0-0 19.Nd2 Rad8=* Black's activity compensates for his slightly weaker structure in this typical Two Knight's French position.*)* 13...Nxe5 14.Qxe5

B1b1) 14...0-0-0!? is also quite possible. 15.Nxe6 *(15.Qe3!? Bg4!?v* also gives Black enough play.*)* 15...fxe6 16.Re1 Black can ignore the threat to e6 and play Bc5! which is useful to know in advance. Hoping for ...Rhf8.

B1b11) 17.Qxe6?? -1.95/24 17.Nd2 0.31 actually loses to Rhf8! Threatens to win with ... Qxe6! 18.Qxd7+ Rxd7 19.Re2 -2.65/26 *(⌓19.Kh1* -1.95/23 *Rxf2 20.b4)* 19...Rxf2! 20.Rxf2

(Diagram)



Rf7!-+ and White can't protect f2, or finish his development without losing material.;

B1b12) 17.Nd2 This gives Black time to cover e6: 17...Rhf8 18.Nf3! Rf6= Black's dark-squared Bishop and activity easily compensate for the backward e-pawn.;

B1b2) 14...0-0-0= 0.20/21;

B1b3) 14...Bd6!? 0.76/18 This counter-gambit looks like the most dynamic choice for Black. He should easily have enough compensation after 15.Qxg7± 0-0-0⩲;

B2) 9...Bg4?! 1/2-1/2 (37) Heimisson, H (2321)-Ongut,T (2340) Budapest HUN 2023. This is inaccurate in view of 10.Bf4! dxe5 11.Bxe5 Nc6 12.Re1 Nxe5 and now 13.Qxd4! is an important idea: Bxf3 14.Rxe5+ Be7 15.gxf3 0-0 White must now prevent ...Bf6. 16.Rxd5± Black always retains some compensation thanks to White's weakened Kingside, but White's pieces will be very active and it's not enough to claim equality for Black.;

B3) 9...Nc6 10.Bf4 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Qf6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Qxd4 f6 14.Re1+ Kf7 15.Nd2 Bc5 16.Qd3 Rae8 17.Nb3 Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Bb6 19.Be3 Gehrmann,U (2338)-Bui,Q (2475) 4.Qc2 Qa5+ 5.Nd2;

B4) 9...dxe5!? seems to be the simplest. 10.Nxe5 Be7 *(10...Nc6!?N also works: 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxd4 Be6=* Black can drive back White's Queen with ...c6-c5 or even ... Qd8-b6 offering a trade. He should then have no problems completing the development of his Kingside.*)* 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Qxd4 0-0 13.Rd1 Rd8= arose in a recent game. Black is fine despite the isolated pawn, as ...Nb8-c6 will come next with tempo and White's entire Queenside is still undeveloped, 1/2-1/2 (31) Pechac,J (2637) - Yilmaz,M (2609) Wijk aan Zee NED 2023]

7...exd5 8.0-0 The position is equal.

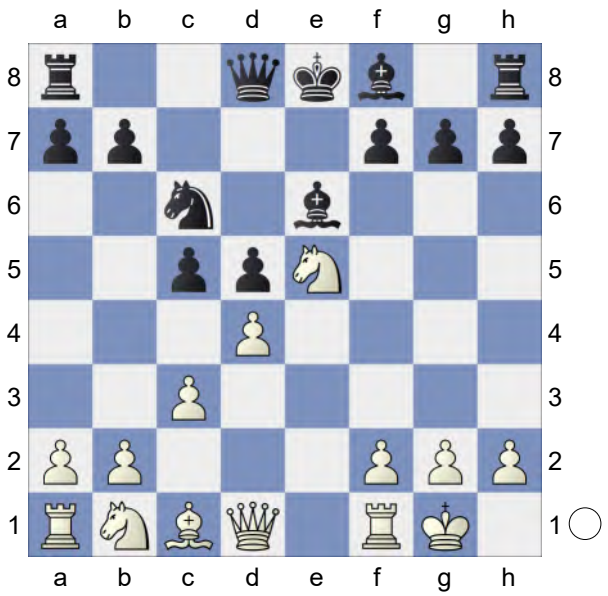
8...dxe5

[8...Nc6!∓ is already preferable for Black.]

9.Nxe5 Be6

[9...Nc6 is another option, and the engine actually prefers to recapture with the pawn on c6: 10.Nxc6 bxc6!?= as it's hard to imagine White doing without d2-d4. In any case, Black is fine.]

10.d4 Nc6



...Xg5 would now be deadly. **11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Be3?!** -0.39/21 Not the most active square for the Bishop.

[12.Bf4 discourages ...Bf8-d6 from Black and should lead to a very balanced position after Be7 13.Qa4 Qd7 14.Nd2 0-0 15.Rfe1 Rfe8 and now after 16.Nb3 c4 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.dxc5 Bf5= Black has no problems at all.]

[12.Bf4= -0.02/19 feels stronger.]

12...c4

[12...cxd4! is probably more challenging for White to meet: 13.Bxd4 *(13.cxd4 Bd6∓* gives Black decent Kingside attacking chances.*)* 13...c5! 14.Be5 Bd6!? 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qa4+ Qd7 Black's King would be well-placed in the resulting ending if White traded Queens. 17.Qa5 White can at least discourage active play from Black on the Queenside by blocking the a-pawn. Qc6 18.Nd2 0-0= leads to a quiet enough position, with equal chances.]

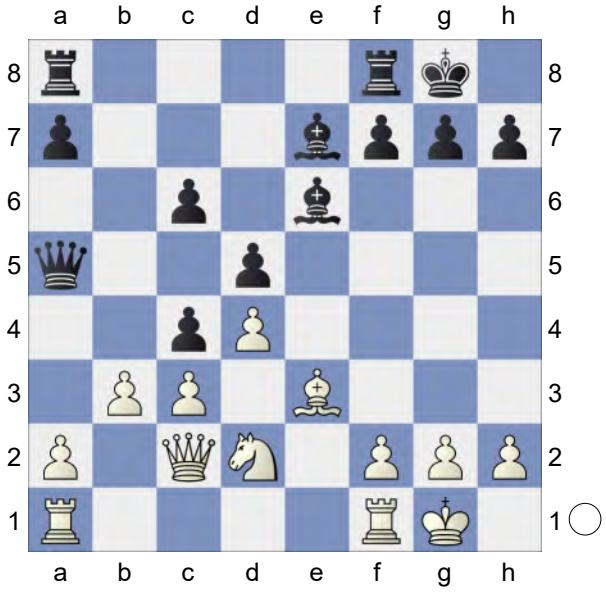
13.b3 White needs to chip away at Black's chain sooner or later. **13...Be7**

[13...Bd6!? is slightly more active: 14.Nd2 cxb3 15.axb3 a5= gives Black very decent counterplay.]

14.Nd2 Qa5!?

[14...0-0 15.Qf3 Qd7= also holds things together nicely for Black.]

15.Qc2 0-0



16.f4?! -0.68/17 This is somewhat over-ambitious and weakening.

[16.Rfe1= is a more solid approach, but Black is always comfortable here thanks to the two Bishops.]

[16.Bf4= -0.17/19]

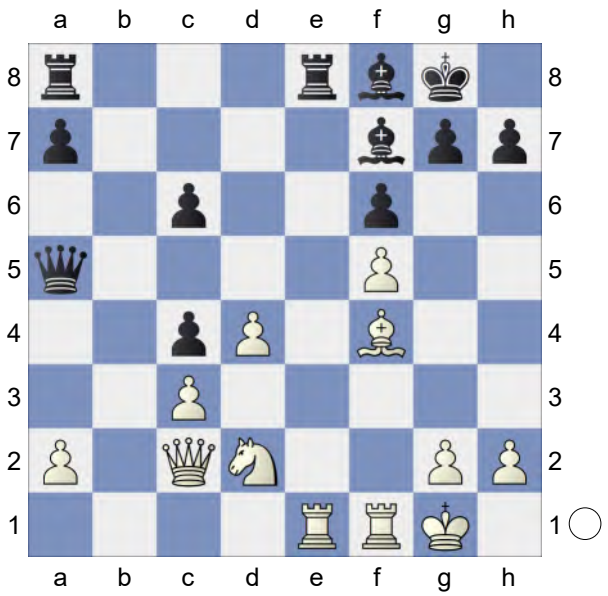
16...f6!∓ The correct reaction, giving the Bishop a snug retreat square on f7 and ensuring White's pawn won't advance any further than f5. **17.Rae1 Rfe8** Black is more active. **18.f5 Bf7 19.bxc4?!** This splits White's Queenside pawns and opens up the position for Black's Bishops.

[19.b4 Qc7 20.Bf4 Bd6 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.Nf3 a5∓]

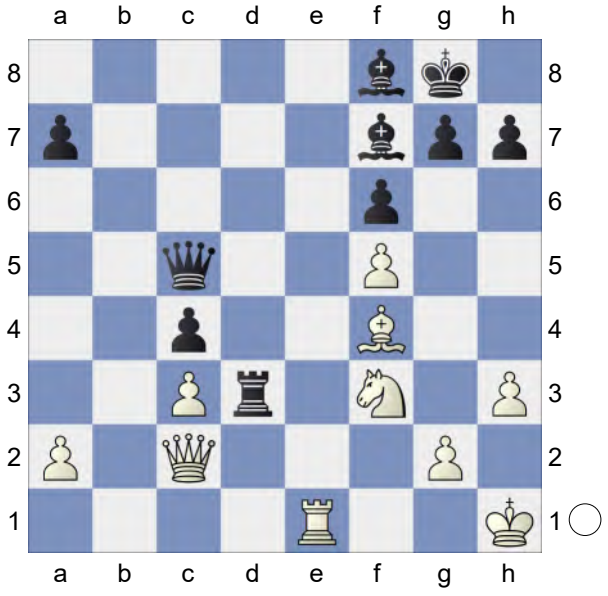
19...dxc4∓ 20.Bf4?! This makes it easier for Black to break with ...c6-c5.

[20.Ne4 looks more consistent, but Black is still doing very well after Rad8∓]

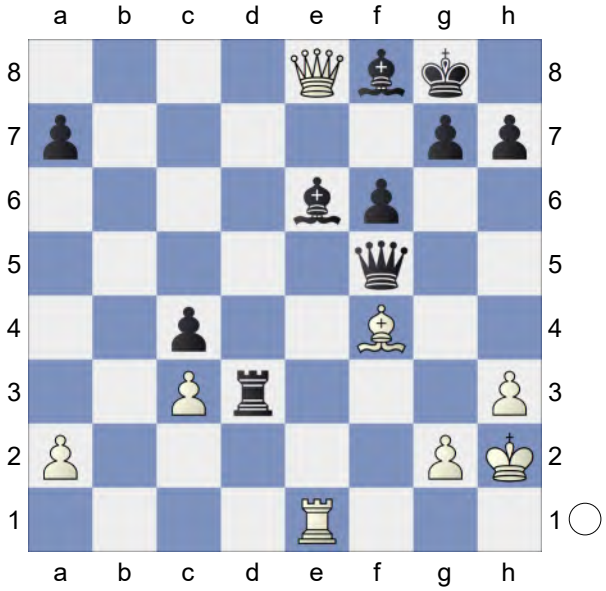
20...Bf8



21.h3 c5 22.dxc5?! -1.51/20
[22.Nf3 is more solid, but doesn't change the evaluation: Bd5∓]
[⌓22.Be3 -1.01/22]
22...Qxc5+ 23.Kh1 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Rd8
[24...Qf2 25.Rf1 Qe2∓ and the Queen is a serious nuisance for White.]
25.Nf3 Rd3

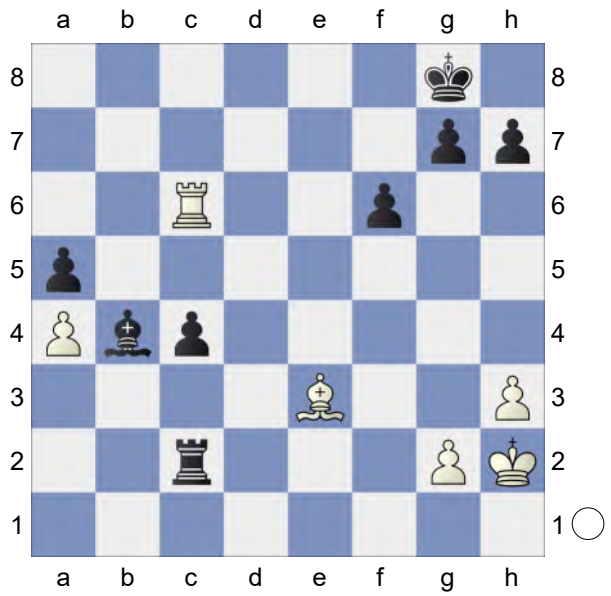


Black makes use of the outpost on d3 to double on the d-file and threaten the f5-pawn. **26.Nd4** The Knight isn't completely secure here. **26...Qd5 27.Kh2** -2.34/23 White does not recover from this.
[27.Re3 is a better try: Bc5 28.Rxd3 cxd3 29.Qxd3 Qxa2∓ Black's outside passed pawn and Bishop pair give him the advantage, but a lot of technique will be required to win.]
[27.Re3∓ -0.98/22]
27...Bc5!-+ White's central construction collapses after this. Deflection **28.Ne6?**
[28.Qb2 Strongly threatening Qb8+. h6 29.Ne6 Qxf5 Black wins a pawn and the opposite-coloured Bishops won't save White: 30.Qb8+ Kh7 31.Nxc5 Qxc5 32.Qb1 Qf5-+ with an overwhelming advantage.]
28...Qxf5 White is bound to lose further material. (-> ...Rxh3+!) **29.Qa4 Bxe6** A strong pair of Bishops. **30.Qe8+ Bf8**

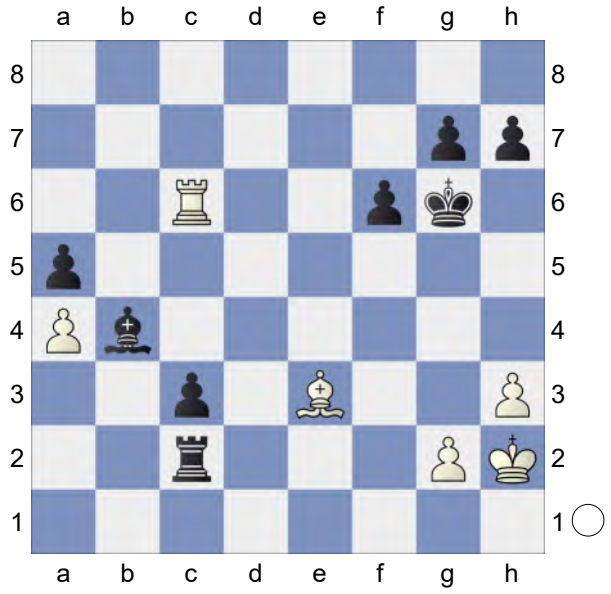


31.Qxe6+ Qxe6 32.Rxe6 Rxc3 Endgame. With two extra pawns, Black had no trouble converting this, even allowing for the short time control. KRB-KRB **33.Rc6 Rc2 34.a4 a5 35.Be3 Bb4**

(Diagram)



36.Rc8+ Kf7 37.Rc7+ -5.02/24
[⌓37.Kg3 -3.44/21]
37...Kg6 38.Rc6 Prevents Bd6+. **38...c3**



Overall, this game wasn't theoretically critical by itself, but it did serve as a useful opportunity to cover a line which has recently come into the limelight and will likely receive further tests soon. Black should be completely fine as long as he opts for ...5...Bd7 and can choose between either 6...Nb6 or 6...e6 depending on which positions feel more comfortable. 0-as a useful opportunity to cover a line which has recently come into the limelight and will likely receive further tests soon. Black should be completely fine as long as he opts for Bd7 and can choose between either Nb6 or e6 depending on which positions feel more comfortable. 0-.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.03 (flawless)
0-1

168 **B22**
□ **Grandelius,Nils** **2635**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2864**
Chessable Masters Prelim rapid (3)
[Fitzsimons,David]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6!? This has been checked quite a bit in the archives but the last time it featured was 2017, so I felt it was worth an update, particularly since Carlsen tried it! **4.Bb5+** One of the mainlines.

[4.d4

A) 4...Qxd5 5.Nf3 transposes to the 3...Qxd5 lines.;

B) 4...cxd4 5.Bb5+! is critical:

B1) 5...Bd7 6.Bc4! b5!? *(6...dxc3 7.Nxc3±* White is doing very well here as analysed by Gary Lane in the archives: 1-0 (30) Jonkman,H (2520)-El Ghazali, Y (2303) Tanta City EGY 2002 [Gary Lane]*)* 7.Bb3 dxc3 8.Nxc3 a5 1-0 (21) R. Dolezal-T.Civin,Plzen 1999. *(8...g6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 a5 12.Bg5±* looks very pleasant for White.*)* 9.Nf3± Black has some play on the Queenside but I still like White's cramping pawn on d5.;

B2) 5...Nbd7 6.Qxd4 g6 *(6...a6 7.Be2!?±)* 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d6± Black didn't have enough for the pawn in L.Vogt - I.Nemet, Arosa 1996 (1-0 in 70).;

C) 4...Nxd5! is the critical reply. 5.dxc5 looks critical at first, but *(5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 cxd4 8.cxd4 g6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.0-0 Nc6 12.d5 Na5 13.Re1* is a well-known line that more often arises from the English Opening, but with Black's Bishop on c8 instead of d7. It doesn't make much difference as ... Bd7-g4 is a desirable move anyway. In any case, Black is fine after *Re8=)* 5...e6!= is fine for Black. 6.b4? a5!∓]

[4.c4 e6! 5.dxe6 Bxe6 Black is a tempo up on an Icelandic Gambit line quoted by Jonathan Rowson in the archives, because White has played c2-c3-c4 instead of c2-c4 directly: 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 dxe6 Bxe6 5 Nf3 c5!? Black looks to have sufficient compensation in any case. 6.Nf3 Qe7!? regains the pawn immediately: *(6...Nc6* was given in the archives, 0-1 (32) Feelders,A-Ernst,S (2440) Haarlem 2001 [Gary Lane] *)* 7.Be2 Bxc4 8.d3 Be6 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.0-0 Qc7 should be ok for Black. 11.d4 Rd8 12.Be3 Be7=]

[4.Nf3 Nxd5 5.d4 cxd4

A) 6.Qxd4 e6 7.Bd3 *(7.Bg5?! Nc6 8.Bb5 f6!∓ 9.Bh4?! Bd7∓ 10.Bxc6?! Bxc6 11.Nbd2 e5∓* is just great for Black, as mentioned in the archives, Neulinger,M-Plachetka,J/Austria 1995.*)* 7...Nc6 8.Qe4 g6= Black's position is very solid.;

B) 6.Nxd4!? Dave Smerdon noted that this is quite a tricky line and Black needs to be precise in order to equalise: e5! 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qe2 Qe7! 9.Nf3 Simplest seems to be *(9.Nf5 Qf6=)* 9...Bxb5! 10.Qxb5+ Qd7 11.Qe2 f6 12.0-0 Nc6= White still needs to develop his Queenside pieces, so Black is fine here. 13.Rd1?! 0-0-0!∓

14.c4?? Nf4!-+;

C) 6.cxd4 is analysed by Dave Smerdon in the archives. It's a very standard IQP position. 6...g6 Dave mentions that White can take advantage of not having developed his Knight from b1 yet, but it doesn't look like he can cause many problems for Black. For example, 7.Bc4 Bg7 8.Qb3 e6 9.Bg5 Qb6! 10.Bxd5 exd5 11.Qxb6 axb6 12.Nc3 Be6 13.0-0 Nc6= looks totally fine for Black.]

[4.Qa4+!? is the other critical option for White.

A) 4...Bd7!? 5.Qb3 e6! I'd like to mention this very creative idea which was brought to my attention by Irish FM Tom O'Gorman some years ago. He subsequently played it in 4NCL Division 2 game that doesn't seem to be in my database. It's a fascinating idea where Black gets enduring compensation for a substantial material investment if White goes after the Rook in the corner.

A1) 6.Qxb7 exd5 7.Qxa8 Qc7! was Tom's idea. It would be really brilliant if White didn't have the 7 dxe6 option! 8.Na3 c4 9.Bxc4 White must try to rescue his Queen. dxc4 10.Qf3 Bc6 11.Qe2+ *(11.Qe3+!?* is another option. *Kd8 12.Ne2 Bxa3 13.bxa3 Bxg2 14.Rg1 Re8 15.Qd4+ Bd5 16.Rg5* Black has numerous options here and his position appears to be perfectly fine. *Qd6!?=* is at least equal for Black, for example. It's very difficult to find a meaningful way to coordinate White's pieces.*)* 11...Kd8 12.Nf3 Bxa3 13.0-0 Bd6⩲ Engines these days evaluate this position as equal. Very interesting!;

A2) 6.dxe6! Unfortunately, it appears that this move puts a dampener on the whole line. 6...Bxe6 7.Bc4! *(7.Qxb7?!* isn't terrible, but Black has plenty of play after *Nbd7!⩱)* 7...Bxc4 8.Qxc4 Nc6 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4± Black has some play but I don't really see any great advantages to playing this way. Still, this 4... Bd7 5 Qb3 e6 idea could be a useful surprise weapon.;

B) 4...Nbd7! This is probably best. 5.Qb3 g6! This looks like the best way for Black to continue development. *(5...b6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bb5± Bg7? 8.Bc6 Rb8 9.d4±* is excellent for White, 1-0 (48) Van Foreest, L (2530) -Chigaev,M (2632) Warsaw POL 2021*; 5...Nb6? 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.c4 e6 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.Nf3±* gives Black no compensation, 1-0 (72) Brinovec,D (2188)-Janzelj,T (2437) Ljubljana SLO 2018 *)* 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2! This seems to be the most accurate way to continue. *(7.d4?* is natural, but Black simply continues developing with *0-0!* and can begin active operations soon. For example, *8.Be3* 0-1 (44) Harika,D (2517) -Fedoseev, V (2701) chess.com INT 2022 *cxd4 9.Bxd4 b6! 10.Bb5 Nc5! 11.Bxc5 bxc5 12.Bc6* This looks like trouble for Black but White has wasted a lot

of time: *c4! 13.Qxc4 Rb8 14.b4 Bb7!* It's difficult to enter this position without prior preparation, but objectively Black is doing very well already. *15.0-0 Nxd5 16.Bxb7 Rxb7 17.a3 e6∓* Black seems to have more than enough play here. White can't develop his Queen's Knight without shedding his extra pawn. *)* 7...0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.d3 Bb7 10.c4 e6!? 11.dxe6 fxe6 12.Nc3 Ng4⩱ gives Black some activity for the pawn. I think this position deserves future tests.]

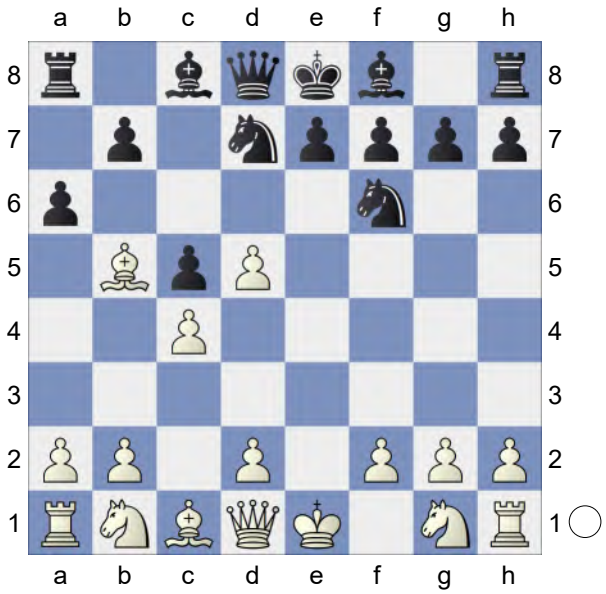
4...Nbd7 5.c4

[5.d4!? looks reasonable as well. a6! 6.Be2 Nxd5 7.Nf3 e6 looks pretty ok for Black, but White might have a slight edge: 8.c4 N5f6 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bc5 11.Qf4± There are interesting complications that arise after Nf8!? 12.Qg5 *(12.h4!?±* looks more challenging.*)* 12...Be7 13.Qxg7 Rg8 14.Qh6 Rxg2=]

5...a6

[5...g6 was suggested by Sam in the archives but it looks like Black doesn't have enough compensation. It's better to disturb White directly as early as possible with 5...a6. 6.Nf3±]

(Diagram)



6.Bxd7+

[6.Ba4 b5! looks like fun: 7.cxb5 Nxd5⩱ appears to give Black enough activity for the pawns.]

6...Qxd7?!

[6...Bxd7! I think I prefer this recapture to the World Champion's choice. 7.d4 appears to be critical. *(7.Nc3 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.d3 Bd6⩱* looks like a much more harmonious version of the type of position that could have occurred in the game (see the note to White's move 7).*)* 7...e6!? *(7...Rc8!?∞* was mentioned by Gary in the archives, 1-0 Ekstroem,R (2487) - Nemet,I (2412) Pontresina 2000 [Gary Lane] *)* 8.dxe6 fxe6! 9.Nf3 cxd4 Black's structure isn't pretty but he does have two Bishops and open lines for his pieces. 10.0-0 *(10.Qxd4 Bc6!⩱* looks like enough compensation for Black.*)* 10...Bc5 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Nb3 Ba7 13.Bf4!? Prevents Qc7 *(13.Nbxd4* -0.34/19 13.c5 0.21 *Qc7!⩱* gives Black plenty of attacking chances for the pawn.*)* 13...Rc8 0.48/18 *(13...Ba4=* 0.11/19 *)* 14.Rc1!± Ba4!? seems ok for Black.]

7.d4?!

[7.Nc3! seems to be more accurate. e6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.dxe6 Qxe6 10.d3 b5!? This is a nice way to fight for the initiative, but it seems like White can deal with the pressure:

A) 11.cxb5 axb5

A1) 12.Nxb5 Qd7! Inhibits Nc7+. 13.Nc3 -0.24/20 *(⌓13.Na3* 0.17/19 *)* 13...Ra6!⩱ 0.24/16 is a neat idea. Black clearly has loads of play here. *(13...Ba6* -0.24/20 deserves consideration. *)*;

A2) 12.Qxe6 fxe6 13.Nxb5 Nd5!⩱ Once again, Black has plenty of activity for the pawn. Prevents Nc7+;

B) 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Qxe6 Bxe6 13.b3 Rad8 14.Ke2 Rfe8 15.Be3± Black has some compensation, but it's not clear if it's objectively quite enough.]

7...e6! This is very accurate, however. Black cracks open the position before White is ready. **8.Be3N** -0.36/21 White gives back the extra pawn without causing Black to lose significant time.

[8.dxe6 Qxe6+ 9.Ne2! White's priority is to catch up in development. Black will have to lose time with his Queen in order to regain the pawn. *(9.Be3?! Ng4∓; 9.Qe2?* -1.03/21 9.Ne2 -0.27 *cxd4∓)* 9...Qxc4 *(9...Bd6!?* keeps more play in the position. *10.0-0 0-0 11.d5 Qg4 12.Nbc3 Qxc4 13.Bg5!* Black has a number of options here and the game goes on. *Nh5!?=)* 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Be7 12.Re1 0-0! *(12...Bg4!?=* is also fine.*)* 13.Rxe7 Rd8 14.Nc3 Strongly threatening Be3. *(14.Be3?* Hoping for Nc3. *Qc5!∓* traps the Rook.*)* 14...Rxd4 15.Qe2 Qxe2 16.Rxe2 Be6= is completely equal.]

[8.Bg5= 0.24/18]

[8.Nf3 exd5 9.0-0 dxc4 10.Qe2+ Be7 11.dxc5 0-0 12.Qxc4 Qd5 13.Qxd5 Nxd5 14.Rd1 Be6 15.Nbd2 Nb4 16.Nd4 Rad8 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Rf1 Bxc5 19.Ne4 Bb6 20.Bg5 Rd4 21.Be3 Rxe4 22.Bxb6 Nd5 0-1 (39) Tseitlin Erenburg Ashdod (2432)-Chapter Part (2555) Paris Caissa Cons 1949 (13.6)]

8...exd5∓ Black is already better here.

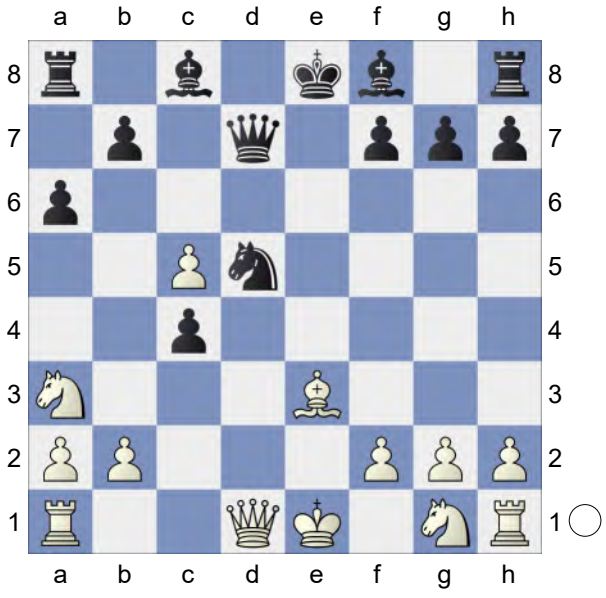
9.dxc5 dxc4 10.Na3? -1.03/22 This is an unsuccessful attempt to regain the pawn.

[10.Nc3 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Be6∓ still looks good for Black, but it's a better try than the game.]

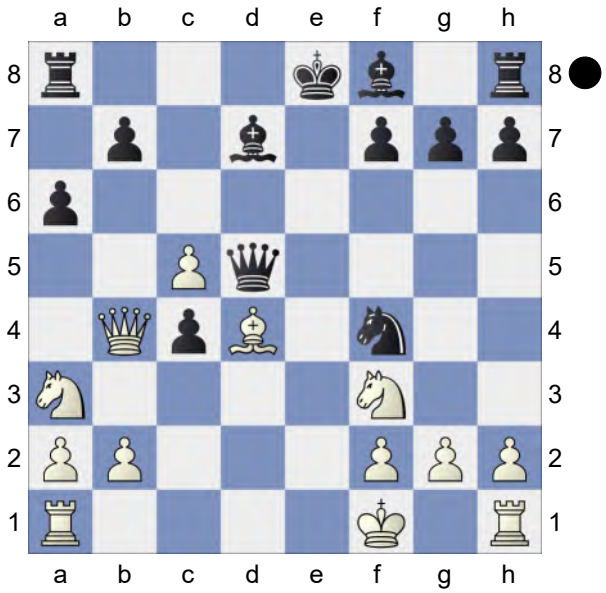
[10.Nc3∓ -0.60/19]

10...Nd5?!

[10...b5!∓ is strongest: 11.cxb6 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 c3 13.Nc4 -1.18/21 *(Better is 13.Bd4* -0.72/18 *)* 13...Qc6 14.b3 Bb7 15.Nf3 0-0∓ This is clearly a very difficult position to play for White.]

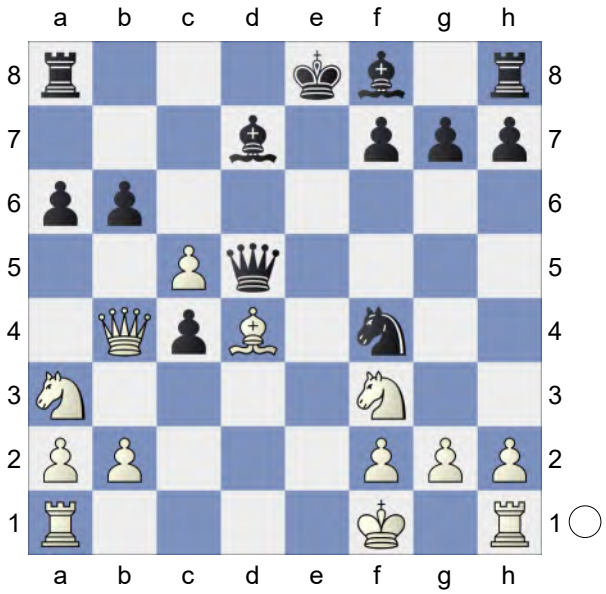


11.Bd4 -1.59/19
[11.Nxc4 Nxe3 12.Nxe3 Bxc5∓ is just a clear two Bishop plus for Black.]
[⌓11.Nxc4 -0.91/22 Nxe3 12.Nxe3 Bxc5 13.Nf3]
11...Nf4!∓ There should be no coming back from this if Black plays accurately.
12.Kf1 -1.92/20 White is weak on the light squares
[12.Nxc4∓ -1.49/19 Qe6+ *(12...Nxg2+ 13.Kf1=)* 13.Ne3 Nxg2+ 14.Kd2 Bxc5 15.Bxc5 Nxe3 16.Qh5 Nc4+ 17.Kc3]
12...Qd5 13.Nf3 Bf5 Active counter play! **14.Qa4+ Bd7** -0.91/21
[14...Kd8-+ -1.62/21 15.Rd1 Bd3+ 16.Rxd3 cxd3]
15.Qb4? -3.08/21
[15.Re1+∓ -0.91/21 Be7 16.Qd1 *(16.Qxc4? perishes. Bb5-+* Pin, Decoy *)*]

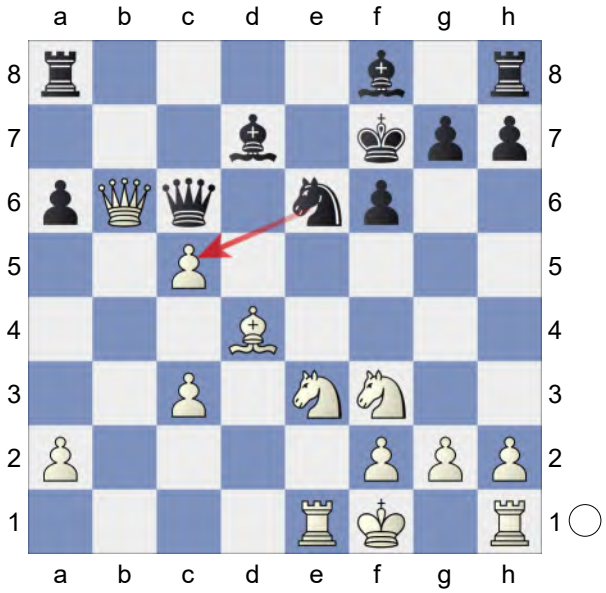


15...b6?? 0.01/19

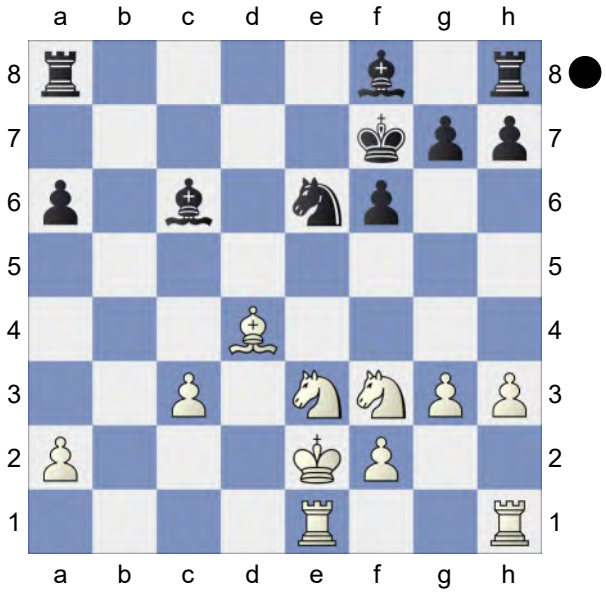
(Diagram)



16.Re1+!= Ne6G Black has counterplay
[16...Be6!? should be ok for White after. White must now prevent ...Nd3. 17.Nxc4 -0.41/22 *(17.Qa4+=* 0.15/21 *b5 18.Nxb5 axb5 19.Qxb5+ Kd8 20.Re5)* 17...Bxc5∓ 18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.Qa4+ Kf8 20.Nce5! c4! aiming for ...f6. 21.h4=]
17.Qxb6 f6!? An interesting way of completing development.
[17...Be7=]
18.Nc2 c3 19.bxc3 And now Nb4 would win. **19...Kf7 20.Ne3 Qc6**

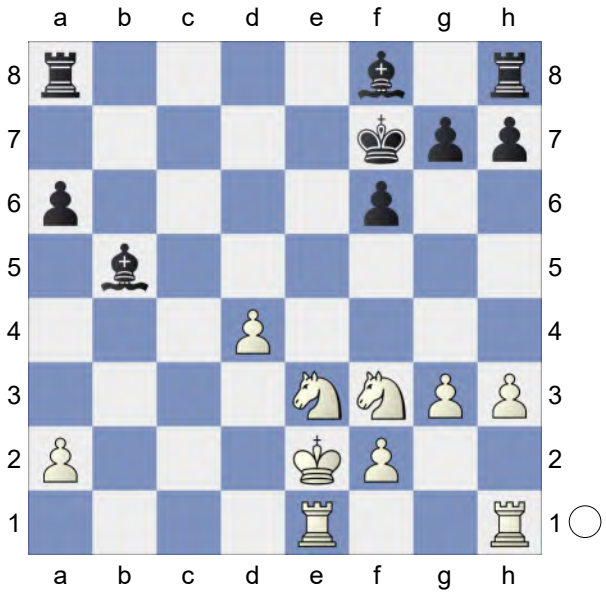


21.h3 0.30/20
[21.h4± 0.68/18 feels stronger.]
21...Nxc5 Black definitely has enough play for the pawn here and White needs to be careful. **22.Qxc6**
[22.Qb1 looks sharper. Ne6 23.Kg1 Bd6 24.Qc2]
22...Bxc6 **23.Ke2?** -0.43/19
Centralising the King in the endgame isn't usually a bad idea, but it can be mistimed!
[23.Rb1=]
[23.Kg1= 0.01/18 was preferrable.]
23...Ne6!∓ **24.g3??** -1.49/21
[24.Rd1 Rd8∓]
[24.Rhg1∓ -0.43/18]



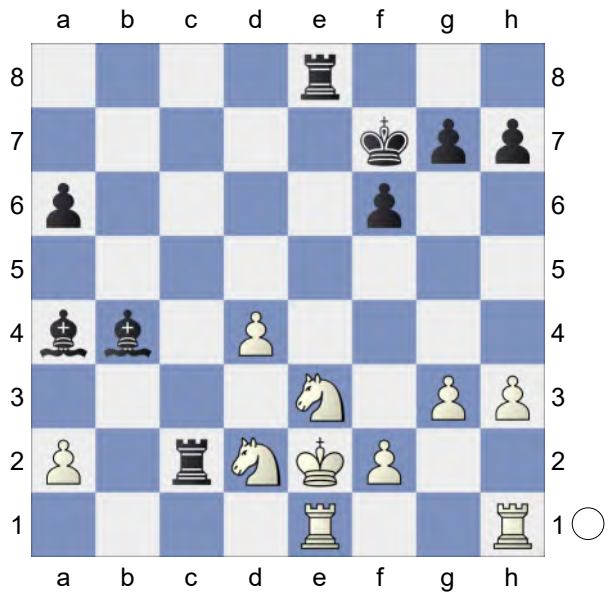
White over-estimates one of Black's threats and gives him another one. It's hard to imagine Grandelius blundering like this with more time on the clock.
24...Nxd4+!∓ **25.cxd4** -2.10/23
[25.Nxd4∓ -1.44/24 was necessary. Bxh1 26.Rxh1]
25...Bb5+-+

(Diagram)



26.Kd1 **Bb4** Black has strong compensation. **27.Nd2** -2.82/22
[27.d5∓ -1.47/21]
27...Rac8 White is completely tied up and Magnus finishes the game quickly.
28.Nd5? -4.15/22
[28.Nc2 -2.45/20 keeps fighting. Ba4 29.Nb3 Bxe1 30.Rxe1]
28...Ba4+ A strong pair of Bishops.
29.Ke2 -6.03/23
[⌓29.Nb3 -3.96/25 Bxb3+ *(29...Bxe1? 30.Rxe1 Rhd8 31.Ne3-+)* 30.axb3 Bxe1 31.Rxe1]
29...Rhe8+ **30.Ne3** **Rc2**

(Diagram)

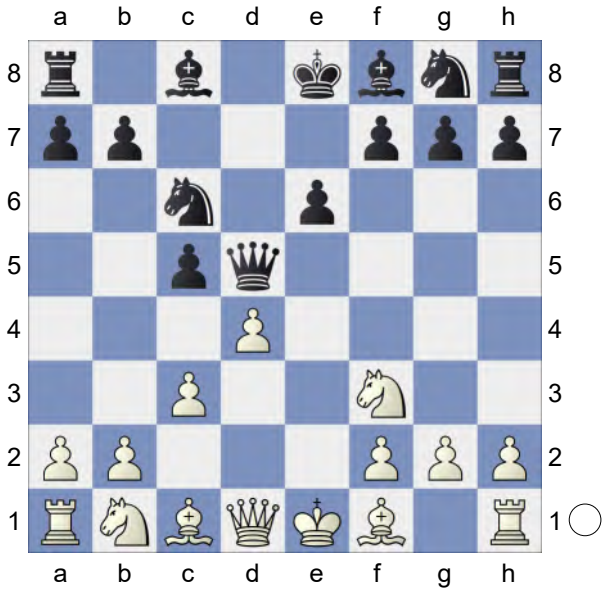


Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.23 (precise)

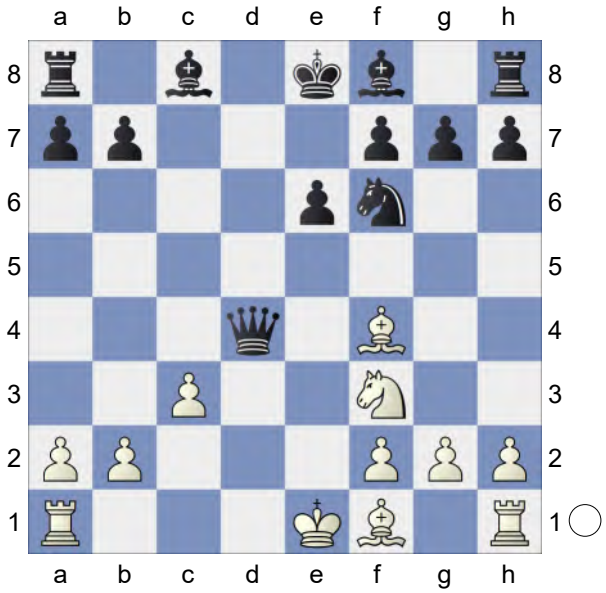
0-1

169 **B22**
□ **Sveshnikov,Evgeny** **2570**
■ **Batsanin,Dmitry** **2360**
RUS-Cup01 Chigorin Memorial (1)
[Kitty Kat]

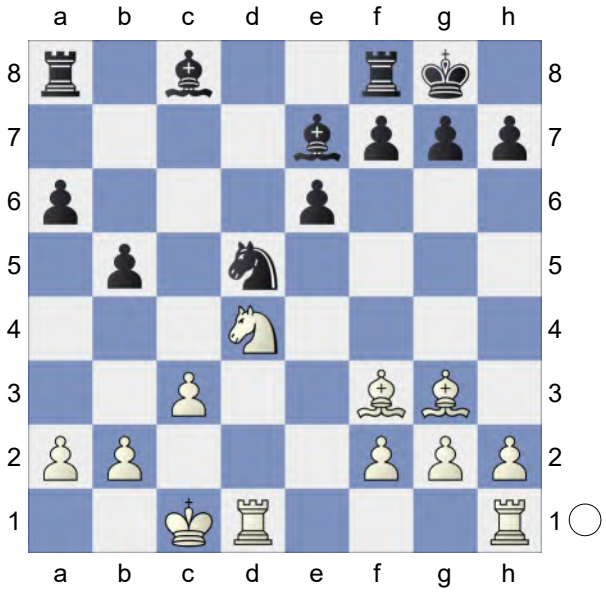
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6



6.Na3 Qd8 7.Nc2 Nf6 8.Bf4 cxd4 9.Ncxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 White has an edge. **10...Qxd4**

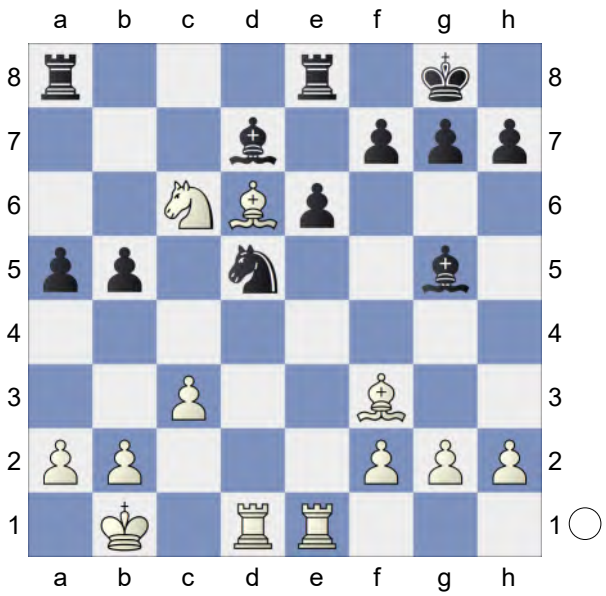


11.Nxd4 a6 Dodges Nb5 **12.Be2 Be7N**
[12...Bd7 13.0-0 Bc5 14.Nb3 Bb6 15.a4 0-0-0 16.Bf3 Be8 17.Be5 Rg8 18.a5 Ba7 19.Rfe1 Nd5 20.Re4 Bc6 21.Rc4 Ne7 22.Re1 Bb8 23.Nd4 Bxe5 24.Rxe5 Kb8 25.Bxc6 Nxc6 26.Rxc6 Rxd4 27.Rcxe6 1-0 (57) Sveshnikov,E (2585)-Makarov,M (2525) ch Elista 1994 (8)]
13.0-0-0 0-0 14.Bf3 Nd5 15.Bg3 b5



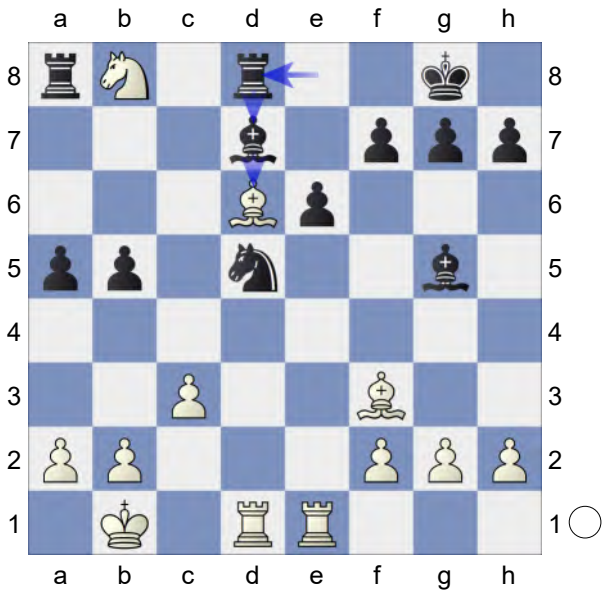
16.Nc6 Bg5+ 17.Kb1 a5 1.16/19 Prevents Nb4
[Better is 17...Bb7 0.78/20 18.Na5 Bc8]
18.Bd6± Re8 ...Ra6 is the strong threat.
19.Rhe1↑ White has strong initiative. White is more active. **19...Bd7**

(Diagram)



20.Nb8 Rd8

[Much worse is 20...Rexb8 21.Bxb8 Rxb8 22.Bxd5]



21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Nxd7

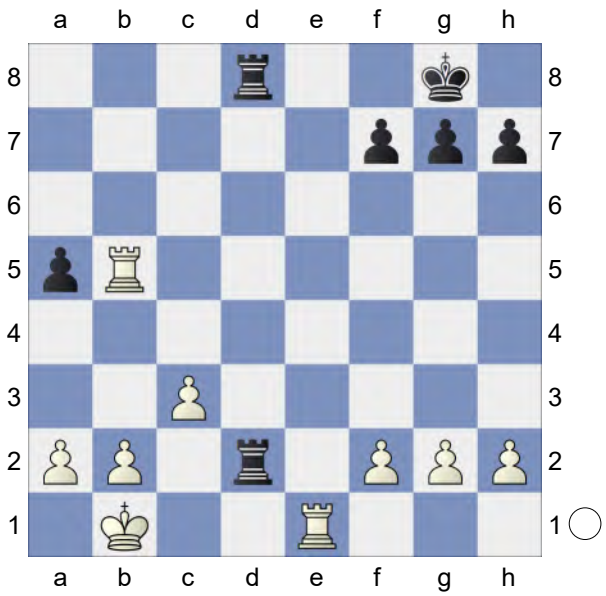
[But not 22.Rxd5 Be6 23.Rxg5 Rxd6 24.Rxb5 g6±]

22...Rxd7 23.Rxd5 Black must now prevent Bb8. **23...Rad8** 2.88/23

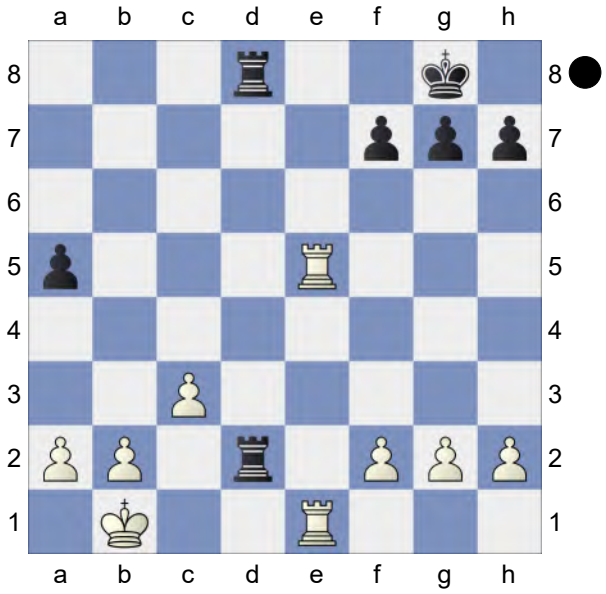
[23...h6± 1.19/23 was called for.]

24.Rxg5+- Rxd6 25.Rxb5 Rd2

(Diagram)



26.Rbe5

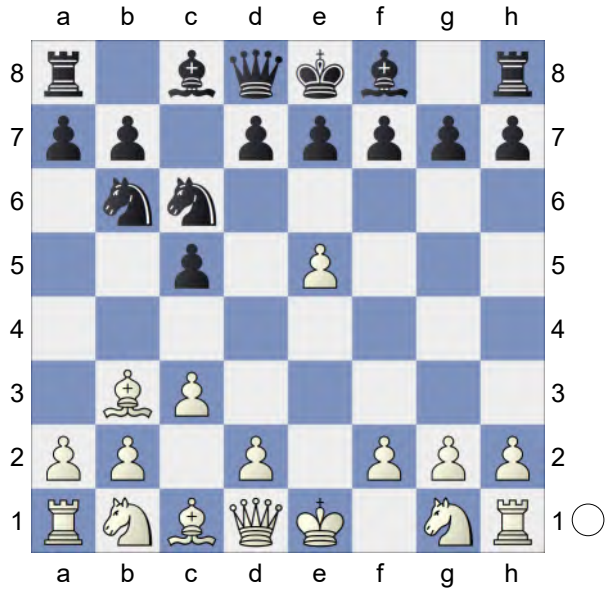


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.31

1-0

170 **B22**
□ **Kuzubov,Yuriy** **2612**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2662**
Santiago de Compostela Bicapawn GP B..
[Fitzsimons,David]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6



6.Nf3
[I covered 6.d4!? in 1-0 (32) Korobov,A (2675)-Donchenko,A (2602) Chartres FRA 2022 [Fitzsimons,David] An attempt to transpose into the main game is unfortunately easily refuted: cxd4 7.cxd4 g6? 8.d5! is horrible for Black, as *(8.Nf3? Bg7* would transpose to the main game.*)* 8...Nxe5 runs into 9.f4+-]
6...g6!? This is the fourth most common move here and it's not ranked highly by the engines. **7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4? Bg7** However, Black scores very well with this line in games between strong players. would transpose to the main game. **9.Bf4** White tries to discourage . ..d7-d6 but I think Black should be OK after this.
[9.Nc3!? is more challenging. d6!?
A) 10.Ng5 1-0 (30) Predojevic,B (2509) -Raetsky,A (2430) Obrenovac 2004 e6! 11.f4 This line and other variations in the notes bear great similarity to the Alekhine line, 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 g6 5 Bc4 Nb6 6 Bb3 Bg7 7 Ng5. dxe5 12.dxe5 Qxd1+ 13.Bxd1 *(13.Kxd1 Na5=* is fine for Black.*)* 13...f6!= frees the Bishop on g7 and leaves Black standing well.;
B) 10.Qe2?! dxe5 11.dxe5 0-1 (64) Fritsche,L (2332) -Lazarev,V (2427) Germany 2013. This position also has an Alekhine feel about it. Black can exploit the absence of the c-pawns by playing Bf5! honing in on the d3-square. 12.e6!? fxe6 13.0-0! is potentially dangerous for Black, unless he finds Qd3! *(13...Bd3??* is far too greedy: *14.Qxe6 Bxf1 15.Qf7+ Kd7 16.Be6+ Kc7 17.Bf4++-* and Black is torn apart.*)* 14.Qe1 Nd5= which neutralises White's pressure.;
C) 10.e6 fxe6
C1) 11.0-0 is a calmer alternative. 0-0 12.Re1 *(12.Be3 Na5=* gives Black an easy game, 0-1 (39) Remmel,A (2260)-Keskisarja,T (2255) Vantaa 1996 *)* 12...d5 13.Be3 *(13.Ne5?!* 0-1 (35) Senador,E (2365)-Dydyshko,V (2545) Yerevan 1996 *Qd6∓* Black is already fighting for the initiative here.*; 13.Bg5* 1/2 (68)-1/2 (68) Garcia Blanco,O (2237)-Tatai,S (2359) Gran Canaria 2009 *Rf5!?∓*

looks more pleasant for Black already. *)* 13...Bd7= and Black is doing fine, 0-1 (36) Bacrot,E (2671) -Iturrizaga,E (2629) chess24.com INT 2020;

C2) 11.h4!? 1/2 (43)-1/2 (43) Zelic,M (2345)-Roschina,T (2315) Solin 1996. This transposes to my analysis to White's ninth move in the game Korobov - Donchenko from the July update.]

[9.0-0?! This natural move allows Black to equalise after d6!

A) 10.Bf4 dxe5! 11.Bxe5!? This may be White's best recapture. *(11.dxe5!?* allows Black to develop freely after *Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bg4 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.h3 Bf5 15.Nc4 Nxc4 16.Bxc4* 1/2 (26)-1/2 (26) Odegov,A (1830)-Sidorov,A (2054) Batumi 2014, and now *h6!?=* with equal chances.*; 11.Nxe5?* 0-1 (74) Murariu,A (2287)-Jianu,V (2402) Bucharest 2001. This move should definitely be avoided: *Qxd4! 12.Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Qxd4 Nxd4* Black has too many threats here: ... Nd4-c2/e2 and ...e7-e6. *14.Nc3 e6∓* looks very dodgy for White with his Bishop trapped on f7.*)* 11...Nxe5 12.Nxe5 1-0 (54) Baklan,V (2570) - Van den Doel,E (2440) Graz 1997 0-0! 13.Nc3 Nd7!= Black's position is weakness-free and he has the two Bishops to compensate for White's lead in development.;

B) 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Nc3!? 1-0 (29) Megaranto,S (2234)-Dwyer, D (2163) Bandar Seri Begawan BRU 2001. White's best policy to simply continue developing, but Black doesn't have to be tempted by the d-pawn, and can simply play 0-0 12.d5 Na5 13.Re1 This position more commonly arises with the Black Queen on d8. Obviously, ...Qd8-d6 is a very useful extra tempo for Black! Nxb3 14.axb3 Rd8 15.Ra5! An unusual way to protect the d-pawn! Bf5!= with equal chances.]

[9.a4! This is the engine's first choice and looks like the only way to guarantee an edge. d5! appears to be best. 10.h3! Once again, only this move seems to be challenging for Black. *(10.exd6 Qxd6 11.a5 Nd5 12.Nc3 Be6 13.Ne4 Qd8=* is very solid for Black, 0-1 (42) Nepomniachtchi,I (2368)-Olenin,N (2412) Tula 2003*; 10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Be3* 0-1 (31) Nozdrachev,L (2370)-Zhigalko, S (2572) chess.com INT 2021. Now, *Nc4!?* looks very decent: *12.Bxc4 dxc4 13.h3 Bf5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qd2 Rc8=* with good play for Black. *)* 10...0-0 11.0-0 Bf5 12.Nc3 Rc8! 13.Nh4!? This is a typical idea, forcing the light-squared Bishop back inside the pawn chain. Bd7 14.f4 White even manages to gain further space on the Kingside before retreating his Knight. e6 15.Nf3± The position is still very complex but White's space advantage on both sides of the board definitely counts for something.]

[9.h4?! This early aggression can also be met by d6!= 10.Ng5!? *(10.exd6?! Qxd6∓* is already better for Black as h2-h4 feels like a wasted move now that the position has opened up, 1/2 (36)-1/2 (36) Nielsen, N (2170)-El Kher,H (2305) Koge 1997*; 10.e6?!* is ineffective due to

Bxe6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.h5 Nd5∓ with a sound extra pawn for Black, 0-1 (49) Lamard,G (2498) -Mickiewicz,P (2284) chess.com INT 2022*)* 10...e6! 11.f4 f6! Black's four pawns on the sixth rank don't look very impressive, but his pieces are very active after 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.Nc3 h6 14.Nf3 Bd7= with an unusual, Hedgehog-like structure where Black has decent counterplay in the centre.]

[9.d5?! This pawn sacrifice isn't too bad but Black shouldn't have any problems: Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.Bh6?! *(11.Nc3⩲* is a better bet, with reasonable compensation.*)* 11...Bxb2! 12.Nd2 d6! *(* Taking the exchange would justify White's play: *12...Bxa1?? 13.Qxa1+-* with a winning attack.*)* 13.Rb1 Be5!∓ doesn't give White enough for the pawn, 0-1 (68) Carlsen,T (2022)-Borwell,A (2275) ICCF 2014]

[9.Qe2?! 1-0 (33) Darmanin,J (2106)-De la Riva Aguado,O (2466) Sliema MLT 2021. This is also fairly non-threatening for Black. d6! 10.0-0 0-0 11.h3 dxe5 12.dxe5 Bf5 White can at least contest the d-file with 13.Rd1 but Black has no problems after Qc8 14.Be3 Be6 15.Nbd2 Rd8= with a very solid position.]

[9.Ng5!? Black doesn't have much trouble dealing with this aggressive lunge: 0-0

A) 10.f4 0-1 (50) Timofeev, V (2302) -Dvalishvili,P (2477) Moscow 2007 d6! 11.e6?! White is asking too much of his position: *(11.Nc3* transposes to 9 Nc3!? d6 10 Ng5 e6 11 f4. *)* 11...fxe6 12.Bxe6+ Kh8∓ and White can't win the exchange with 13.Nf7+?? as his Bishop gets trapped after Rxf7 14.Bxf7 e6-+;

B) 10.0-0 h6!? *(10...d6* forced White to take perpetual after *11.e6 Nxd4! 12.Nxf7 Qc7 13.Nh6+ Kh8 14.Nf7+ Kg8 15.Nh6+* 1/2-1/2 (15) Tissot,A (1856)-Cochet,C (2032) France 2009 *)* 11.Nf3 d6∓ looks good for Black.;

C) 10.h4 h6 11.h5! This is the only way to justify White's play. *(11.Nxf7?! Rxf7 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.h5* looks somewhat scary for Black at first, but he has no problems defending against White's premature onslaught: *g5! 14.f4 gxf4 15.Bxf4* 1-0 (19) Mader,M (2222)-Bingert,T (1931) Nuernberg GER 2012, and now *Kg8! 16.Qc1 Nd5! 17.Bxh6 Qa5+! 18.Kf2 Qb6∓* leaves Black with strong counterplay against White's centre and his exposed King.*)* 11...hxg5 12.hxg6 This does look very scary for Black, but it's possible to defend successfully: d5! 13.Qh5 fxg6 14.Qh7+ Kf7 15.Bc2! Black now has a choice of good continuations: Bf5!? *(15...Rg8!? 16.Bxg6+ Kf8 17.Bxg5 Nxe5! 18.dxe5 Qc7=* gives Black decent counterplay in the centre.*)* 16.Bxf5 gxf5 17.Rh6! Nxd4 18.Qg6+ Kg8= and White should give perpetual check on h7 and g6 over the next few moves.]

[9.Be3 looks a little passive: 0-0 10.Nc3 1/2 (27)-1/2 (27) Garcia Ramos,J (2293) -Soler di Benedetto, S (2034) Mislata 2008 Na5!? is very logical, potentially targeting both Bishop after a subsequent ...Na5/

b6 -c4. 11.0-0 *(11.Bc2?! d6!∓* is already better for Black.*)* 11...d6 12.Re1 dxe5 13.dxe5 Bg4 14.h3!? This peters out to equality after Qxd1 15.Raxd1 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxb3 17.axb3 Bxe5 18.Bxb6 Bxc3 19.bxc3 axb6 20.Rxe7 Ra3= with a very likely draw.]

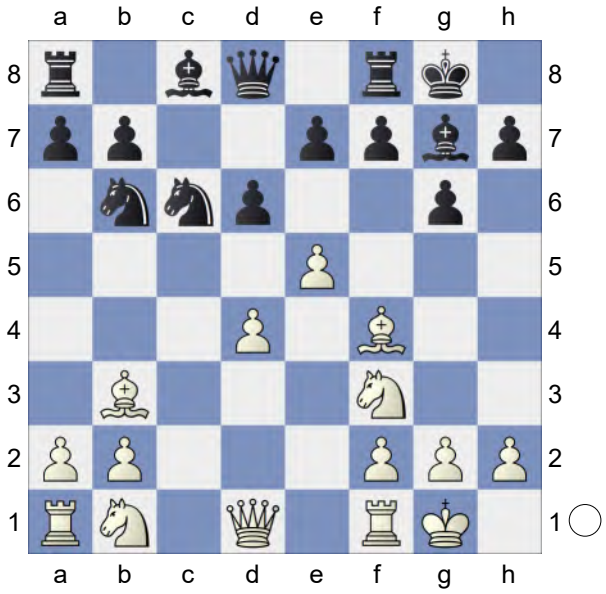
9...0-0 There's nothing wrong with this, but it's also possible for Black to strike back in the centre immediately. **10.0-0**

[10.d5 Na5 11.Nc3 White's centre looks imposing, but Black can easily undermine it: d6! 12.0-0 Bg4 13.exd6 exd6 Black has absolutely no problems here and was soon better in both games that featured this position in the database. 14.Qd3 *(14.Ne4?!* 1-0 (22) Kurpnieks,V (2073) - Bringsken,P (1992) ICCF 2006 *Bxb2 15.Rb1 Bg7∓* doesn't give White enough compensation.*; 14.Re1!?* maintains equality after something like *Qf6=* although this is clearly a good outcome from the opening for Black. is very comfortable for Black, however.*)* 14...Rc8∓ sees Black taking over the initiative, 0-1 (34) Sahin,H (1997) - Decuigniere,T (2292) chess.com INT 2022]

[10.Qd2?! d6!∓ 11.Bh6?? This strategy is far too aggressive and it backfires: Bg4! 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Qe3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 dxe5 15.dxe5 Qd4-+ and White's position collapses, 0-1 (40) Wolff,A (2225) -Keller,R (2280) Switzerland 1996]

[10.h3! d6 11.exd6 transposes to the previous note. Bf5!? 12.0-0 *(12.dxe7* is better than on the previous move, but Black still has enough compensation after *Qxe7+ 13.Be3* 1/2 (48)-1/2 (48) Camps,J (1737)-Gazen,L (1829) LSS 2013 *Bh6 14.Qe2 Rae8=)* 12...exd6 13.Nc3 d5 14.Re1 Nc4= looks pretty equal.]

10...d6!?



11.exd6 White can't successfully maintain the tension in the centre.

[11.Nbd2? allows Nxd4! *(11...Bf5∓* is also good for Black, 0-1 (32) Izmestiev,I (2095)-Epifantsev,I (2210) Novokuznetsk 2010*)* 12.exd6 *(12.Nxd4 dxe5∓* just wins a pawn.*)* 12...Nxb3 13.axb3 Bf5∓ leaves Black with a nice edge thanks to the two Bishops.]

[11.Qe1 looks very artificial: Bg4! 12.Nbd2 Na5 13.Bc2 Rc8 14.Be4 1-0 (40) Romero Echeverria,A (2068)-Solis Luna,K (1857) Sao Paulo 2010 Qd7 15.h3 Be6∓ allows Black to contest the light squares successfully, with a slight edge.]

11...exd6?! This is too automatic.

[11...Bg4! is stronger, even though Black no longer recaptures on e7 with check.

A) 12.dxe7 Qxe7 still gives Black very good compensation.

A1) 13.Re1? -0.63/23

13.Be3 -0.16 Bxf3! 14.gxf3 1/2 (78)-1/2 (78) Ozgibcev,A (2367) -Potapov,P (2489) Sochi RUS 2019 Qf6∓ is clearly very strong for Black.;

A2) 13.Nbd2?! Nxd4! White is in trouble here. 14.Re1 Repels Ne2+ *(14.Bg5* -0.92/21 14.Re1 -0.34 1-0 (32) Rittemann,S (2140) -Tomczak,R (2310) Germany 2008. This allows *Qxg5 15.Nxg5 Bxd1 16.Bxd1 Rfe8∓* with very active piece play for Black. *)* 14...Qb4 Threatens to win with ...Nxb3. 15.Be5 0-1 (31) Biedma Martin,E (2288) -Magem Badals,J (2529) Seville 2000. This is White's best attempt to simplify, but Black is doing very well after Nxb3 16.Bxg7 -0.57/20 *(16.axb3=* -0.16/20 *Bxe5 17.Rxe5)* 16...Kxg7 -0.21/21 *(16...Nxa1∓* -0.57/20 *17.Bxf8 Qxb2)* 17.axb3 Rfd8∓ with a strong initiative.;

A3) 13.Be5?? -1.38/20 13.d5 -0.13 is dreadful: Bxe5 14.dxe5 1-0 (36) Hrisomalis,T (2100)-Tsagaropoulos,S (2109) Achaea 2016, and now Rfd8 15.Qe2 Nd4 16.Qe3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Nxb3 18.axb3 Nd5-+ gives White no compensation for his ruined structure and exposed King. Against Nc3;

A4) 13.d5 Nd4 14.Nc3 *(14.Nbd2??* -4.01/20 14.Nc3 -0.24 1-0 (61) Iljin,T (2335) -Pappelis,D (2204) chess.com INT 2022. This drops a piece due to *Ne2+ 15.Kh1 Nxf4-+)* 14...Bxf3! 15.gxf3 1/2 (65)-1/2 (65) Fluechter,G (2027)-Koop,T (2253) Lingen 2013 Qf6∓ is once again excellent for Black.;

B) 12.d5 isn't so bad for White, but he quickly landed on both occasions when this was tried in practice: Nd4! 13.Nbd2? *(13.Qe1??* -0.78/20 13.dxe7 -0.24 loses to *Bxf3 14.dxe7 Ne2+! 15.Qxe2 Bxe2 16.exd8Q Raxd8-+* since both b2 and f1 are hanging, 0-1 (22) Calvi,S (1909) -Gramlich,S (2248) Frankfurt 2007*; 13.dxe7!?* is playable, but Black has great compensation after recapturing on e7. *)* 13...exd6 14.h3 1/2 (31)-1/2 (31) Adam,Z (2042)-Pozsonyi,I (2107) Hungary 2005 Qf6!∓ is excellent for Black.;

C) 12.Nbd2 Nxd4 13.h3 1/2 (13)-1/2 (13) Szieberth,A (2334)-Bokros,A (2405) Hungary 2000. Black wins a pawn for insufficient compensation after the following sequence: Nxb3! 14.Nxb3 Bxf3! 15.Qxf3 exd6 16.Qxb7 Bxb2 17.Rab1 Bg7∓]

12.h3! White wisely prevents ...Bc8-g4 once and for all.

[12.Nc3?! Bg4! causes too many problems for White:

A) 13.d5? -0.39/18 13.Be3 0.01 Nd4!∓ is excellent for Black despite the result of the game, 1-0 (27) Kuhn,M (1877) -Michel,L Europe-Echecs INT 2021;

B) 13.Nb5 looks pretty artificial: d5 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 a6! initiates a very cool sequence: 16.Bc7 Nxd4! 17.Qd3! Qd7! A typical computer variation. Lots of pieces are hanging, but Black emerges on top after. aiming for ...

Nxb3. 18.Bxb6 *(18.Nxd4?* -1.14/21 18.Bxb6 -0.64 *Qxc7∓* 1-0 (34) Harder,A (1598) -Sonnhalter,S (1766) Willingen 2009*)* 18...Nxb3 19.axb3 Qxb5 20.Qxb5 axb5∓ with an extra pawn and decent winning chances.;

C) 13.Qd3 a5!? Making use of the Knight on b6. 14.Nb5 -0.37/19 *(14.d5=* 0.03/19 *Bxf3 15.Qxf3)* 14...a4∓ 15.Bd1! Bf5 16.Qd2 d5 17.Be2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 dxc4= with interesting counterplay for Black, 1/2 (58)-1/2 (58) Markus,R (2165)-Kund,W (2258) LSS 2007;

D) 13.h3 Qf6! White just about equalises after this, but that's no achievement! 14.hxg4 *(14.Bg5?* -0.69/22 14.g3 0.04 loses a clear pawn to *Qxg5 15.Nxg5 Bxd1 16.Rfxd1 Nxd4∓* 1-0 (42) Costa, J-Durao,P (2140) Honra 1998*)* 14...Qxf4 15.g5 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4= White should have just enough play for equality here, but he eventually lost, 0-1 (31) Brf (2443) -Enchanter (2559) playchess.com INT 2008.]

[12.Bg5!? White tries to disrupt Black's development. Bf6! 13.Bh6 *(13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.h3* 1-0 (33) Karlsson,A (2347)-Steindorsson,S (2211) Selfoss 2002. Prevents Bg4 *Bf5 15.Nc3 Rae8=* is nothing for White. *)* 13...Re8! 14.h3 Bf5 15.Nc3 1-0 (33) Kernazhitsky,L (2413) -Zakharchenko,A (2309) Kiev 1999 d5= All of the pieces are still on the board in this symmetrical structure, making for an interesting fight ahead, with balanced chances.]

12...Na5!? Black hunts down White's best minor piece.

[12...d5!? is another good option. 13.Nc3 Be6!? 14.Rc1 Nc4!? Once again, this Knight lunge gives Black good counterplay. 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.d5!? is an attempt to exploit Black's "carelessness", but everything is under control after Bxc3 regardless of which piece White chooses to capture: 17.dxc6 *(17.dxe6 Bxb2* White must now prevent ...Qxd1. *18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Rxc4 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Rd8=* with easy equality.*)* 17...Bxb2 ...Qxd1 would now be deadly. 18.cxb7 Qxd1 19.Rcxd1 Rab8! 20.Bxb8 Rxb8⩲ with excellent compensation due to the two Bishops and passed c-pawn.]

13.Bc2?! -0.12/19 This loses time and White is probably better off developing, although the position should be equal in any case.

[13.Nc3!? d5 14.Rc1!? *(14.Bc2?!* 1-0 (44) Podinic,B (2274)-Dinic, G (2250) Belgrade 2012. It's not really worth the time spent trying to save this Bishop, and Black is fine after *Be6=)* 14...Bf5 15.Re1 Rc8 16.Bc2!? Be6!? *(16...Bxc2 17.Rxc2±* allows White to coordinate and double his Rooks on the e-file.*)* 17.Bd3!? White repositions the Bishop to make way for his Queen's Rook. a6 18.Rc2 Nc6 19.Bf1 h6!?" gives Black good counterplay in any case.]

[13.Bg5!? Qc7 14.Nc3 0-1 (41) Suharukova,A (2054)-Kashlinskaya, A (2222) Moscow 2008 Bf5!? 15.Qd2 Rac8= looks fine for Black.]

[13.Nc3± 0.37/21 might be stronger.]

13...Nd5!?= Black takes aim at White's other Bishop.

[13...Be6= is perfectly playable as

well, 0-1 (44) Charbonneau,P (2326)-Goldenberg,D (2310) Montreal 2000]

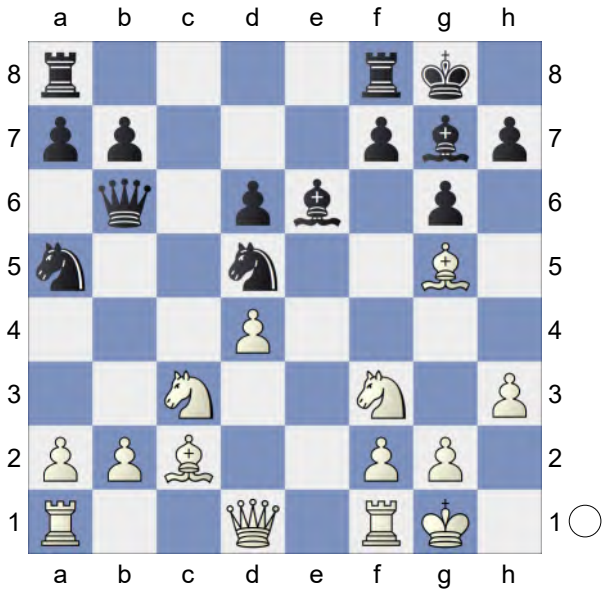
14.Bg5 The position is equal.

[14.Bg3 is probably a better square, keeping an eye on d6, 0-1 (26) Stets, V (2400)-Bodnar,N (2326) Alushta 2005 Be6 15.Re1 Rc8= with good play for Black.]

14...Qb6N Black tries to disturb White as much as possible.

[14...Qc7 15.Nbd2 Be6 16.Rc1 Qb6 17.Ne4 f5 18.Nc3 Qxb2 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Be7 Rfc8 21.Bb1 Nc4 22.Re1 Rc6 23.Rc2 Qb6 24.a4 Na3 25.Rxc6 Qxc6 26.Bd3 Rc8 27.Qe2 a6 28.Ng5 Bxd4 29.Ne6 0-1 (31) Guadalpi,C (1902)-Milliet,S (2328) FRA-chT Top 16 GpA 2006 (1)]

15.Nc3 Be6



16.Na4

[16.Be4 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Rac8= gives Black good play against the backward c-pawn, 0-1 (31) Afek,Y (2310)-Djukic,N (2538) Cappelle-la-Grande 2013]

16...Qb5 Finally, this is a novelty!

[16...Qc7!? 17.Rc1 Qd7= also looks very solid, 0-1 (29) Lehtivaara,R (2182) -Hokkanen,P (2304) Helsinki FIN 2011]

17.Bd3 Qd7 18.Re1?! White starts to drift around here.

[18.Bd2! forces the Knight back and allows White to keep fighting for the initiative: Nc6 19.Bc4 Rac8 20.Rc1 Nce7 Black has a great grip on the d5-square and this makes it very hard for White to generate any meaningful pressure. 21.Bb3 Rxc1 22.Bxc1 b5 23.Nc3 Nxc3 24.bxc3 Nd5 Once again, this structure favours Black due to White's weak c-pawn. White is better off sacrificing it immediately with 25.Re1!? *(25.Bd2?! Nb6∓* gives Black a strong grip on the c4-square.*)* 25...Nxc3 26.Bxe6! fxe6 27.Qd3 Nd5 28.Ng5 Re8 29.h4⩲ with reasonable compensation for the pawn, but no more than that.]

18...Rac8∓ Black's position is already for choice here, with ...Na5-c4 on the way.

19.b3?! However, White was better off allowing this Knight incursion, as the cure is worse than the disease.

[19.Bd2!? Nc4 20.Bxc4 Rxc4 21.Nc3 Rfc8∓ is still very pleasant for Black, however.]

[19.Rc1!? doesn't keep the Knight out for long: h6 20.Bd2 Rxc1! 21.Bxc1 Rc8∓ with ...Na5-c4 to follow.]

19...h6!? This works wonders in the game, but it may be slightly inaccurate.

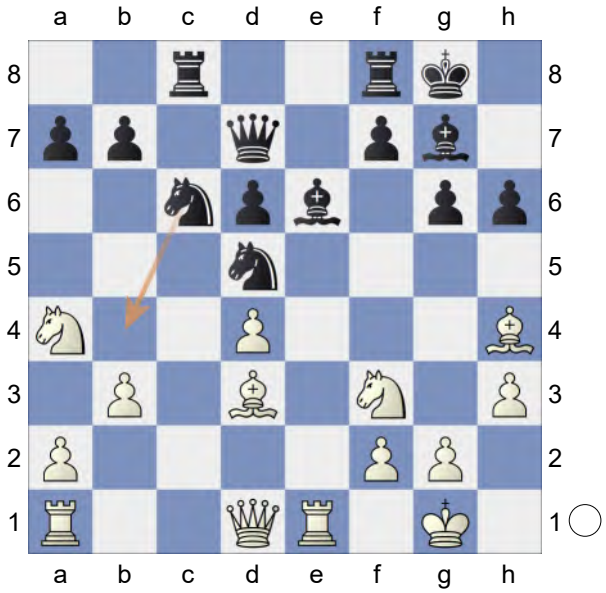
[19...Nc6!?∓ is immediately very strong, targeting d4.]

20.Bh4 -0.93/21 This is the decisive mistake as the Bishop is completely out of play here.

[20.Bd2!? limits Black to a slight edge: Nc6 21.Nc3 a6∓ *(21...Nxc3!? 22.Bxc3 Ne5∓)*]

[Better is 20.Bd2∓ -0.43/21 Nc6 21.Bc4]

20...Nc6!∓



Black is more active. White is now going downhill. **21.Be4?** -1.73/23 This allows ...b7-b5 straight away, but good advice is hard to offer here.

[21.Bc4!? Ncb4!-+ prepares ...b7-b5 and seems to be crushing for Black.]

[21.Rc1∓ -0.91/21]

21...b5!-+ 22.Nb2 Nc3↑ Black is really pushing.

[22...g5-+ -1.26/19 22...Nc3 -1.65 is also winning, with ...f5-f4 to follow.]

23.Qd3 -3.53/21

[23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Qd3 Bf5-+ and White's position is dire. He's likely to lose material very soon.]

[⌓23.Bxc6 -1.65/23 Qxc6 24.Qd2]

23...Nb4 -1.98/21

[23...d5!-+ also wins.]

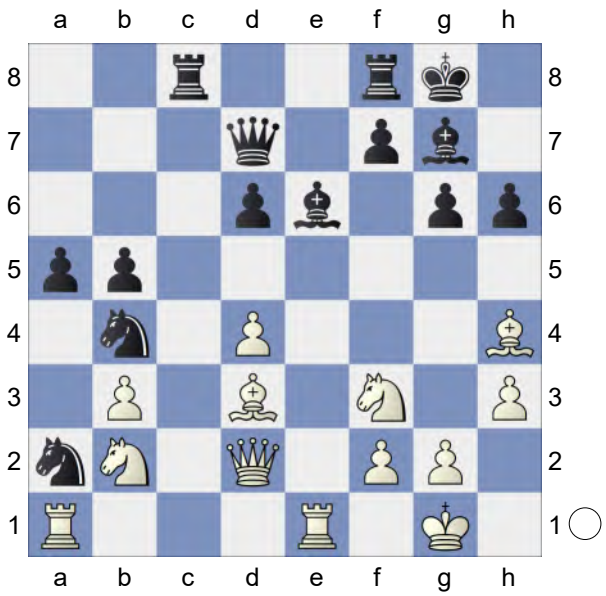
[⌓23...d5 -3.53/21 24.Bxg6 fxg6]

24.Qd2 a5

[But not 24...Ncxa2 25.Nd3 Nxd3 26.Bxd3=]

25.Bd3 Ncxa2

(Diagram)

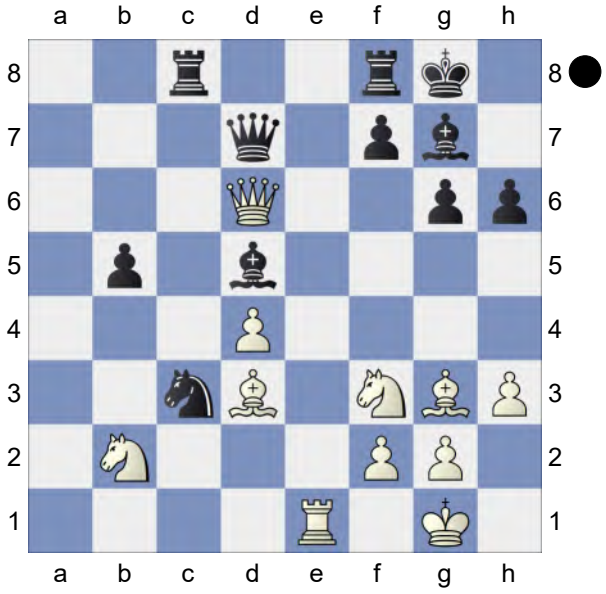


26.Rxa2 -2.93/21

[26.Bb1 -1.76/20 was called for.]

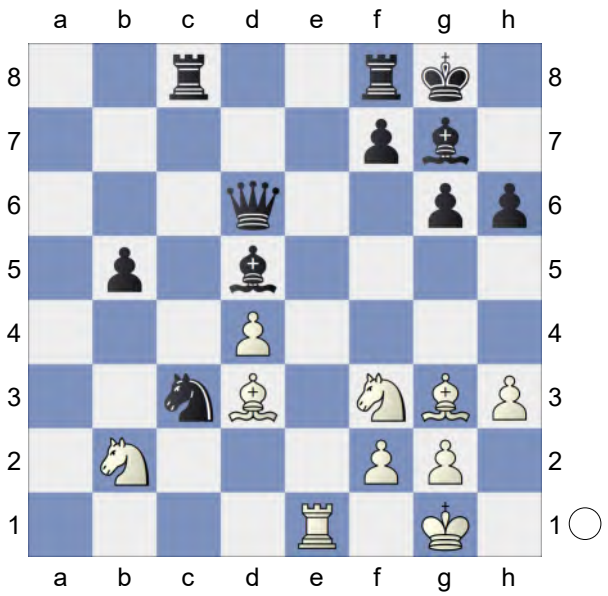
26...Nxa2 27.Qxa5 Nc3 Black is far too much material up and converts his advantage without any trouble. I've given the remaining moves without comment. **28.Bg3 Bxb3 29.Qb4 Bd5 30.Qxd6?** -5.84/23

[30.Nd1 -2.78/20 is a better chance. Nxd1 31.Rxd1]

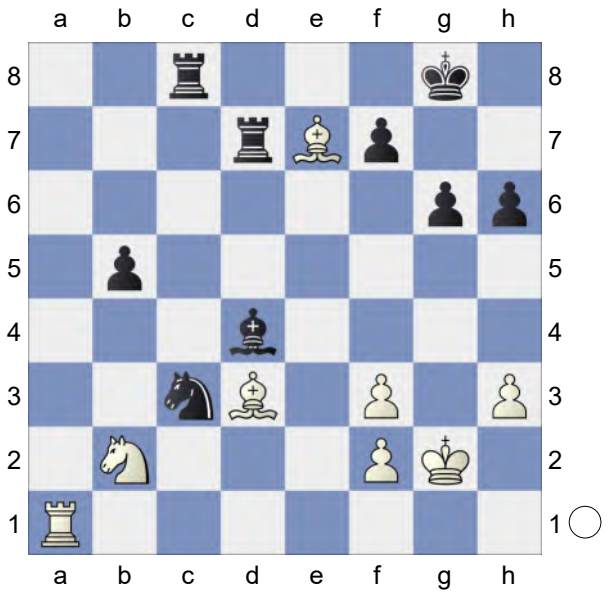


30...Qxd6

(Diagram)

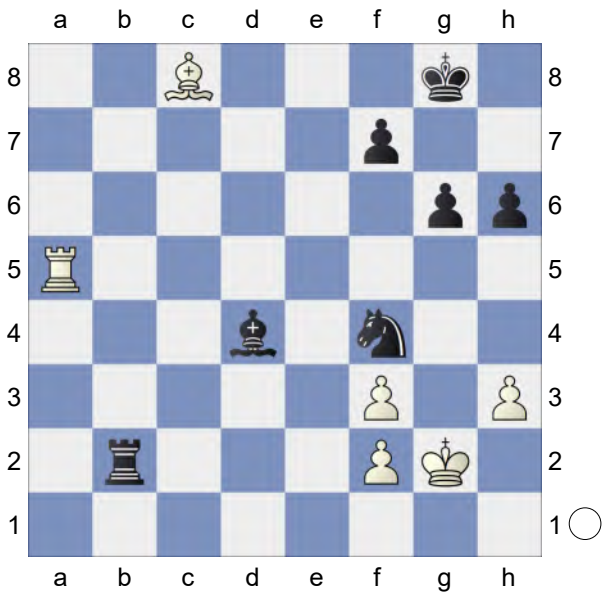


31.Bxd6 Rfe8 32.Ra1 -7.01/22
[⌓32.Ne5 -4.11/20]
32...Bxf3 33.gxf3 Bxd4 34.Kg2 Red8 35.Be7 Rd7

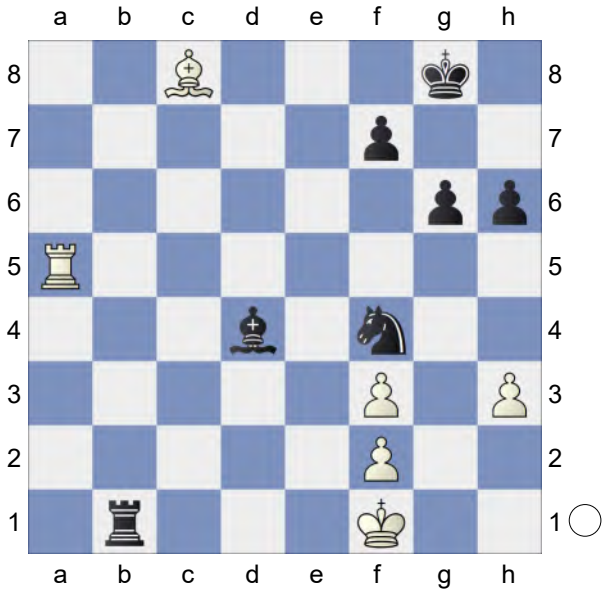


36.Bb4 Nd5 37.Bxb5 Rb7 38.Ba6 Rxb4 39.Bxc8 Rxb2 40.Ra5 Nf4+

(Diagram)



41.Kf1 Rb1#

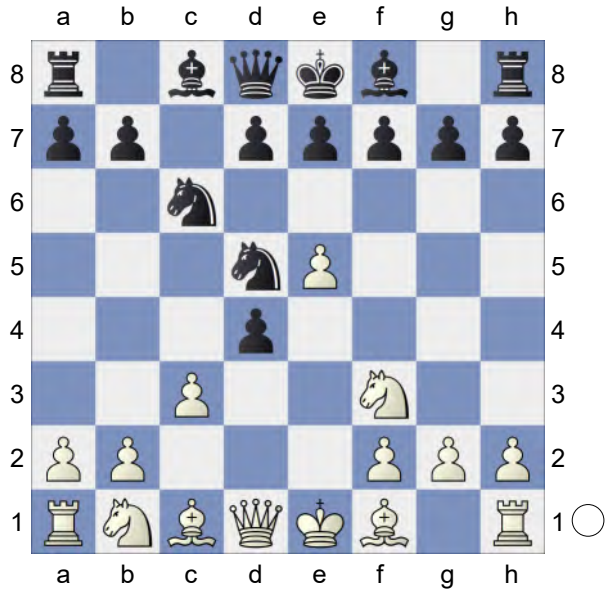


Overall I would say that this line is a very good practical try for Black, and White really needs to know his stuff to secure an edge. The only issue is the move-order: after 6 d4, I can't see a way for Black to transpose to Sarana's set-up from this game. However, I think it can serve as a very useful weapon against the right opponent (namely one who likes to delay pushing his d-pawn!).
Weighted Error Value: White=0.79/

Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

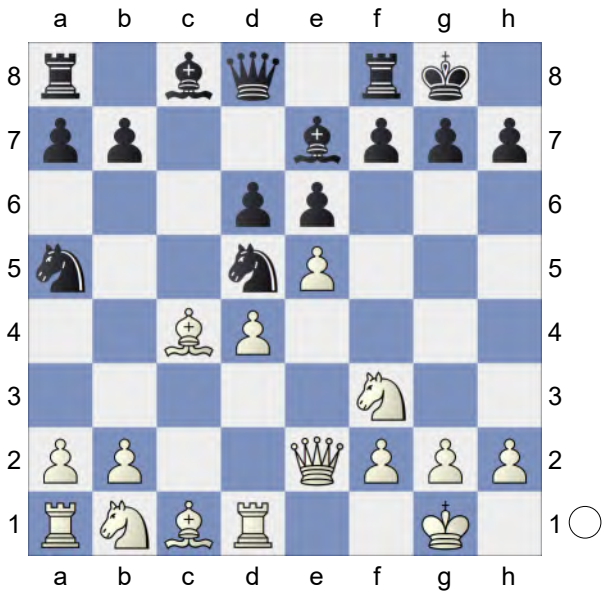
171 **B22**
□ **Bortnyk,Olexandr** **2604**
■ **Lamaze,Simon** **2372**
Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Nov Early ..
[Fitzsimons,David]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
John Emms: 'In this game Black plays an interesting line of the Schmid Benoni. delaying the advance of the d-pawn. However, this way of playing is presently under a cloud due to a discovery for White by the American GM Yermolinsky.' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6**



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 This is considered to be the mainline for White nowadays. Black obviously has numerous options here.
10...Na5
[10...a6!? looks a little slow, but also appears to be playable: 11.Qe4!? *(11.Nc3!* is probably stronger and covered by Jonathan in the archives, " -" (42) Stevic, H (2514)-Kozul,Z (2576) Vukovar CRO 2005 [Rowson] *)*
A) 11...Qc7!= looks like a better bet, intending to meet 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Qxd5? -0.63/24 with *(13.Qf4=* -0.23/24 should be considered. *)* 13...Nb4∓;
B) 11...Ndb4?! 12.Bb3 dxe5? 0.38/21 *(12...Na5!=* is still OK for Black.*; 12...Na5=* 0.02/23 *)* 13.dxe5± Qc7 14.Nc3± White has the usual space advantage associated with this line and Black's Knight is awkwardly-placed on b4. Rd8? 1.53/23 *(* Black should try *14...Na5±* 0.61/22 *)* 15.Bg5± 1-0 (30) Bortnyk,O (2604) - Yeremyan,A (2287) chess.com INT 2022]
[10...Qb6?! 11.Qe4!? *(11.Nc3!* looks best, with typical attacking chances for White after *Nxc3 12.bxc3 dxe5 13.dxe5 Rd8 14.Bd3±* Black will likely have to move the Queen again, leaving him a tempo down on the usual lines with ...Qd8-a5/c7. *)* 11...Rd8?! *(11...Bd7!* is better, as *12.Qg4* isn't too scary after *dxe5 13.dxe5 Rfd8=)*
A) 12.Ng5!? looks more dangerous for Black: Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Qxb2 14.Nd2 Rd7 15.Bd3 g6 16.Qh4 White has a strong attack on the dark squares. Black must now prevent Ne4. dxe5 17.Rab1 Qa3! 18.dxe5!± and now Nxe5?? 1.57/21 loses to *(18...f6±* 0.38/21 *19.Bh6 Nxe5)* 19.Bb5± Nc6 20.Ne4+- with an overwhelming initiative. Against Nc3;
B) 12.exd6?! Rxd6 13.Nc3 Qd8!?= looks like a decent regrouping, with equal chances for Black. *(13...Nf6 14.Qe2±* gave White good attacking chances in 1-0 (32) Bortnyk,O (2604)-

Hansen,E (2609) chess.com INT 2022)]
[10...Bd7 " -" (46) Tiviakov,S (2656)-Giri,A (2693) Hoogeveen 2012 [Collins, Sam]]
[10...Qc7 " -" (56) Nakamura,H (2760)-Carlsen,M (2848) Olympia, London 2012 [Collins, Sam]]
[10...Nb6?! doesn't look great for Black after 11.Bb3 *(11.Bd3?! Nb4=* is the point. *)* 11...Bd7 12.Nc3
A) 12...Nb4 White has a couple of good options here: 13.exd6!? *(13.h4!?±* is also interesting.*)* 13...Bxd6 14.Bg5!? Qc7 15.Rac1± with a strong initiative.;
B) 12...Rc8 13.Bf4 d5 14.Rac1 f5 15.exf6 This French Tarrasch structure is very favourable for White with this particular arrangement of pieces. Black will virtually never be able to play ...e6-e5
B1) 15...Bxf6?! 16.Nb5!± looks very strong for White. *(16.Bd6! Re8 17.h3 Na5 18.Bg3 Nxb3 19.axb3 Qe7 20.Re1±* is given by Lorenzini in Part Two of his Alapin database for Modern Chess.*)* 16...Na5?! 17.Bc7! Bxb5?? 4.92/24 *(17...Qe7* is better, but Black is still significantly worse after *18.Nxa7 Rxc7!? 19.Rxc7 Ra8 20.Rxd7! Nxd7 21.Nb5 Nxb3 22.axb3±* with an extra pawn and a nice bind for White.*; 17...Qe7±* 0.94/21 *18.Nxa7 Rxc7 19.Rxc7 Ra8)* 18.Qxe6++- Kh8 19.Bxd8 Rcxd8 20.Ne5+- was winning for White in a battle of Alapin experts, 1-0 (29) Bortnyk,O (2604) -Jones,G (2623) chess.com INT 2023;
B2) 15...Rxf6 16.Bg5 Rf5 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Bc2± with a pleasant edge for White.]



One of the most critical lines, chasing down White's light-squared Bishop.
11.Bd3! The most ambitious move.
[11.Bxd5 " -" (21) Ankit,R (2421)-Mchedlishvili,M (2640) Dubai 2013 [Sam Collins]]
11...Nb4!? 12.Nc3! is more profitable than 12.exd6 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 12.exd6.
[12.exd6!? has been tried by Bortnyk in the past. Qxd6 *(12...Bxd6=* looks fine for Black.*)* 13.Be4 f5 14.Bd3 *(14.Bc2?!* 1-0 (62) Bortnyk,O (2604)-Zhigalko,S (2572) chess.com INT 2022 *b6!∓* 1-0 already looks more pleasant for Black.*)* 14...Nxd3 15.Qxd3 b6 16.Nc3 Bb7 17.Ne5 Rac8 *(17...f4!=* S.Rublevsky (2702) - F.Caruana (2649), Dagomys 2009 (0-1 in 41) is quoted in the archives.*)* 18.Bf4 Qb4?! 1-0 (67) Bortnyk, O (2604)-Tillyaev,U (2295) chess.com INT 2023 *(18...Nc4!=* is better, with

equality. *)* 19.Qe2± with an edge for White.]

12...Nxd3 13.Rxd3 White has allowed the trade of his attacking light-squared Bishop for one of Black's Knights. In compensation for this, the other Black Knight is completely offside on a5 and White's Rook is ready to join in the attack on Black's King along the third rank. The position is equal. **13...b6** A natural way for Black to complete his development.

[13...d5 Closing the position allows White to manoeuvre effectively with 14.Ne1! preparing to swing both the Rook and Queen into action on the h-file.

A) 14...b6?! 1.13/20 14...f6 0.29 15.Rh3+- is already crushing,1-0 (29) Bortnyk,O (2598)-Bjerre,J (2549) chess.com INT 2021;

B) 14...Qe8?! is a decent defensive idea, preparing to meet Qe2-h5 with ...f7-f5, but White can target g7 instead: 15.Rg3!

B1) 15...f6 White has a couple of good options here: 16.Nb5! *(16.Bh6 Rf7 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.exf6±* is given by Lorenzini and is perhaps simpler.*)* 16...Qd8 Inhibits Nc7. 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Qh5! Bf8 19.Nd6 This initiates a forcing sequence which leaves White clearly better after Bxd6 20.Qxf7+! Kxf7 21.Rxg7+ Ke8 22.Rg8+ Kd7 23.Rxd8+ Kxd8 24.exd6 Ke8 *(24...Kd7?* 1.77/19 24...Ke8 1.35 *25.Bg7+-)* 25.Rc1± with a huge initiative.;

B2) 15...f5 Wards off Qg4 16.Bh6! This is even stronger than Gawain's choice. *(16.Nb5±* 1-0 (37) Jones,G (2665)-Lagarde,M (2638) London ENG 2021*)* 16...Rf7 17.Qh5! White threatens to capture on g7 thanks to the pin along the h5-e8 diagonal. Inhibits Bh4. Bd7 18.Ne2! Nc6 19.Nf3± White will continue with Ne2-f4 and Bh6-g5, with a strong attack.;

C) 14...f5 15.Rg3!?± is very powerful for White, with Qe2-h5 and Nc3-e2-f4 coming next.]

14.Qe4N This active-looking move allows Black to equalise.A promising side line .Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

[14.b4! This is Lorenzini's (and also Stockfish's!) preference.

A) 14...Nc6 15.a3 White solidifies his structure on the Queenside and retains a pleasant space advantage.

A1) 15...Bb7?! 16.Bf4! looks quite strong for White. dxe5 17.dxe5 Qe8 18.Rad1 Rd8 Prevents Rd7. 19.b5 Na5 20.Ng5 h6 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Nge4 is a good illustration of how White can improve his position. f5 The black pieces are badly coordinated and forced to control the strong knight check on f6. *(22...Be7??* 1.63/21 22...f5 0.98 *23.Nf6+!+-* is already a winning sacrifice.*)* 23.exf6 Bxf6 24.Nxf6+ Rxf6 25.Bg3± and White has all the chances here thanks to his better structure and Black's weakened Kingside.;

A2) 15...f5?? 1.66/20 15...d5 0.19 was simply losing

for Black in a recent 4NCL game: 16.exd6 Bxd6 2.61/22 *(16...Qxd6* 1.73/21 keeps fighting. *17.Bb2 Bf6)* 17.d5!+- exd5 18.Rxd5 Qf6 19.Bb2 Be7 3.26/22 *(⌓19...Bb8* 1.90/20 *20.Re1 h6)* 20.Re1+- with overwhelming activity for White, 1-0 (28) Jones,G (2626) - Delaney,K (2334) Daventry ENG 2023;

A3) 15...d5 16.Bf4 b5 Black prepares to strike on the Queenside with ... a7-a5. *(16...Bd7 17.Ne1 f5 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Nf3 Rc8 20.Qd2 Be8 21.Ne2 Bh5 22.Rd1 Qd7 23.Re3 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 Be7 25.Qd3 Rf7 26.Bg3 Rxf3 27.Qxf3 Bf6 28.Qg4 Re8 29.f4 Ne7 30.Bh4 Nf5 31.Bf2* 1-0 (47) De Vreugt,D (2511)-Al Sayed,M (2370) WJun Yerevan ARM 2000 (8) *Rc8 32.Ng3 Nxg3 33.hxg3 Rc3 34.Re1 Rxa3 35.Rxe6 Rb3 36.Qf5 Qd8 37.Rc6 Kf7 38.g4 g6 39.Qe6+ Kg7 40.Rd6 Qf8 41.Rd7+ Kh8 42.Rf7 Rb1+ 43.Kh2 Qh6+ 44.Kg3 Rb3+ 45.Be3 Qh4+ 46.Kf3* 1-0 (47) De Vleeschauwer, M (2265)-Pirard,N (2314) Wachtebeke 2023 (1)*)* 17.Ne1 White in turn prepares to swing his Rook across to the h-file. f6 0.61/20 *(17...a5=* -0.24/18 *18.bxa5 Rxa5)* 18.exf6± Bxf6 19.Nf3± leaves White pleasantly better.;

B) 14...Nc4

B1) 15.Ng5!?N Lorenzini mentions this as a novelty but it has been played. It's a brilliant sacrifice! Bxg5 *(15...Nxe5!?* 0.94/21 15...dxe5 0.36 forces White to be accurate: *16.Qh5! Bxg5 17.Bxg5 g6 18.Qh4 f6 19.dxe5 fxg5 20.Qh3* This looks very unpleasant for Black, however. *d5 21.Ne4 Bd7 22.Nf6+ Rxf6 23.exf6 Qxf6 24.Rc1±* with a clear advantage, as the Rook is far more useful than Black's Bishop and pawns in this position.*)* 16.Bxg5 Qxg5 17.Ne4 Now Black must find the correct retreat square for his queen.

B1a) An instructive and not very obvious error is 17...Qd8? 1.42/20 17...Qf4 0.62 18.Nf6+! This second piece sacrifice is the only way to continue the attack, there is no going back. gxf6 *(18...Kh8??* 12.48/23 18...gxf6 1.41 loses on the spot. *19.Rh3! h6 20.Qe4+-)* 19.Qh5! Bb7 The Bishop is ready to swoop into the defence via e4. 20.Re1! White wants to mate with Rg3+. Bxg2!? Black ultimately gains a tempo to cover the h7-square with his King's Rook. 21.Kxg2 Intending Rh3 and mate. Kh8 22.Rh3 Rg8+ 23.Kh1 Rg7 24.Rg1 Qg8 0.63/22 *(24...Rxg1+±* 1.04/24 *25.Kxg1 Qg8+ 26.Rg3 fxe5)* 25.Rxg7± Qxg7 26.Rg3 White either picks up the Queen or retains a very strong attack: dxe5 *(26...Qf8 27.exf6±* looks very unpleasant for Black. *)* 27.Rxg7 Kxg7

28.Qe2± Black has survived, but he is in for a lifetime of suffering as his King is still exposed.;

B1b) 17...Qh6 18.Rh3 Qg6 19.Rg3 Qh6 White can of course take the repetition here, but he can also play on in two very different ways: 20.Qxc4 *(20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rh3 Qxh3!* This Queen sacrifice looks more reasonable for Black than the one in the previous note. *22.gxh3 gxf6 23.Qxc4 Bb7* ...Rac8 is the strong threat. *24.exd6 Rac8* Prevents d5 *25.Qe2 Rcd8!?*⩱ with decent compensation for Black. *)* 20...d5 21.Qc6 Bb7!? 22.Qxb7 dxe4 23.Qxe4± leaves White with an extra pawn, but Black with decent drawing chances.;

B1c) 17...Qf4! Probably the best square for the Queen. 18.Rf3 Qg4 0-1 (32) Van der Brink,P (2167)-Chinchilla,A (2166) Chennai IND 2022 *(18...Qh6!?* transposes to 17...Qh6. *)* 19.Nf6+! gxf6 20.Rg3 Once again, White picks up the Queen. Qxg3! 21.hxg3 b5 0.44/23 *(21...d5!=* 0.01/25 *)* 22.exf6 Qg4+ would kill now. Kh8 23.Qh5 -0.01/22 *(23.Qg4±* 0.46/22 *Rg8 24.Qh5)* 23...Bb7= 24.f3!± Preventing the Bishop from joining the defence via e4. White is definitely better here, but there is a lot of fight left in the position. *(24.Qg5!? Rg8□ 25.Qh5=)*;

B2) 15.Ne1!? This is one of two main tries for White. I think it's simpler than the alternative, but it's hard to know which one is superior. 15...dxe5 16.dxe5 Qc7 17.Bf4 Rd8 Dodges Rd4 *(17...Bxb4?* 0-1 (35) Sedina,E (2279) -Allahverdiyeva,A (2095) Iasi ROU 2021 *18.Rc1±* is suddenly very dangerous for Black. *)* 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Rc1 a6 Prevents Nb5. 20.Ne4 b5 21.Qg4 Black must play very precisely to repulse White's attack: f5 0.65/24 *(* Black should play *21...g6=* 0.10/21 *)* 22.exf6± e5 23.Qd1! Threatening a check on d5. Qd7 Repels Qd5+ 24.Bg5! Strongly threatening f7+! Qxd1 25.Rxd1 Bf5 26.Ng3 gxf6 27.Bxf6 Bxf6 28.Nxf5 a5⩱ Black has decent drawing chances here, but this appears to be the best he can do.]

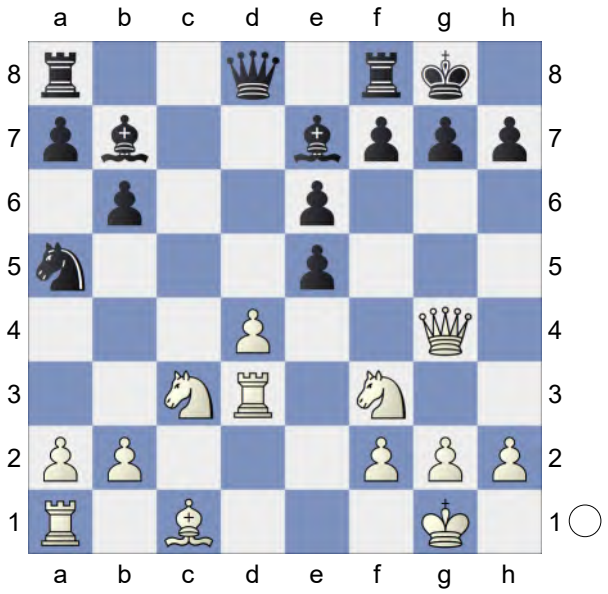
[14.b4 simplifies Nc6 15.a3 d5 16.Ne1]

14...Bb7N Too cooperative, encouraging the White Queen to go where it wants to go!

[Predecessor: 14...Ba6! It's much more useful to kick the Rook back. 15.Rd1 Bb7 0.20/19 *(15...d5 16.Qg4 Kh8 17.Ng5 Qe8=* looks solid enough for Black.*; ⌓15...dxe5* -0.23/21 *16.dxe5 Qc7)* 16.Qg4!= Threatens to win with Bh6. Bxf3 17.Qxf3 dxe5 18.dxe5 Qc7 19.Bf4 Rfd8 0.57/20 *(19...Rad8=* 0.21/19 *)* 20.Ne4 0.08/19 *(20.h3±* 0.57/20 is superior.*)* 20...Rxd1+!= 21.Rxd1 1-0 (36) Vocaturo,D (2621)-Rios,C (2460) Sitges 2021]

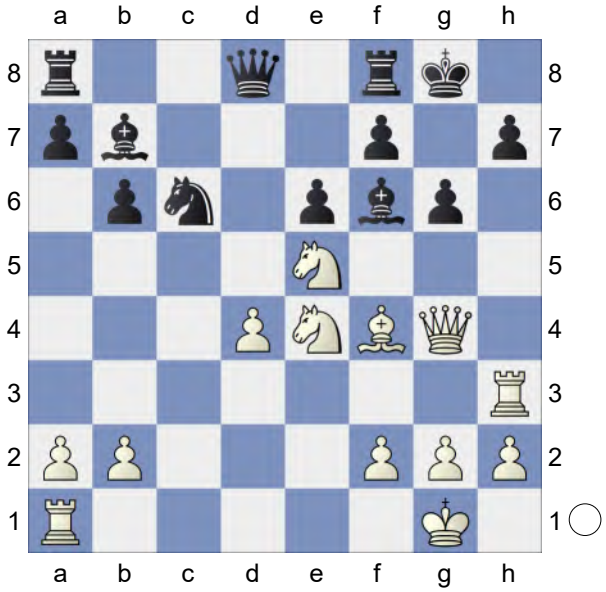
15.Qg4 Bh6 would now be deadly.

15...dxe5?? 1.05/22
[15...f5! is a reasonable defence: 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.h4! Qe8 White doesn't seem to have an objective advantage here.
A) 18.h5 Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Rxf3 20.gxf3 Qf7 21.Kg2 Rf8 22.Ne2 0.38/20 *(22.Nb5± 0.79/21)* 22...Qf5= neutralises White's pressure.;
B) 18.d5!? And now Bg5 would win. 18...Rg6 19.Bg5 Black's only move here is. Hoping for h5. h6□ and White can play 20.h5! Rxg5 21.Qxe6+ Qf7 22.Nxg5 *(22.Re1!? Qxe6 23.Rxe6±)* 22...hxg5 23.Re1 Qxe6 24.Rxe6 Bf6 25.Ne4 Bxb2 26.Nxg5 Nc4" 0.67/19 with a messy endgame where Black's chances are not worse. *(*Better is *26...Rc8=* 0.17/21 *)*]
[15...Re8= 0.24/21]



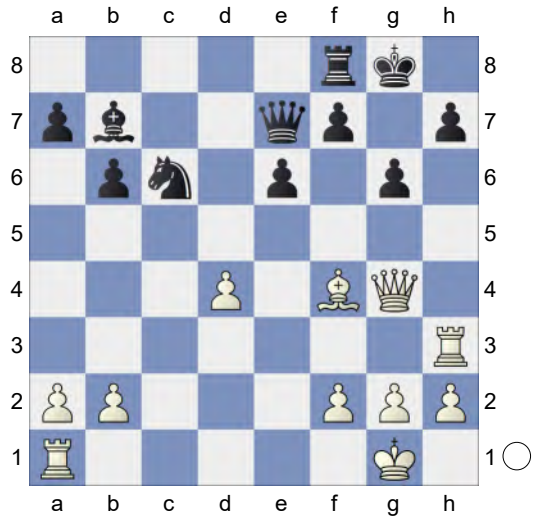
A losing blunder. **16.Bh6!±** **Bf6** **17.Nxe5→** White goes for the king. White has more active pieces. **17...Kh8?** 3.11/23
[17...Qe7± 1.13/20 was worth a try.]

18.Bf4?? 0.17/20 Bortnyk takes his foot off the gas and allows Black an unexpected equalising opportunity.
[18.Rg3! is much stronger: g6 *(18...gxh6? #2/6 18...g6 2.74 19.Qg8+! Rxg8 20.Nxf7#* is a pretty finish. *)* 19.Qf4 Qe7 20.Nd7!+- is also rather nice. White wins.]
[18.Rg3+- 3.11/23 g6 *(18...gxh6 19.Qg8+* Deflection *Rxg8 20.Nxf7#)* 19.Qf4]
18...Nc6?? 2.35/22
[18...Bxe5! allows Black to defend successfully: 19.Bxe5 f6 20.Bf4 0.49/19 *(20.Bg3=* 0.08/20 is more appropriate. *)* 20...Qd7=]
[18...Bxe5!= 0.17/20 and Black stays safe. 19.Bxe5 f6]
19.Rh3! White has a winning attack once again. **19...g6** Against Qh5
[19...Qxd4? is the wrong capture. 20.Qh5 h6 21.Bxh6+- *(21.Nxf7+ Kg8+-; 21.Nxf7+ Kg8+-)*]
20.Ne4 A dynamic duo of knights.
20...Kg8

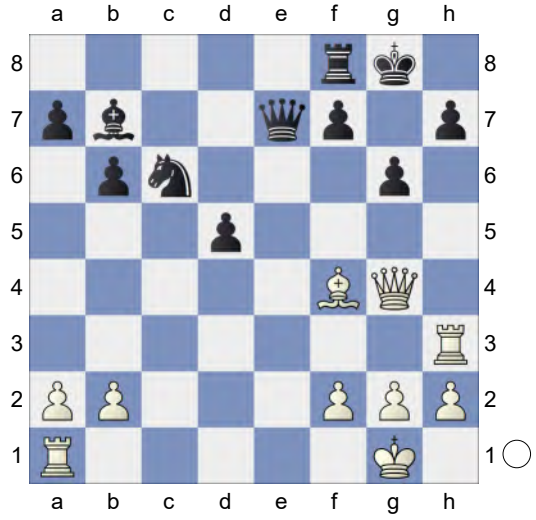


21.Bg5?? 0.26/24 However, this could have spoiled everything!
[21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Nd7 was simple

and winning. Qe7 *(22...Qxd4? 16.36/24 22...Qe7 1.57 23.Qh4+-* is immediately over. *)* 23.Nxf8 Rxf8



24.d5! exd5



25.Re3!+- also looks crushing for White.]

[21.Nxf6++- 2.03/23 Qxf6 22.Nd7]

21...Nxe5?? 10.97/26 Black was hoping to simplify but this just doesn't work:

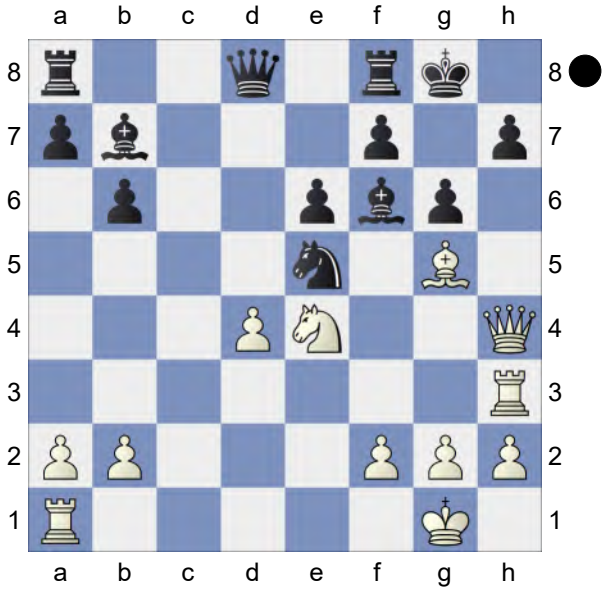
[21...Bxg5! 22.Qxg5 Qxg5 23.Nxg5 h5 hangs on for Black, although White still has an edge after 24.Rc3±]

[21...Bxg5= 0.26/24 22.Qxg5 Qxg5 *(22...Qxd4 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Rxh7#)* 23.Nxg5 h6 *(23...Nxd4 24.Rxh7 f6 25.Nxg6±)* 24.Rxh6 Nxe5 25.dxe5 Rac8]

22.Qh4!

[Qe2 and Rd1 remains a rich battleground, with many interesting possibilities for both sides. 22.Nxf6+? -0.23/5 22.Qh4 9.47 Qxf6 23.Qh4 Qg7 aiming for ...Nd7. 24.Bf6+- also wins.]

[22.dxe5 Bxg5 23.Nxg5 h5∓]



wins easily. This line with 9 Qe2 and 10 Rd1 remains a rich battleground, with many interesting possibilities for both sides.

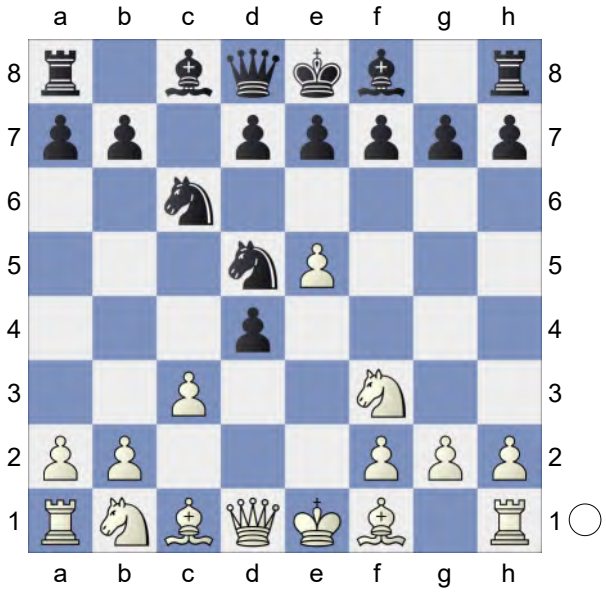
Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.66

1-0

172 **D41**
□ **Bortnyk,Olexandr** **2604**
■ **Abasov,Nijat Azad** **2646**
Titled Tuesday intern op 29th Nov Early ..
[Fitzsimons,David]

D41: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Tarrasch with 5 cxd5

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6



6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 dxe5 We'll cover this early capture of the e5-pawn in a couple of games this month. White has a choice of approaches. He can take the Knight on d5, which leads to very unbalanced positions. The most ambitious move is simply to recapture with the pawn, and this is featured in Khamrakulov - Stearman elsewhere in the update.
8.Nxe5!? This isn't mentioned by Shankland in his Classical Sicilian course for Chessable, where he recommends 7...dxe5 for Black. For that reason alone, it may be worth having this line in mind against well-prepared Black players, as it seems to lead to standard IQP positions at worst.

[8.dxe5 see Khamrakulov - Stearman.]
[8.Bxd5 1/2-1/2 (33) Sveshnikov,E (2521)-Shirov,A (2708) Paul Keres Memorial, Tallinn (rapid) 2013 1-0 [Richard Palliser]: 1/2-1/2 (14) Karpatchev,A (2501) -Lubbe,N (2509) Lueneburg 2017 [Sam Collins]]
8...e6 9.0-0 Bd6
[9...Be7 is also very solid. 10.Qg4!? may be worth a try, as Black must be quite precise to equalise. *(10.Qd3!?* leads to original play after *0-0 11.Nc3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Qc7 14.Bf4 Bd7=* but Black is very solid here.*; 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Qe2 Bf6 14.Bd3 Ne7 15.Bd2 Ng6 16.Qe4 Bd7 17.Rfe1 Rfd8 18.Rab1 Bc6 19.Qg4 Rac8 20.Ng5 Qa5 21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Qxe6+ Kf8 23.Bh6 Bh4 24.Bc4 Bd5* 1-0 (30) Mota,P (2101)-Arhan,C (2285) Fagernes op-A 2023 (6)*)* 10...0-0 11.Rd1 is K&S's recommendation. Qd6!? looks like a clean equaliser, however. 12.Bh6 *(12.Nf3 e5! 13.Qg3 Nb6 14.Bb3 exd4 15.Qxd6 Bxd6 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Rxd4 Re8=* looks totally fine for Black. *)* 12...Bf6 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.Nd2 Qb6 15.Nf3 White has posted his pieces as threateningly as possible, but Black seems to be OK following Ne7!?= for example.]
10.Nf3!? White is satisfied with a standard IQP position.
[10.Bxd5 is absolutely toothless and covered by Dave in the archives: 1/2 (32)-1/2 (32) Nisipeanu,L (2674) - Radjabov, T (2723) Bucharest ROU 2013 [Smerdon, David] exd5 11.Bf4 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 0-0 13.Re1 Bf5

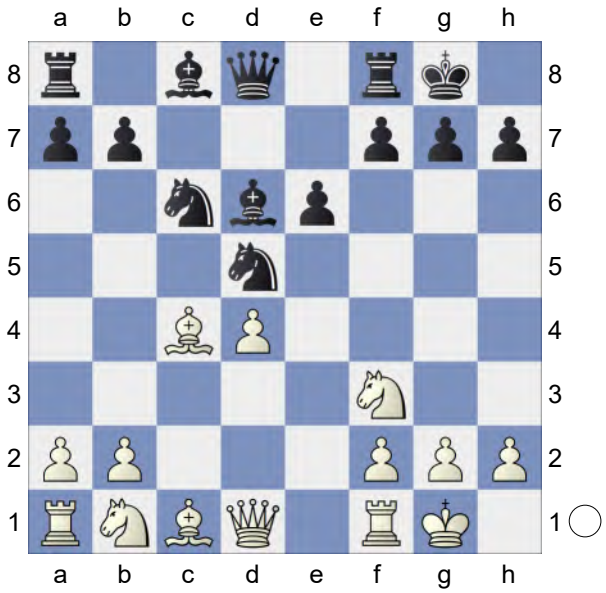
14.Nc3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Rfe8 16.Bg3 Rxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Re8 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Nxd5 Qe4 20.Nc3 Qxd4 21.Qxd4 Nxd4 22.f3 Be6 23.Bf2 Nc6 24.a3 a6 25.Ne2 ½-½ (32) Perez Bartolome, A (2674)-10. ♗c2 c5 11. ♘bd2 15267 (2723) BL2-W 9798 Germany 1997 (9.2)]

[10.Qh5!? is given by K&S as a dangerous practical try. 0-0 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Bxd5!?

A) 12...exd5!? 13.Nc3 Bxe5 14.Nxd5 Bxh2+ 15.Qxh2 Qxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Black should be able to equalise here with precise play. Bf5 *(16...Bg4 17.f3 Rad8 18.Nc3 Bf5 19.d5 Nb4* 1/2-1/2 (45) Tomazini, Z (2395)-Zorko,J (2465) Slovenia SLO 2017 *20.Bf4±* looks a bit better for White and entails no real risk. *)* 17.Ne3 Bg6 18.d5 Nb4 1/2-1/2 (29) Tomazini,Z (2416)-Istratescu, A (2595) Graz AUT 2018. Now, 19.Rd4 Nc2 20.Nxc2 Bxc2 21.Be3 and Black can play the accurate Bf5! which isn't mentioned by K&S. 22.Rf4 Bd7 23.Rc1 Rac8 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Bxa7 Ra8 26.Be3 Rxa2 27.Rb4 White has some light pressure, but Black really should be fine after b5 28.Re4 Ra6!= although there is still some play left.;

B) 12...Nxd4! K&S claim that this is Black's only way to equalise, but I think the alternative is also fine. 13.Ng4!? is the most critical response: exd5 14.Nc3 Bxg4 15.Qxg4 Nc2 16.Nxd5 Qc8! Black would certainly welcome an exchange of Queens and there doesn't seem to be a good way for White to avoid it. 17.Qxc8 *(17.Nf6+ Kh8 18.Rb1 Qxg4 19.Nxg4 Rad8=)* 17...Raxc8 18.Rb1 Rfd8= 1/2-1/2 (39) Tomazini,Z (2424)-Dobrovoljc,V (2294) Ljubljana SLO 2018. This all looks fine for Black.]

10...0-0



11.Qe2N

[11.Nc3 h6!= was given as unclear by Dave in the archives. *(11...Nce7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Bd2 Bb7 14.Rc1 Nf5 15.Bd3 Nf4 16.Bb1 Nh4 17.Nxh4 Bxe4 18.Nf3 Bd5 19.Rc3 Qf6 20.Re1 Bb4 21.Rce3 Bxd2 22.Qxd2 Rac8 23.Be4 h6 24.g3 Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Nd5 26.Ne5* 0-1 (70) Sielaff, M (2358)-8. ♘f3 ed5 9.e3 0-0 66018 (2573) Netherlands corr 1994 [7] *Qf5 27.R4e2 Rc7 28.h4 Rfc8 29.Qd1 g6 30.Kg2 Kg7 31.Rd2 Rc2 32.Rxc2 Qxc2 33.Qe2 Rc7 34.a3 a5 35.Nf3 Qf5 36.Rd1 f6 37.Ne1 g5 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.Nd3 Ne7 40.Rd2 Kf7 41.Qh5+* 0-1 (70) Sielaff,M (2358)-8. ♘f3 ed5 9.e3 0-0 66018 (2573) APCT Q-152 [7] *)* 12.Re1 Nxc3 *(12...Nce7=* is also typical.*)* 13.bxc3 b6=

all looks fairly standard.]

11...Be7

[11...Nce7! is another decent set-up for Black. 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 b6 14.Bd3 Bb7= with no real problems, although White has the usual attacking chances here.]

12.Nc3!? White is happy to transpose into an Isolated Pawn Couple position.

12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 b6 14.Rd1 However, now he prefers to open up the centre to pose some direct problems for Black.

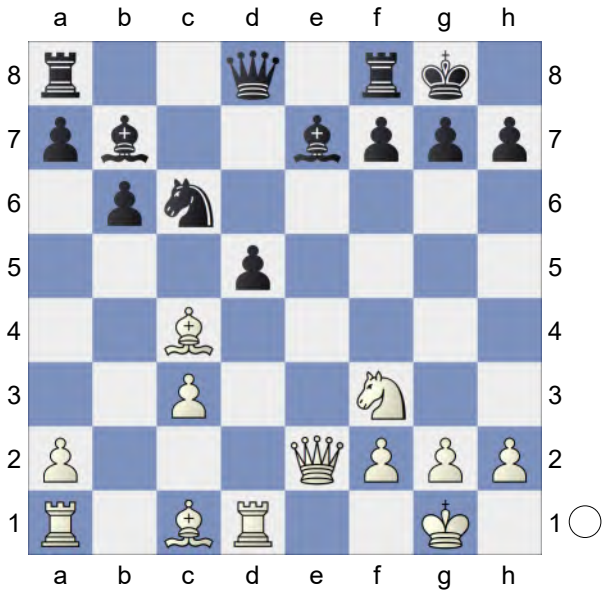
[14.Qe4 is also pretty typical:. Black must now prevent Bd3! Bb7 15.Bd3 g6 16.Bh6 Re8! 17.Rfe1 Bf8= with a solid defensive set-up for Black.]

14...Bb7 15.d5!? This is White's idea. It shouldn't lead to an advantage, but White's pieces are active and Black must play precisely.

[15.Bd3 Rc8 16.Qe4 g6 17.Bh6 Re8! 18.Qe3 White wants to sink a Knight into g5. Black has a nice defensive idea here: Na5!= 19.Ne5 Qd5 20.Bf1 Qe4!= secures equal chances for Black. *(20...Nc4!? 21.Nxc4 Rxc4=)*]

15...exd5

(Diagram)



16.Bxd5 Qc7 The position is equal.

[But not 16...Nd4? 17.Rxd4 Bxd5 18.Qd3+-]

17.Qe4 Hoping for Bf4. **17...Na5** 0.40/21 Black decides to force some trades.

[17...Rae8= including the final piece in the game, also looks very solid.]

[17...Rae8= 0.03/22]

18.Bf4!? 0.01/20 Gaining a tempo on the Queen is very natural.

[18.Bxb7!? is another option, slightly misplacing Black's Queen's Knight: Nxb7 19.Bf4 Nd6! 20.Qd5 Rad8! 21.Ne5 White looks to have some pressure here, but it should amount to anything substantial against careful defence:. Strongly threatening Nc6. Rc8 22.Re1 Rfd8 and now 23.Nxf7! is very challenging for Black to meet: Nxf7 24.Bxc7 Rxd5 25.Rxe7 Kf8! 26.Rae1 and Black needs to find Rd1! 27.Rxf7+ Kxf7 28.Rxd1 Rxc7 29.Rd3 Rc4⩲ 0.81/20 to stay in the game. This should be well within in the drawing margin, however. *(29...Kf6=* 0.21/19 remains equal. *)*]

[18.c4± 0.40/21 might be stronger.]

18...Bxd5= 19.Rxd5 Qxc3 1.66/22

This is far too greedy and loses on the spot. A mistake that costs the game.

[19...Qc6! was necessary. Only after 20.Nd4 should Black take the pawn: Qxc3! 21.Rc1 Qb4 With no Rd5-d4 available for White, Black should be fine. I would imagine this is pretty difficult to judge in an online blitz game! 22.a3 *(22.Rb1 Qc4=* and White has nothing better than repeating.*)* 22...Qxa3 23.Rh5 *(23.Nf5!? Bf6□ 24.Nd6∓)* 23...g6 24.Nf5! This all looks quite scary for Black but there is no objective cause for alarm. Rae8 25.Qe5 Inhibits Bg5. Bf6!! A fantastic defensive idea! 26.Nh6+! *(26.Qxf6??* -#2/5 26.Nh6+ -0.01 falls for back rank mate after *Qxc1+!-+)* 26...Kg7 27.Nf5+! and Black must repeat. Kg8= *(27...gxf5?? #2/6* 27...Kg8 0.01 *28.Rg5++-* mates. *)*]

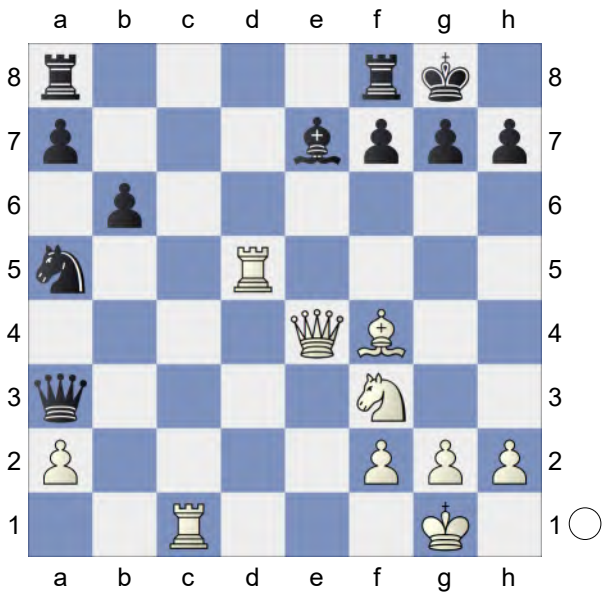
[19...Qc6= 0.01/20 and Black stays safe.]

20.Rc1+- Qa3 2.48/21

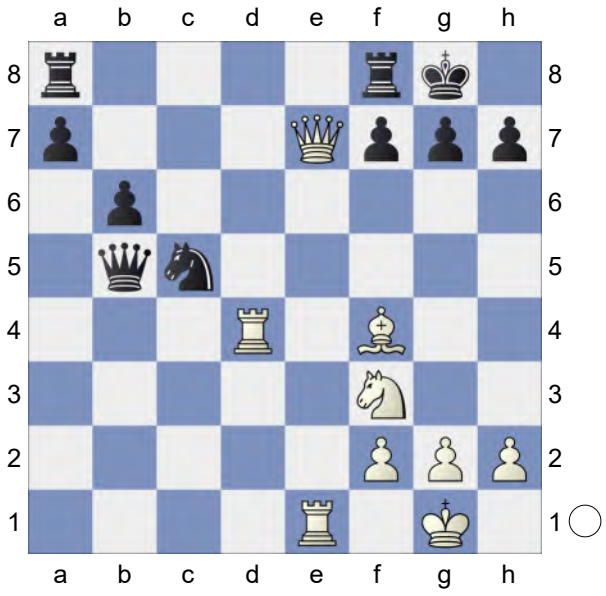
[20...Qb4 2.83/21 20...Qf6 1.76 can now be met by 21.Rd4! Qa3 22.Ra4+- picking up the loose Bishop on e7.]

[⩲20...Qf6 1.72/25]

(Diagram)

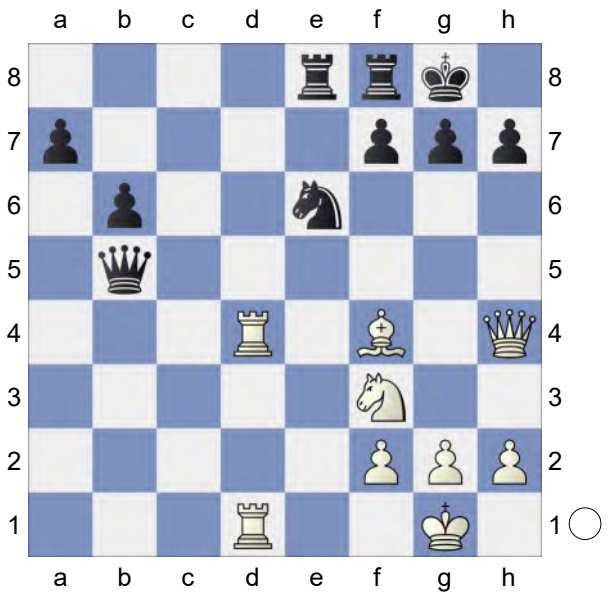


21.Rd3! Once again, the Bishop will drop and White wraps up the game without any difficulty. **21...Qxa2 22.Qxe7→** White goes for the king. **22...Nb3 23.Re1** Bh6! would now be deadly. **23...Nc5 24.Rd2 Qa4 25.Rd4 Qb5**

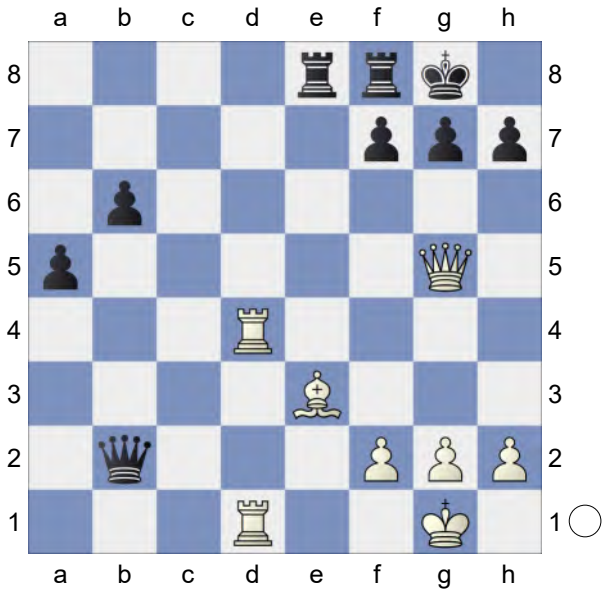


26.Qh4 And now Bh6! would win. **26...Rae8 27.Red1 Ne6**

(Diagram)

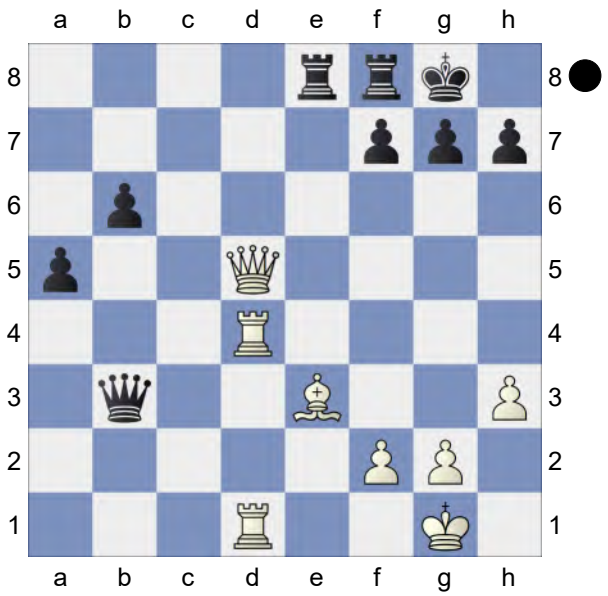


28.Ng5! Nxg5
[28...h6 29.Nxe6]
29.Qxg5 Qb2 4.16/21
[29...Qxg5 2.32/20 was called for.
30.Bxg5 f6]
30.Be3 a5



31.h3 Qb3 32.Qd5

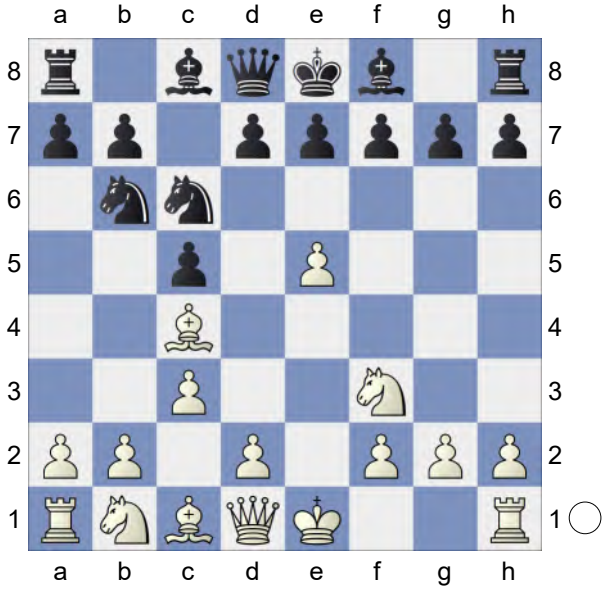
(Diagram)



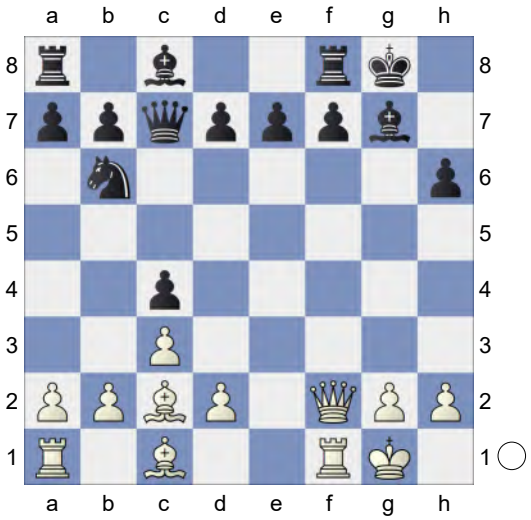
This 7... dxe5 line is annoyingly solid for Black. 8 Nxe5!? is a simple way to get standard IQP positions, which should appeal to most regular Alapin players. However, an objective advantage after this is nowhere to be found. players. However, an objective advantage after this is nowhere to be found.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.48
1-0

173 **B22**
□ **Korobov,Anton** **2702**
■ **Mamedov,Rauf** **2651**
Aeroflot Qualifier, Moscow (rapid) (6.1)
[Richard Palliser]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 Qc7
[This in connection with Black's sharp next has faded in popularity of late, but remains a decent way to unbalance the struggle. One solid alternative is 7...d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 .]
8.Qe2 g5 9.h3 Tiviakov's old preference. As this tabiya hasn't been covered on ChessPub for a while, let's have a quick look at some of the alternatives:
[a) 9.Na3 is a favourite of the Ukrainian Grandmaster Kislinsky, but after g4 10.Nb5 Qb8 11.Ng5 Nxe5 12.0-0
A) 12...h6 0.73/20 12...a6 0.21 13.f4! is an important point, as in Kislinsky-Voloshin, Kouty nad Desnou 2012, where gxf3 14.Nxf3 Bg7 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Qf2 0-0 17.Nc7! 0.33/19 *(White should play 17.a4!± 0.83/20)*
A1) 17...Qxc7? 3.08/18 17...Rb8 0.80



18.Qf5! Re8? #3/8 *(18...f6+-* 3.36/20 *19.d4 cxd3)* 19.Qh7+ 5.16/5 *(⌓19.Qxf7+ #3/8 Kh8 20.Qxe8+ Bf8 21.Qxf8#)* 19...Kf8+- Strongly threatening ... Nd5. 20.d4 gives White a winning attack;
A2) 17...Rb8!± 18.Ne8! was an impressive knight's tour to remove a key defender;
B) 12...a6= -0.05/18 13.Nd4 d5;
C) 12...d6! 0.34/17 13.Re1 -0.07/18 *(13.f4± 0.34/17 is superior. gxf3 14.Nxf3)* 13...Bd7= 14.d4 cxd3 15.Bxd3 a6 was fine for Black and agreed drawn here in Kislinsky-Todorovic, Belgrade 2012.]
[b) I was surprised to see long-term c3 practitioner Joel Benjamin going 9.Nxg5 -0.08/20 9.Na3 0.35 , since Qxe5 10.d4 cxd3 11.Bxd3 Qxe2+ 12.Bxe2 h6 has long been known to be fine for Black and after 13.Nf3 Bg7

14.Na3 0-0 15.0-0 d5 16.Rd1 Bf5 White clearly had nothing in Benjamin-Priyadharshan, US Online League 2012.]

[c) 9.e6 was once popular, but dxe6 10.Nxg5 Qe5 should be fine for Black.]

[d) 9.0-0?! g4 10.Nd4 Qxe5 11.Qxg4 h5! gave Black an early initiative in Kantans-Shankland, Gibraltar 2010, which can be found in the Archive.]

[Don't play 9.Nxg5 Qxe5 10.d4 cxd3 11.Bxd3 Qxe2+ 12.Bxe2 h6=]

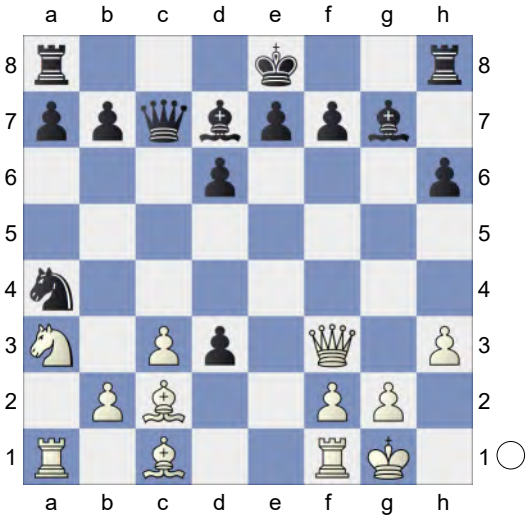
9...Bg7 10.e6N -0.10/20

[Here, however, Tiviakov preferred 10.0-0 and Mamedov has also faced this: Nxe5 11.Nxg5

A) 11...d5 has been somewhat more popular and receives extensive coverage in the Archive 12.a4 h6 *(12...Bd7 13.a5 Nc8 14.Nf3 Ng6 15.d4 cxd3 16.Bxd3 e5 17.a6 Nce7 18.axb7 Qxb7 19.Ba6 Qc7 20.Na3 0-0 21.Nb5 Qc6 22.Be3 Nf5 23.Rfd1 Nxe3 24.fxe3 Qb6 25.Kh1 e4 26.Nh2 Ne7 27.Nd4* 0-1 (53) Tiviakov,S (2700)-Sakaev,K (2668) FIDE World Cup 2005 (3.2)*)* 13.Nf3 Nbd7 14.Re1 Bf6 *(14...0-0 15.Na3 a6 16.d4 cxd3 17.Bxd3 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 e6 19.Be3 b6 20.Qd2 Kh7 21.Bf4 e5 22.Bg3 Bb7 23.Nd4 Qd6 24.Nf5 Qg6 25.Nxg7 Qxg7 26.Nc4 dxc4 27.Qxd7 f6 28.Rad1 Rf7 29.Qf5+* 1-0 (40) Sermek,D (2525)-Sveshnikov,E (2571) Dubai op 2001 (5) *)* 15.d4 cxd3 16.Bxd3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Nc5 18.Qxd5 Be6 19.Qh5 Rd8 20.Nd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Nb3 22.Nc3 Nxa1 23.Rxe6 Nb3 24.Be3 Nxd4 25.Re4 Nc6 26.b4 Rd3 1-0 (35) Tiviakov,S (2669)-Timman,J (2616) ch Hilversum NED 2006 (10);

B) 11...h6 12.Nf3 d6!? *(* and here too Black has tended to prefer *12...d5* , but I can't see anything wrong with the text*)* 13.a4 Bd7 14.Na3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3

B1) 15...Nxa4 16.d3 regains the pawn, since cxd3? 1.95/20 *(16...Qc6±* 0.84/18 keeps fighting. *)*



walks into a well-disguised fork: 17.Bxa4!+- Bxa4 18.Qg4;

B2) 15...Bc6 16.Qg4 Black must now prevent Nb5. Be5

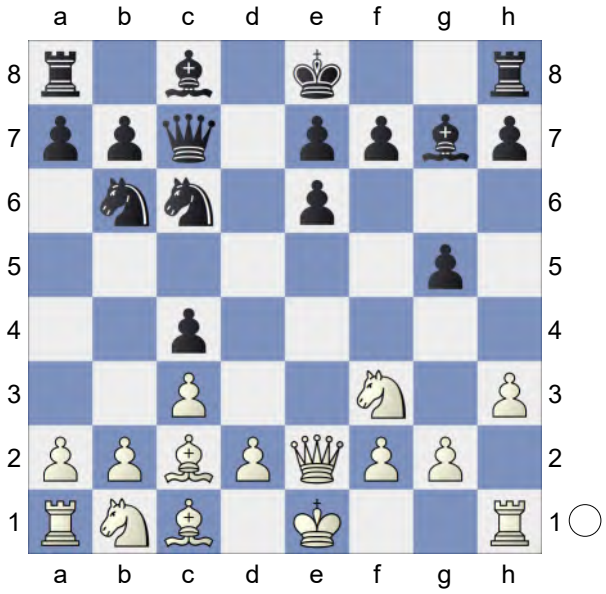
B2a) 17.a5 0.13/19 17.Re1 0.63 is more combative, but after Nd5 18.Nxc4 h5! Black seems to have sufficient counterchances: for example, 19.Qg5 And now Nxe5 would win. 0-0-0! 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Re1 -0.65/24 (White should try *21.Qh4!*= -0.07/20 *)* 21...Rhg8∓ 22.Qxe5

Rxg2+! when the rook is taboo, in view of 23.Kxg2?? -#6/14 *(23.Kf1∓ -0.81/21)* 23...Ne3+; **B2b)** 17.d4 cxd3 18.Bxd3 h5 19.Qe2! and 1/2-1/2 in Vallejo Pons-Mamedov, European Championship, Aix-les-Bains 2011, but if anyone's better after Rg8 *(19...a6!?)* 20.f3 -0.22/17 , it's Black. *(20.Be4* 0.24/19 might be stronger. *)*]

[Of course not 10.Nxg5 Qxe5 11.d4 cxd3 12.Bxd3 Qxe2+ 13.Bxe2 d5∓]

[⌓10.0-0 0.26/19]

10...dxe6=



11.Nxg5 Regaining the pawn, but practice has tended to suggest that Black's central pawn clump is more of a strength than a weakness in this and closely-related positions. Moreover, White is yet to untangle his queenside pieces. The position is equal. **11...h6 12.Nf3 Bd7**

[Natural and new, largely though because few white players are going in for this structure these days. There's nothing wrong either with the previously-played 12...e5 and after 13.Na3 Be6 14.b3 Na5 0.33/16 chances were about even in Margstahler-Martinez, Milan 2007. *(14...Nd5=* -0.23/18 *)*]

13.b3? -0.72/20

[Korobov is an immensely talented and dangerous grandmaster, but here completely underestimates the danger in the position. The way to arrange this key pawn lever was with first 13.Na3 Ne5 14.0-0 0-0-0 and only then 15.b3 , although I'd still be happy enough as Black after, say, Rhg8 .]

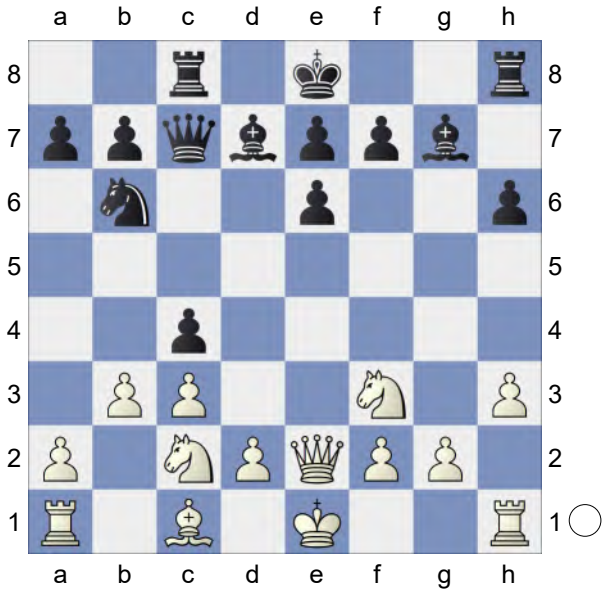
[13.0-0= 0.16/18]

13...Nb4!∓ Suddenly the bishop on g7 and the cramping pawn on c4 make their presence very much felt. **14.Na3**

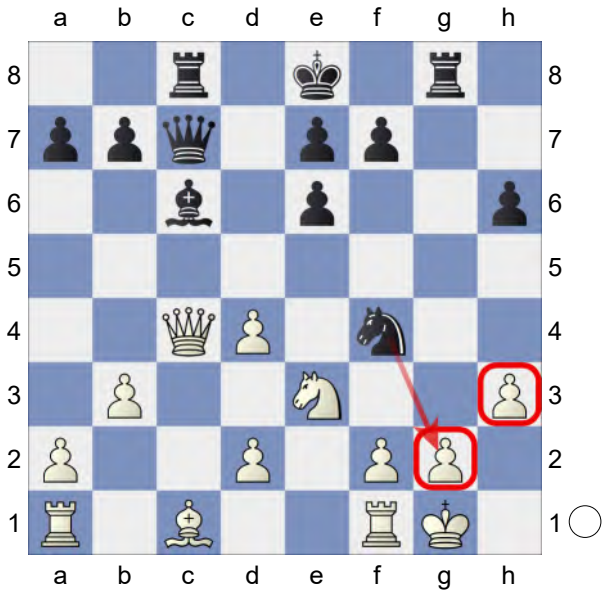
[The only real try, as 14.Be4? -2.89/20 14.Na3 -0.86 would have been rebuffed by f5 .]

14...Nxc2+ 15.Nxc2 Rc8

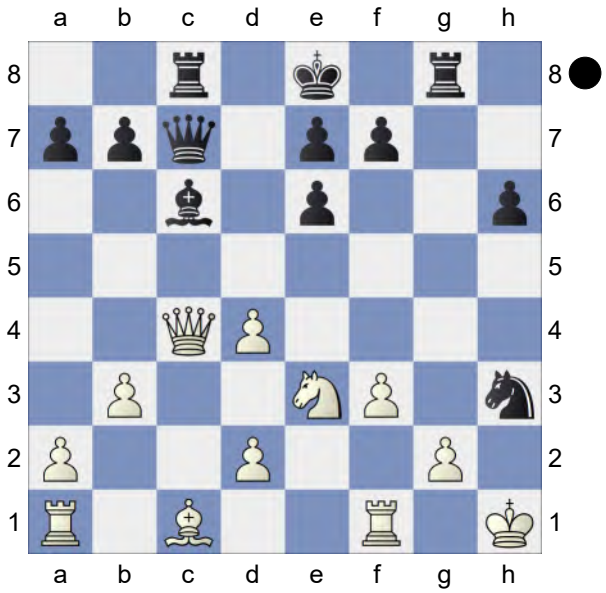
[Or just 15...e5 followed by ...Bf5. White is rather weak on the light squares and still faces difficulties finding his dark-squared bishop a decent role.]



16.0-0 Nd5 17.Ne3
[Critical, even if does allow a dangerous pawn sacrifice. Instead after 17.Qxc4 Qxc4 18.bxc4 Rxc4 Black would just have a very pleasant advantage with his more active pieces and bishop-pair.]
17...Nf4! Black is more active. **18.Qxc4** -1.81/22
[White comes under a serious attack after this, but it's hard to view the machine's 18.Qd1 Bc6 19.bxc4 Rg8 as a serious improvement.]
[18.Qd1∓ -0.84/23]
18...Bc6-+ 19.Nd4?! -5.82/23
[The attack is just too strong after this. Indeed, it seems that White didn't have anything better than 19.g3 -3.43/23 19.a4 -1.94 Nxh3+ 20.Kh2 Ng5 -1.50/22 *(20...Bxf3-+* -3.38/24 and Black stays clearly on top. *21.Qxc7 Rxc7 22.Kxh3 Rc5)* 21.Nh4 , extremely grim though this would have been.]
[⌓19.a4 -1.97/23]
19...Bxd4 20.cxd4 Rg8

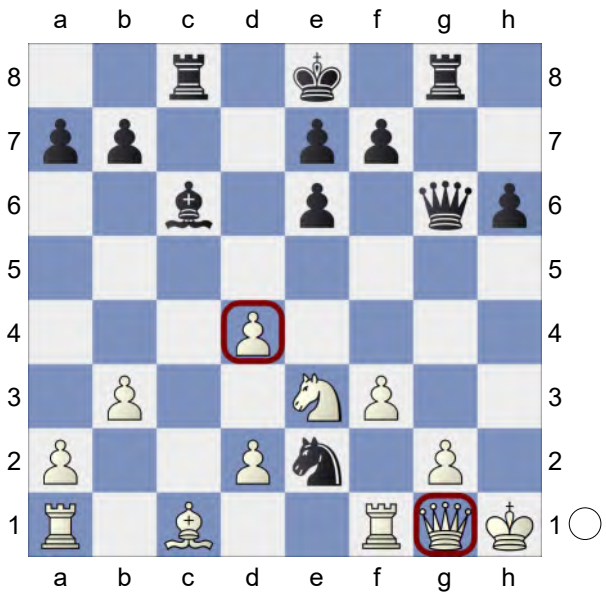


21.f3 -7.69/22 Forced, but now the knight captures with check and the black queen joins the fray.
[⌓21.d5 -5.06/22 Nxg2 *(21...Nxd5? 22.Ng4-+; 21...Nxh3+? 22.Kh1-+; 21...Bxd5? 22.Qxc7 Rxc7 23.Kh2∓; 21...exd5? 22.Qc2-+)* 22.Ng4 exd5 *(22...Bxd5? 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.f3-+)* 23.Qc3]
21...Nxh3+ 22.Kh1



Qg3! Black is clearly winning. **23.Qe2 Nf4**
[Equally crushing would have been 23...Qh4 (-> ...Nf4+)
A) 24.gxh3? Qxh3+ 25.Qh2 Bxf3+ -6.67/5 *(⌓25...Qxf1+* -20.10/30 *26.Nxf1 Bxf3+ 27.Qg2 Bxg2+ 28.Kg1 Bh3+ 29.Kf2 Rg2+ 30.Kf3 Rg1)* 26.Rxf3-+ Qxf3+ 27.Ng2 Rg5 decides;
B) 24.Qe1 Qh5 .]
24.Qf2 Qg6 25.Qg1 Ne2

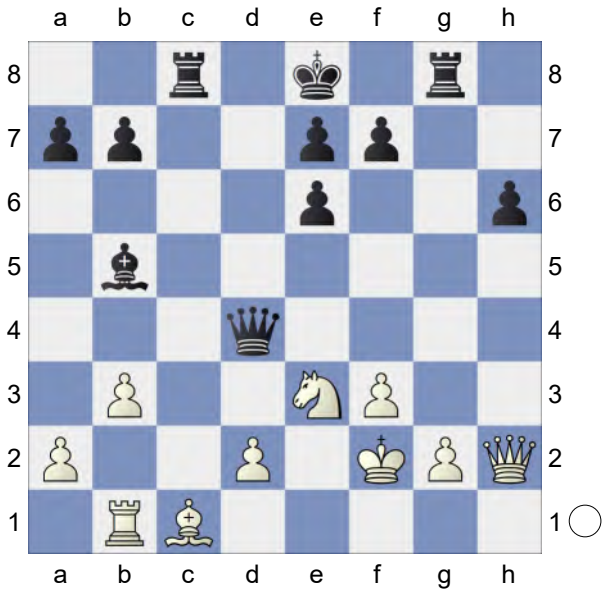
(Diagram)



The simplest. Mamedov nets the exchange while maintaining a virulent initiative. **26.Qh2 Ng3+**

[26...Nxd4? 27.Ba3-+]

27.Kg1 Nxf1 28.Kxf1 Qd3+ 29.Kf2 Qxd4 30.Rb1 Bb5

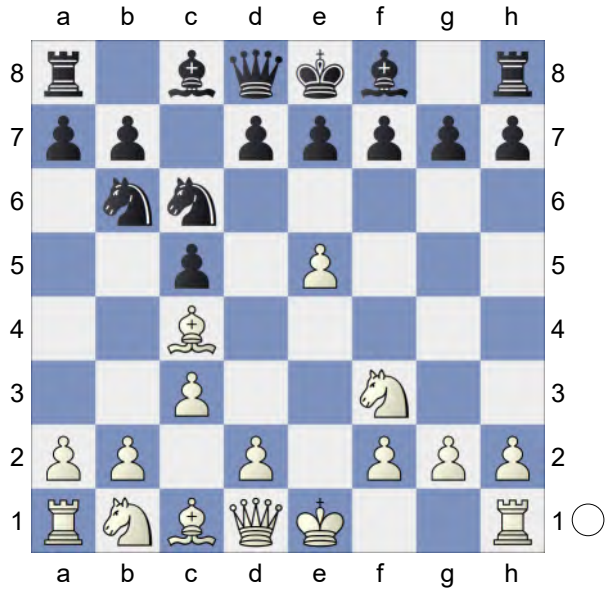


Black took control after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/ Black=0.23 (precise)

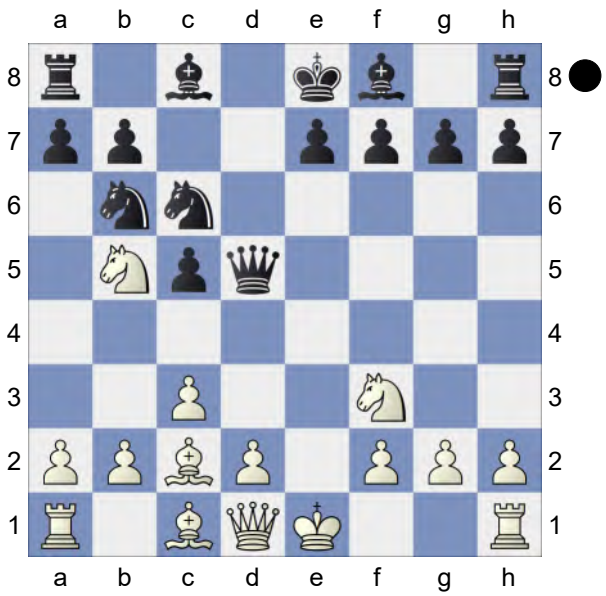
0-1

174 **B22**
□ **Rozentalis,Eduardas** **2571**
■ **Kovalyov,A** **2612**
COQ Invitational (9) 30.07.2011
[Richard Palliser]

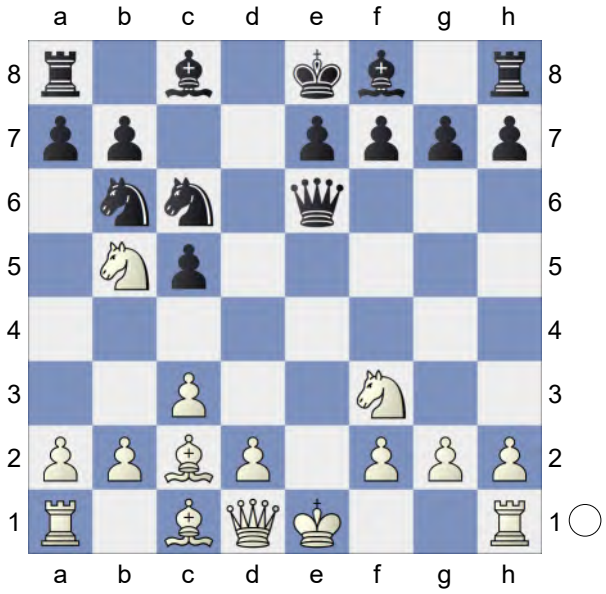
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 d5
[This solid choice has been growing in popularity of late compared to the more uncompromising 6...c4 7.Bc2 Qc7 8.Qe2 g5 .]
7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3
[Earlier in the same tournament the Argentinean Grandmaster had faced 8.0-0 and after Be6 (this must be the right square for the bishop *8...Bf5?!* was tried in Kazhgaleyev-Hamdani, Jakarta 2011, but after *9.d4 e6 10.Na3! Be7* Inhibits Nh4. *11.Nb5 Qd7 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Be3! Bxe3 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.fxe3* White was clearly on top) 9.Bc2 -0.01/17 (this rare choice prevents ...Qd3, but is otherwise unimpressive a somewhat more critical try is *9.Bxe6 Qxe6 10.a4!* , as covered by Jonathan Rowson in Pavasovic-Borisek, Portoroz 2005,; while *9.Re1* 0.05/20 9.Bxe6 0.42 *Bxb3 10.Qxb3* should be met by *e6* , as indicated by David Vigorito in his notes to Getz-Malakhatko, Tromso 2009 - see the Archive; *9.Bxe6±* 0.40/20 *Qxe6 10.a4*) 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Qe2 e6 12.Na3 a6 13.Rd1 Qc7 Black was comfortably placed in P. Zhao-Kovalyov, Montreal 2011.]
8...Qd3!?
[A slightly-provocative but very logical new idea for the site. Black has often preferred 8...Be6 9.d4 Bxb3 10.Qxb3 cxd4 11.Nb5 , but he still has to know how to equalise here, as John demonstrated in his notes to Godena-Sreeves, Otranto 2011.]
[Another interesting approach is 8...a6!? , as covered by Vigorito in Emms-Gallagher, British League (4NCL) 2009.]
9.Bc2 Naturally White must kick the queen away, but now it takes up residence on another light square.
9...Qd5 10.Nb5
[I can't find any mention of 8...Qd3 in Sveshnikov's recent tome on the c3 Sicilian, but then again this is only the sixth game I could find with it (and only the third with 9...Qd5). Rozentalis' choice feels very natural and it's hard to find anything better here. Indeed, after 10.0-0 -0.07/20 10.Nb5 0.45 Bg4 11.Re1 Prevents Ne5 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qxf3 13.gxf3 e6 14.Be4 0-0-0 I'd be amazed if Black could be worse.]



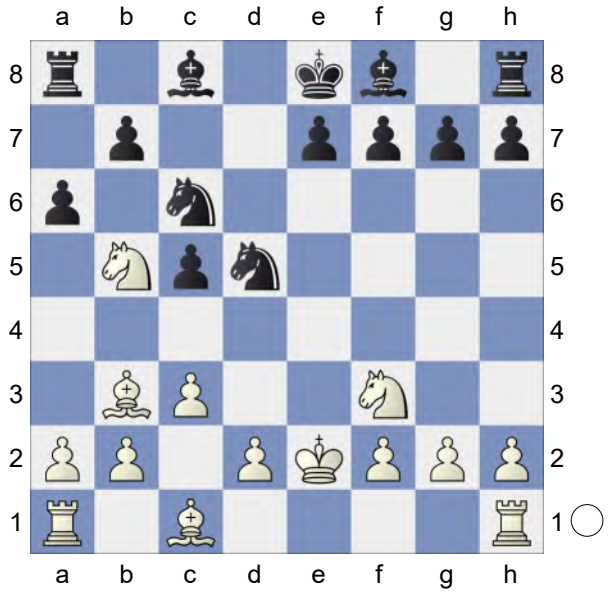
Nc7+ would now be deadly. White has an edge. **10...Qe6+!**



This check justifies Black's previous play. **11.Qe2 Qxe2+ 12.Kxe2** would just transpose while adding one to the move order. **12...Nd5** Prevents Nc7+

[Strangely 12...Kd8? 1.02/21 12...Nd5 0.15 was preferred in Kulicov-Klokas, Athens 2006, and after 13.Ng5 Bg4+ 14.f3 Bh5 15.Nxh7 White had netted a pawn, (although I dare say many would have preferred to attack with *15.d4!?* .)]

13.Bb3 The position is equal. **13...a6!**



And now ...Nf4+ would win. **14.Nd6+**

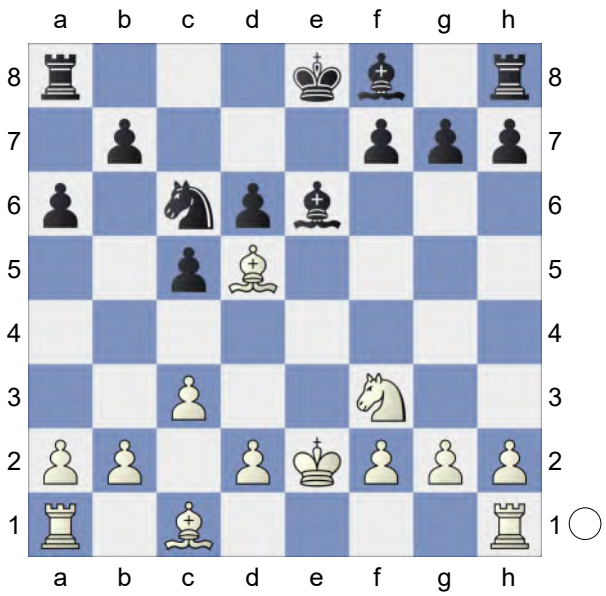
[The only previous game to reach this position had seen 14.Bxd5 axb5 would transpose to the note to White's 14th, below,

A) 15.d4!? must be more critical, although after . cxd4 *(15...e6 16.Be4 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4+ 18.cxd4* is similar) 16.Nxd4 Nxd4+ 17.cxd4 e6 18.Bf3 Bd6 I think that Black is OK, despite White's raking light-squared bishop the problem for the first player being 19.Be3 0-0 20.Rhc1 e5 when Black obtains sufficient counter-activity;

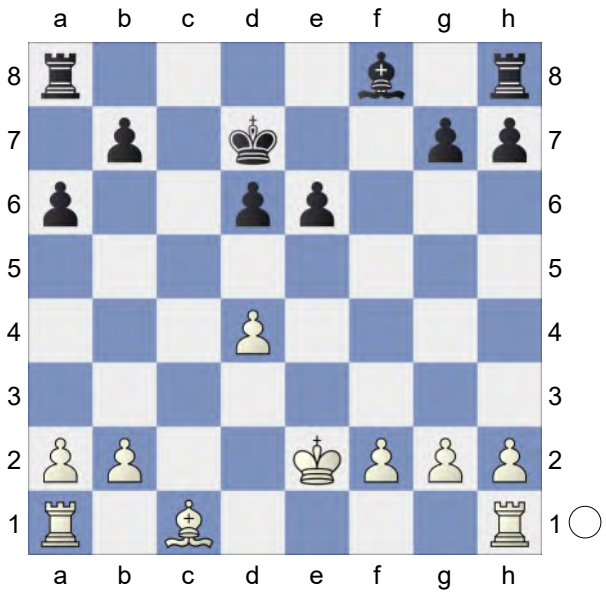
B) 15.Rd1 Na5 16.Rb1 Bg4 and Black most certainly hadn't any problems in Chapado-Van Esbroeck, correspondence 2006. *(16...Bf5!? 17.d3□ e6±)*]

14...exd6 15.Bxd5 is our main game **15...Be6**

(Diagram)



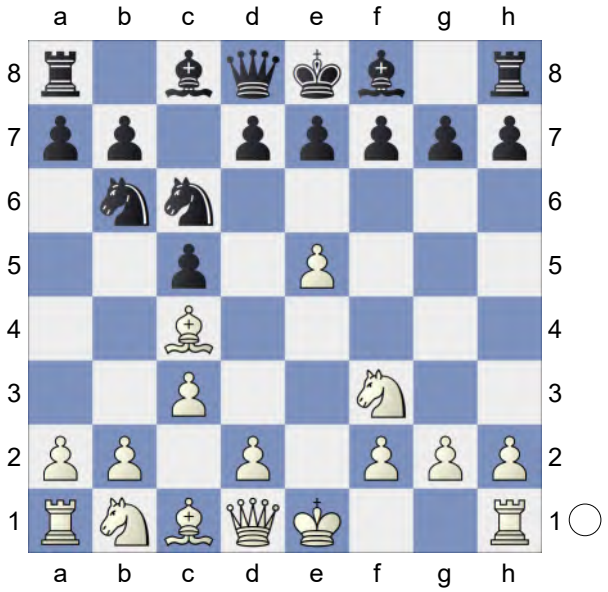
16.Bxe6 fxe6N 17.d4
[or 17.d3 Be7 18.a4 Kd7]
17...cxd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4+ 19.cxd4 Kd7



doesn't give White anything.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

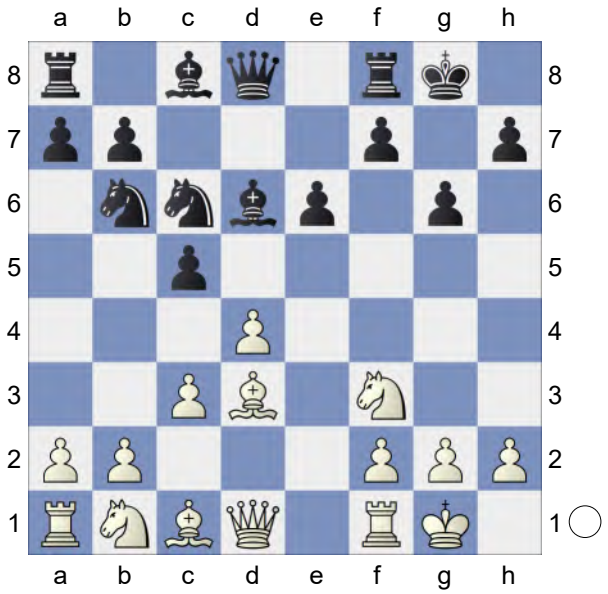
175 **B22**
□ **Adams,Michael** **2728**
■ **Golod,Vitali** **2591**
Bundesliga 2010/11 (12.5) 19.03.2011
[Mikhalevski,V]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6

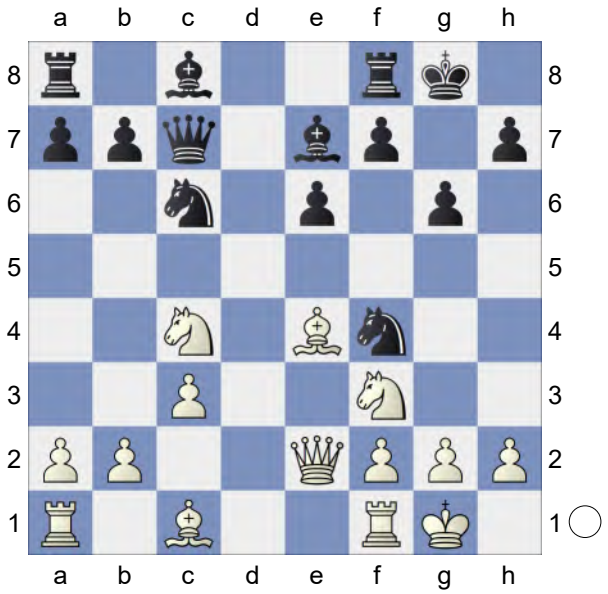


6.Be2 d6 7.exd6 e6 8.d4 Bxd6 9.0-0 0-0 The position is equal. **10.Bd3 g6**
[10...cxd4! 11.Bxh7+? -1.77/19 *(11.cxd4=* -0.12/18 and White has nothing to worry. *Nb4 12.Be2)* 11...Kxh7-+ 12.Ng5+]

(Diagram)



11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Nbd2 The old main line. **13...Nd5**
[13...Bf6]
14.Nc4 Qc7
[14...Bf6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Rad1!= with the subsequent Nf3.]
15.Be4 Nf4 0.39/17
[15...Rd8= 0.03/19 might be stronger.]



16.Qe3!?± An extremely rare continuation, which attracted virtually no followers after its introduction in the

Karpov-Korchnoi match in Merano 1981. **16...Nh5** Black follows Kasparov's simul game. **17.Qh6 Re8!** 0.60/20 Black needs his knight.

[17...f6 0.52/20 17...Nd8 0.01 with the idea]

[17...Nd8= 0.13/21 should be considered. 18.Bd3 f6]

18.Ng5! A useful intermediate move.

18...Nf6

[18...Bxg5! seems to be more precise as it allows Black to exchange a pair of pawns on the queenside. 19.Bxg5]

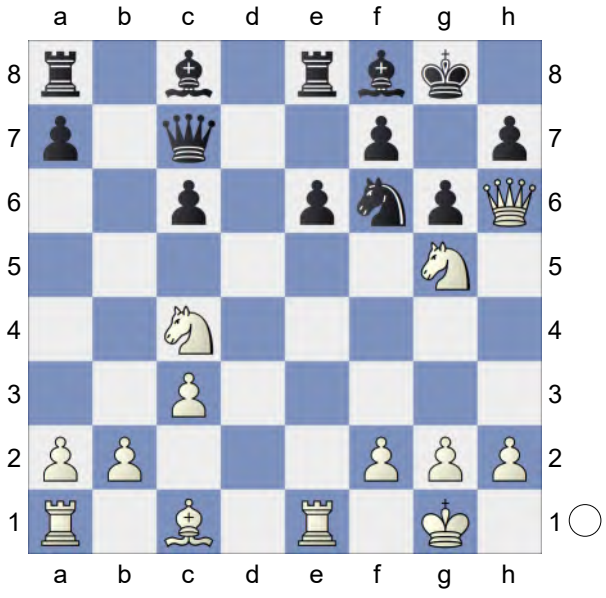
19.Bxc6 bxc6 Once again Black correctly keeps his knight.

[19...Qxc6? 2.10/19 19...bxc6 -0.03 20.Ne5=]

[19...Bf8? 20.Qh4 *(20.Nxh7? Nxh7 21.Qh4 bxc6-+)* 20...bxc6 21.Bf4+-]

20.Re1 Bf8!

[20...Bb7! 2.30/21 20...e5 0.01 looking for counterplay, deserved attention. 21.Ne5!? Rf8? 14.96/23 *(21...Bf8 2.17/20 22.Qh4 c5 23.Ngxf7 Nd7 24.Nxd7 Qxd7)* 22.Ng4! with the idea of ...Qd5 was a good way to equality.]



Freeing the rook and thus preparing to unpin the g7-knight. **21.Qh4 h6!** 1.21/20 Covering the d4-square Black prevents the Nd4-c6 manoeuvre.

[21...Bg7? 2.26/21 21...e5 0.41 22.Bf4± also looks unpleasant for Black.]

[21...e5± 0.43/23]

22.Nf3!± White has to be fast, otherwise Black consolidates. **22...Nh5** It makes sense to activate the queen's rook.

[22...g5 23.Nxg5! hxg5 24.Qxg5+ Bg7 25.Bf4 Qe7? 4.08/23 *(25...e5± 1.10/22 26.Bxe5 Rxe5 27.Qxe5 Qb7)* 26.Bd6+- Qd8 27.Be5]

23.Nfe5N 0.73/19

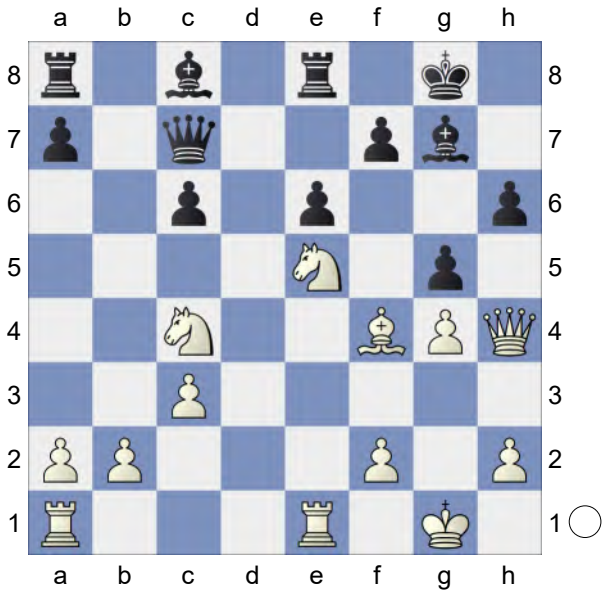
[23.g4 0.91/20 23.Nce5 1.37 Nf4]

[⌓23.Nce5 1.31/22]

23...Bg7 24.g4! White forces an exchange on g5, which leads to a weakening of the dark squares on the kingside. White has more active pieces.

[24.Ng4 0.28/22 24.g4 1.37 Kh7+-]

24...Nf4 25.Bxf4 g5



26.Bxg5 hxg5 27.Qxg5± The results of the opening are in White's favor as Black's king is in some danger and the

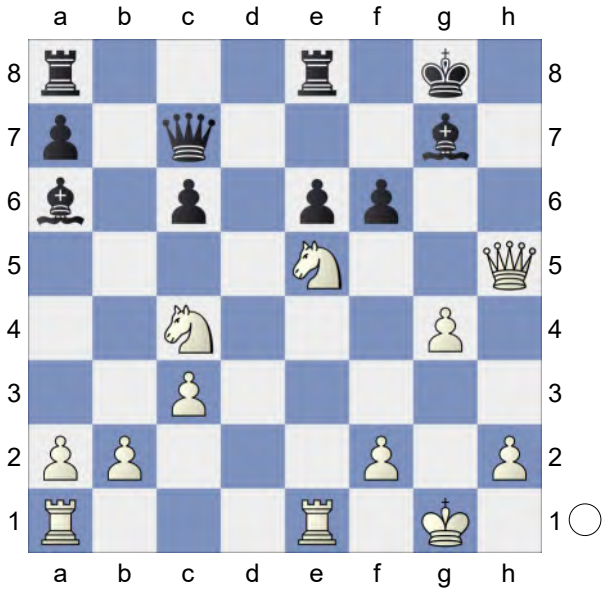
dark squares are weak, but an extremely strong knight on e6 allows Black to hold the position and it's far from easy for White to find a breakthrough.

[27.Qh5 1.03/20 27.Qxg5 1.57]

27...f6! Black shows his teeth. After all, Black has an extra pawn on the queenside and so he sets his pawns in motion. **28.Qh5**

[28.Qg6 Ba6 29.Nd6 Red8]

28...Ba6?!



29.Nd6! White misses a chance to set serious problems. Deflection **29...Red8** Now Black obtains counterplay thanks to his extra pawn on the queenside.

[29...Qxd6? #6/14 29...Red8 1.91 30.Qf7+ Kh7 31.Re3!]

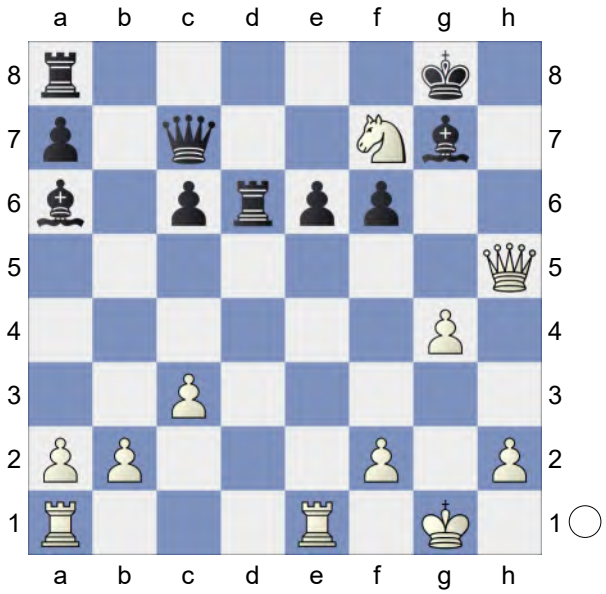
[29...Re7 30.Nec4]

30.Nef7 0.52/24

[30.Qf7+! Qxf7 31.Nexf7+- White is two healthy pawns up. Rd7!? was also possible. *(31...Rf8* 2.69/23 31...Rd7 1.73 *32.Rxe6* Re7 would now be deadly. *Rxf7 33.Nxf7 Kxf7 34.Rxc6)* 32.Rxe6]

[30.Qf7++- 1.88/24 Qxf7 31.Nexf7 Discovered Attack]

30...Rxd6



31.Nxd6 Qxd6 32.Rad1 Prevents c5 **32...Qe7 33.b3** 0.32/22

[33.Qa5 Bc4+- 3.59/22 and White wins. *(33...Bb7±* 0.96/22 was worth a try. *)* After the correct 34.b3!+- Bd5 35.c4 Bf3]

[33.Qa5± 0.75/21 Bb7 34.Re3]

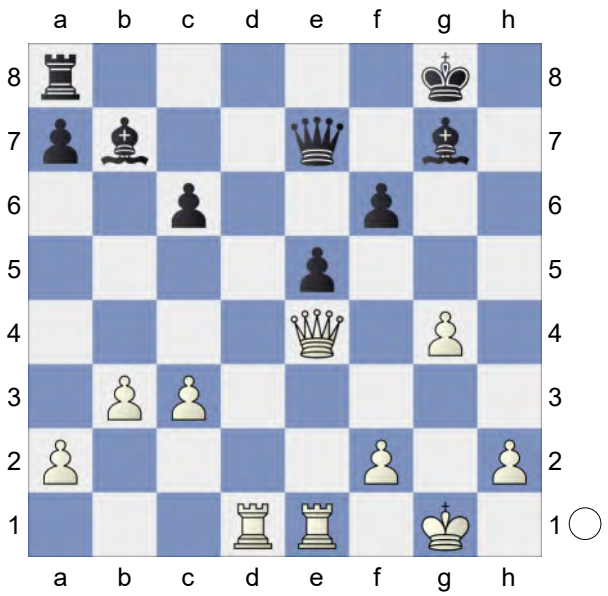
33...e5 A slight inaccuracy.

[33...c5]

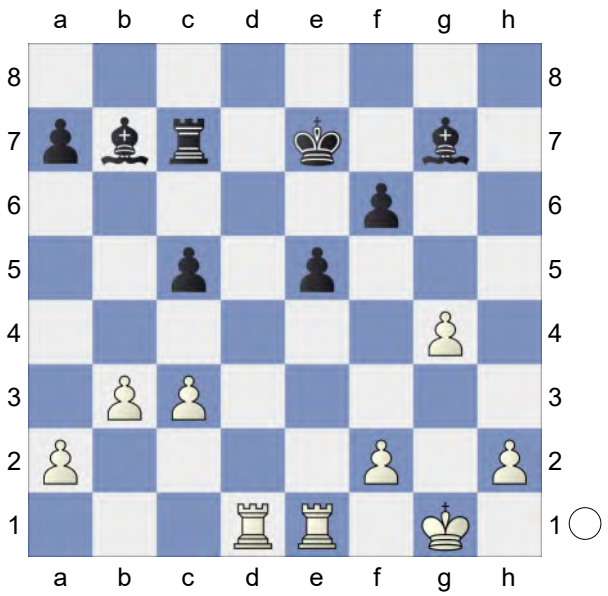
34.Qf5 Bc8 Prevents Rd7 **35.Qe4 Bb7** 0.89/21

[35...Rb8= 0.30/19]

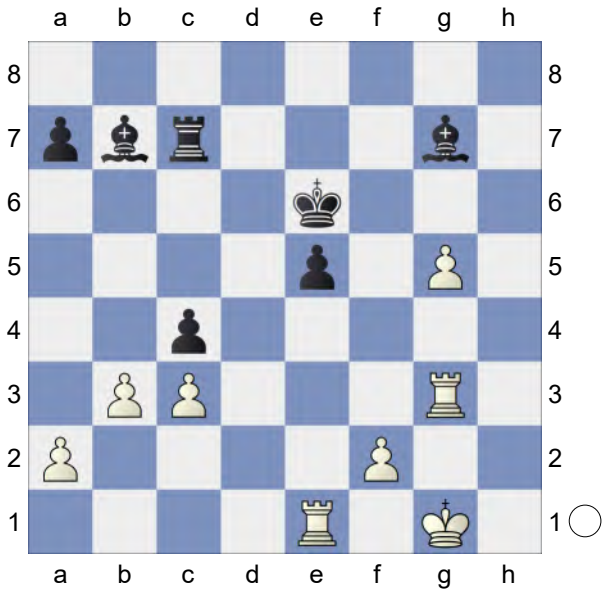
(Diagram)



36.Qb4 -0.01/23 Now White is slightly better as his bishop is superior to the knight in this open position.
[36.Qc4+± 0.89/21 Kh7 37.Rd4]
36...c5! Black is ready to free his king by means of 37...Nf7. **37.Qc4+ Kf8?!**
38.Qd3 Rc8 39.Qd7 -0.44/24
[39.Qf5= 0.01/21 is superior. Rc7 40.Re3]
39...Rc7∓
[39...c4]
40.Qxe7+ Kxe7?



41.Rd3!± -1.18/21 Now the queen is misplaced on e8.
[⌓41.Re3 -0.76/21]
41...c4∓ Black has strong compensation.
42.Rg3 Suddenly Black finds himself in zugzwang. **42...Ke6 43.h4 Bh6** -1.12/23 Against f4
[Black should try 43...f5-+ -1.79/22 44.bxc4 f4]
44.g5 fxg5 45.hxg5 Bg7



At the expense of a pawn Black has managed to activate his forces. **46.g6!±** White retains a big advantage. By centralizing the queen he intends to prevent any counterplay. **46...Kf5!** The only move, which shouldn't save Black, however. **47.Rd1** Although White is still winning in the coming endgame it would be better to delay the exchange of queens. **47...Bf6** -0.66/24
[47...cxb3 48.axb3]
[47...cxb3∓ -1.04/24 48.axb3 Bf6]
48.bxc4∓ Rg7 Despite being a pawn down Black retains practical chances for a successful defense thanks to his strong knight.
[48...Rxc4? 3.10/23 48...Rg7 -0.85 49.g7 Rh4 50.Kf1+- and White should be able to win. Ba6+! 3.10/23

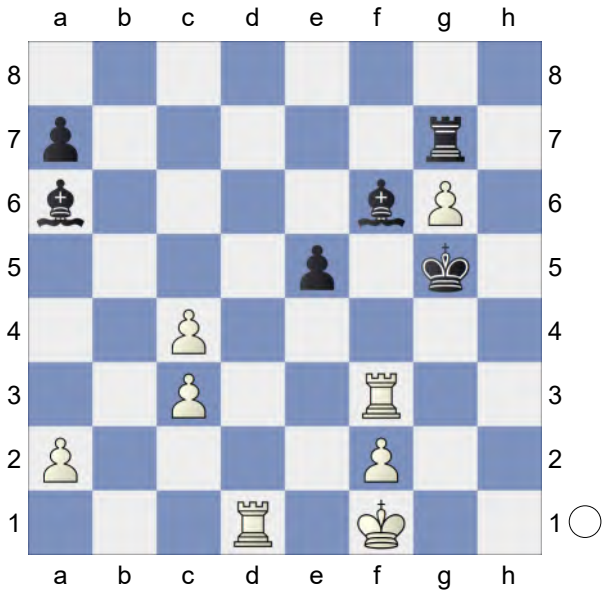
(⌓50...Bxg7 1.97/22 51.Rxg7 Rh1+ 52.Rg1 Ba6+ 53.Kg2 Rh7) 51.Kg2+- Bb7+± 4.99/27 should be enough for a win. *(⌓51...Bc4 3.12/21 52.g8Q Bxg8)* White should have exchanged the b-pawn by means of 52.f3!]

49.Kf1?! Ba6 -0.28/23

[49...e4∓ -0.76/21]

50.Rf3+?= I'm not sure White is still winning after this move. **50...Kg5**

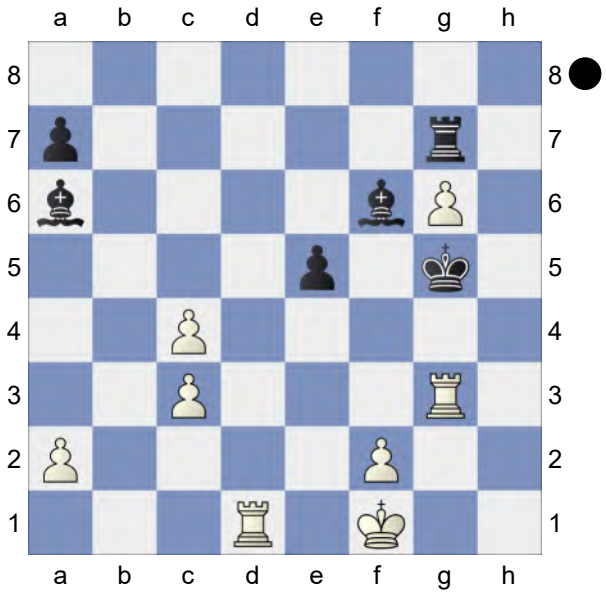
[50...Kxg6 1.10/26 50...Kg5 0.01 51.Rxf6+! Kxf6 52.Rd6+]



51.Rg3+

[Not 51.Rxf6? Bxc4+ 52.Ke1 Kxf6-+]

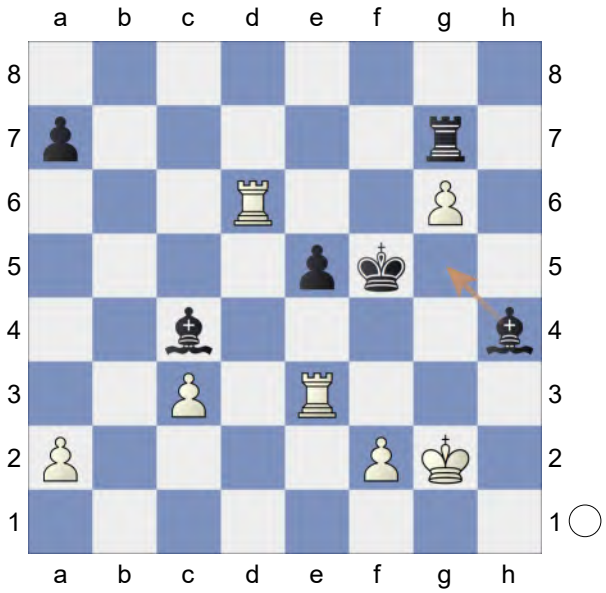
(Diagram)



51...Kf4! 52.Rd6 Bxc4+ 53.Kg2 Bh4 0.01/25

[53...Bg5∓ -1.40/27 Strongly threatening ...Kf5! 54.Rh3 Rg8]

54.Rh3 Kg4 Black's best chance. Threatens to win with ...Bf1+! **55.Re3!G** The only practical chance. White is fighting back **55...Kf5**



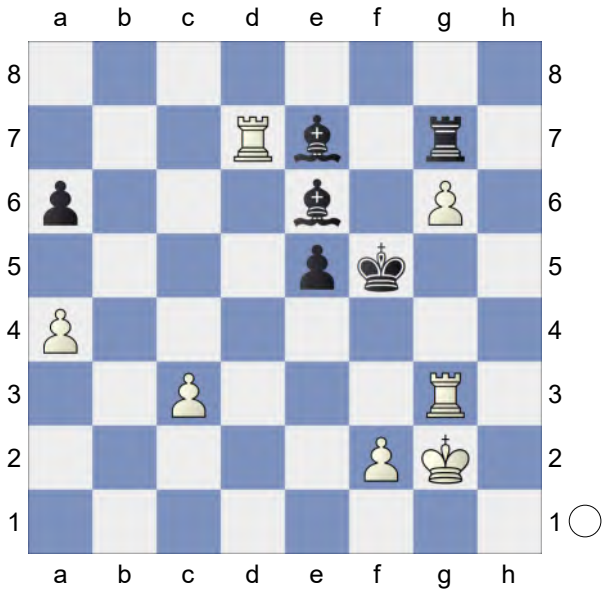
56.Rf3+ Kg4 Hoping for ...Bf1+! **57.Re3! Be7**

[57...Kf5]

58.Rd7 -0.72/24

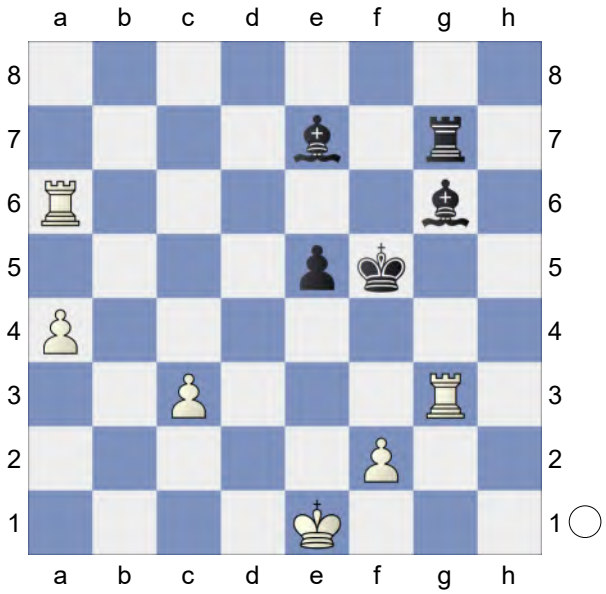
[58.Rg3+= -0.01/26 remains equal.

Kf5 59.Rd7]
58...Kf5∓ 59.Rg3 a6
[59...Bxa2 60.Rxa7= or 60...Bd5+?]
60.a4 This is the position White was aiming for when he played 55.f4. Black's knight is in the net, but the problem is that it's unclear how to make progress.
60...Be6

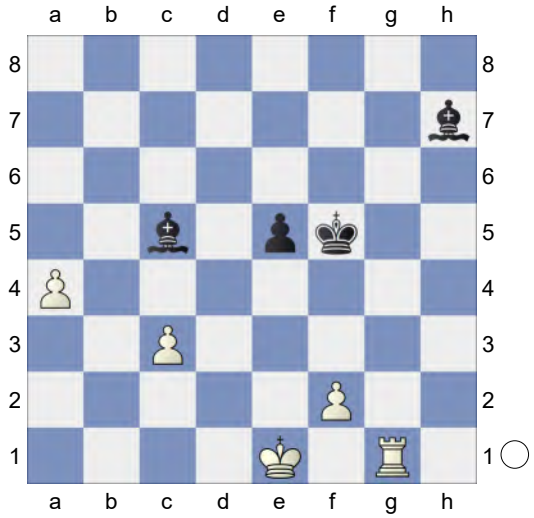


A strong pair of Bishops. **61.Rc7 Bd5+** 0.01/23
[Better is 61...e4∓ -0.91/24]
62.Kf1 -0.52/23
[62.Kg1!= 0.01/23]
62...Ke6 0.01/23
[62...Bf6∓ -0.52/23 63.Rxg7 Bxg7]
63.Ke1= Be4 64.Ra7 Bxg6 65.Rxa6+ Now it's Black to move in the position after 60...Kf6. **65...Kf5**

(Diagram)

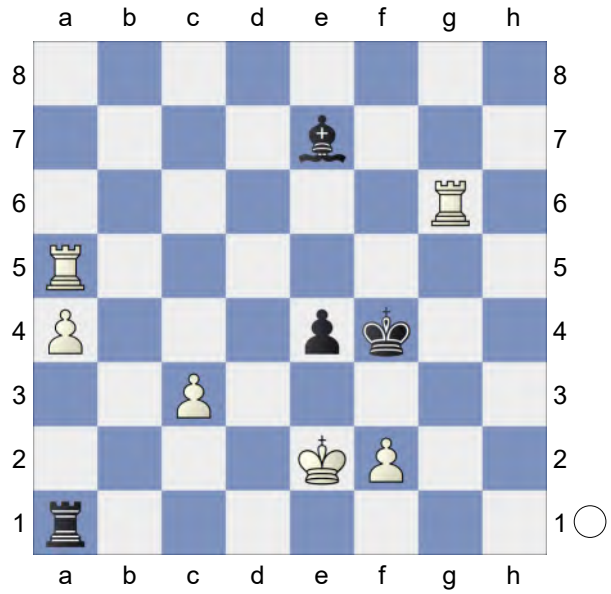


66.Ra7 Threatening a5. **66...Rh7**
67.Rg1 Prevents Rh1. **67...e4?** 5.07/23
[There was also nothing wrong with 67...Bb4 68.Rxh7 leads to a theoretical draw after Bxc3+ 69.Ke2 Bxh7]
[67...Bc5? 2.67/20 67...Be8 -0.54 68.Rxh7 Bxh7

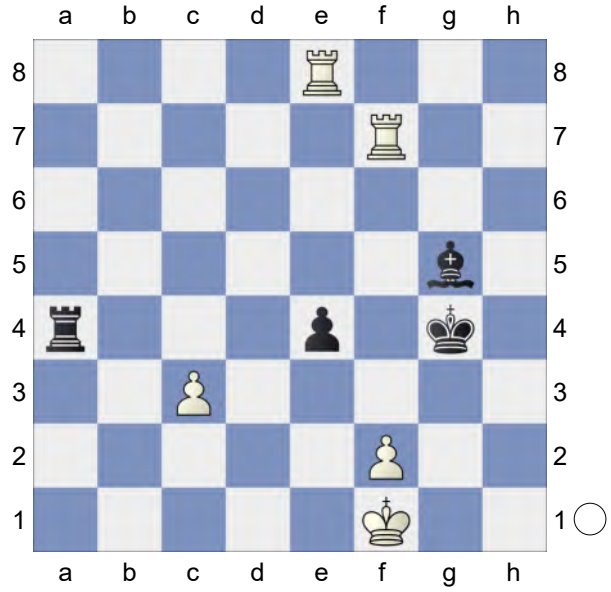


69.Rg7! Bg6 70.a5 Wards off Bb6]
[67...Bb4∓ -0.46/23 stays ahead. 68.Rxh7 Bxc3+ 69.Ke2 Bxh7]
68.Ra5++- Deflection **68...Kf4 69.Rxg6** Endgame. KRR-KRB **69...Rh1+** 7.67/23
[⌓69...e3 5.07/24 70.fxe3+ Kxe3 71.Re5+ Kd3]

70.Ke2 Ra1



71.Rg7 Ra2+ 72.Kf1 Rf7+ would kill now. **72...Bh4 73.Rf7+ Kg4 74.Re5 Rxa4 75.Re8** And now Rxe4+! would win. **75...Bg5**



76.Rg8? 3.26/25

[76.Rxe4+ the position remains holdable. Rxe4 77.f3+]

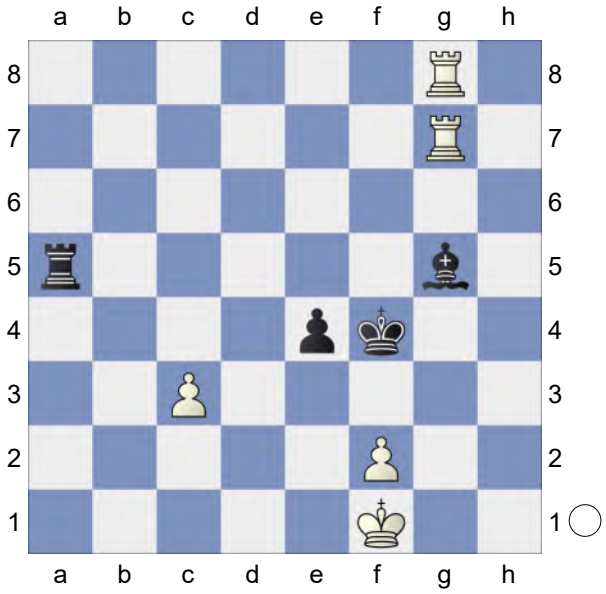
[76.Rxe4+ 14.89/24 Rxe4 77.f3+ Kh5 78.fxe4]

76...Ra5? 7.07/27

[76...Ra2 3.26/25 77.Re8 e3 78.fxe3 *(78.Re4+ Kh5+-)* 78...Kh5]

77.Rfg7 Black must now prevent Rxg5+!

77...Kf4??



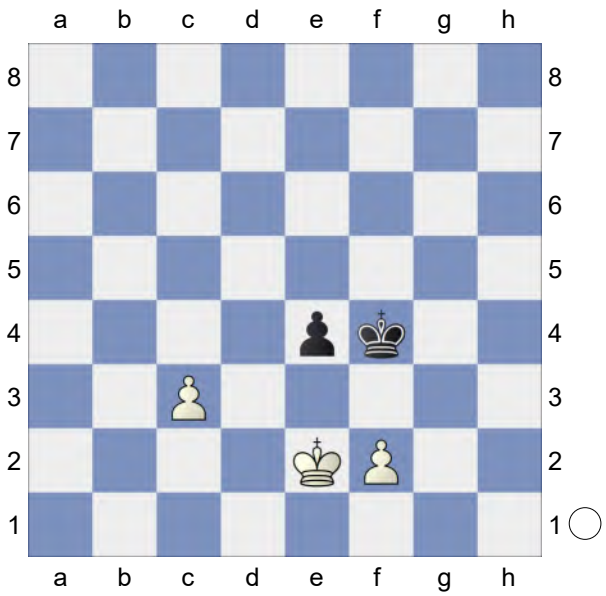
Only this inaccurate move allows White to win. **78.Rxg5!** It's easy to miss this quiet move. The point is that White couldn't play 78.Kc3 in view of 78...Nd1. Now the bishop is out of danger and the threat of 79.Kc3 is decisive.

78...Rxg5

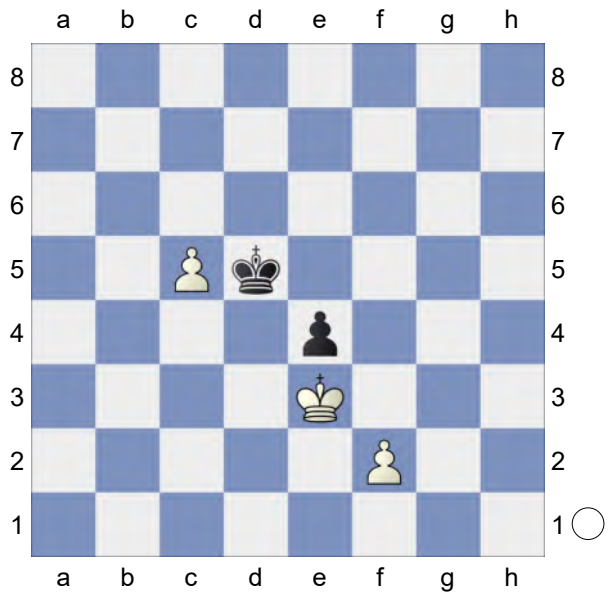
[78...Ra1+ 79.Kg2]

79.Rxg5 Kxg5 KPP-KP. White mates.

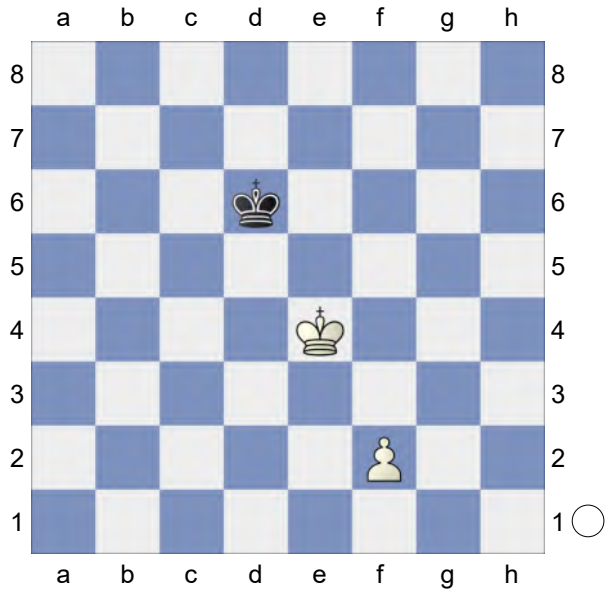
80.Ke2 Kf4



81.c4 Kf5 82.Ke3 Ke5 83.c5 Kd5

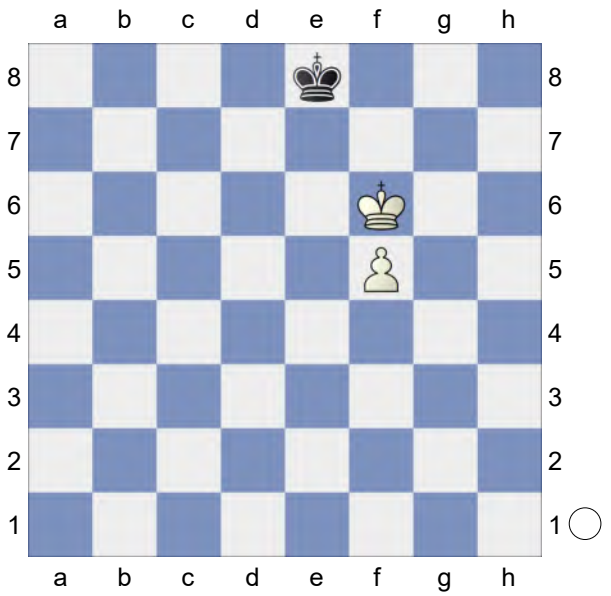


84.c6! I believe 16. Neg5 will become more popular as White has chances to obtain a slight advantage. Moreover, Black has to defend accurately in order not to come under pressure, as in the current game. Deflection or **84...Kxc6 85.Kxe4** KP-K **85...Kd6**

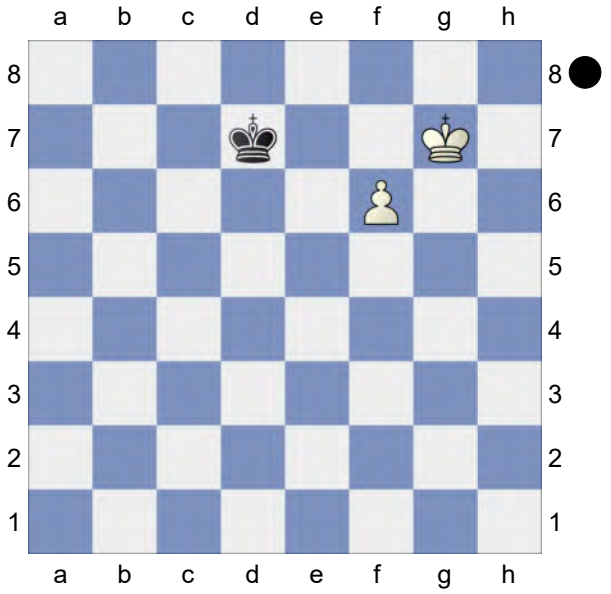


86.Kf5 Ke7 87.Kg6 Ke6 88.f4 After the correct **88...Ke7 89.f5 Kf8 90.Kf6 Ke8**

(Diagram)



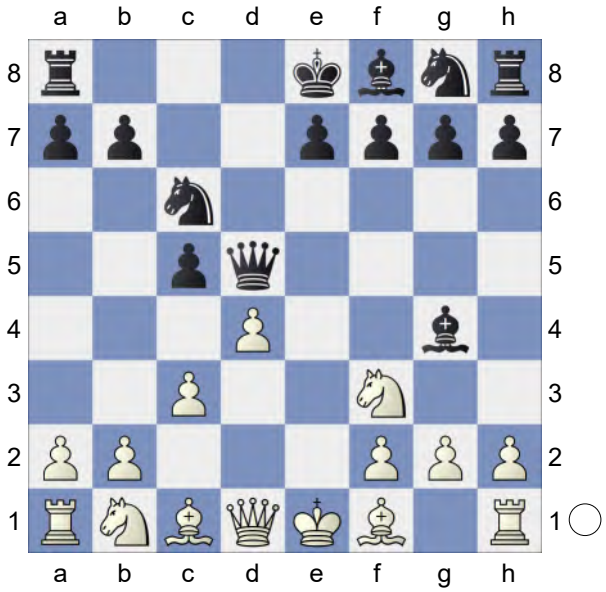
91.Kg7 Kd7 92.f6



Both players deserved the win here. Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
1-0

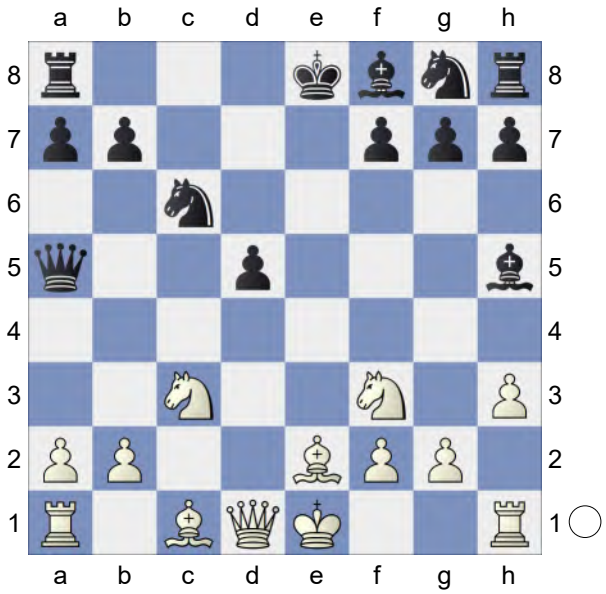
176 **B22**
□ **Dubov,Daniil** **2690**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2787**
Moscow FIDE GP (1.2) 18.05.2019
[Knaak,Rainer]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 Played also by Kramnik and Ding Liren.
5.Nf3 Bg4



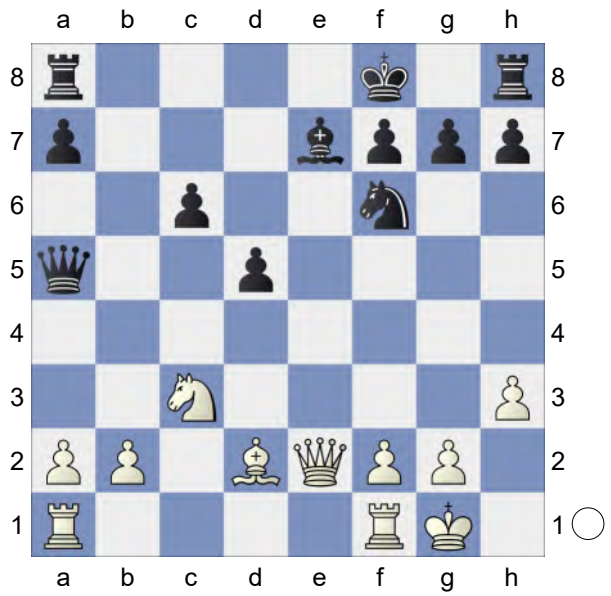
6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.h3!? Bh5 10.d5
[10.0-0 Nf6]
10...exd5
[10...0-0-0 11.Bd2= exd5 12.0-0= Nf6 13.Rc1 Kb8 14.Nb5]

(Diagram)



11.Nd4 Bxe2
[11...Nxd4 0.73/23 11...Bxe2 0.31 12.Bxh5= Ne6 13.0-0 Nf6 White must now prevent ...d4. 14.Re1]
[11...Bg6 12.0-0!]
12.Qxe2+ Be7? Tempting but giving White an edge. **13.Nxc6 bxc6** White is slightly better. **14.0-0 Kf8**
[14...Rd8 15.Bd2 d4 16.Ne4=]
15.Bd2! White has compensation.
[15.Re1 Qd8 *(15...Re8 16.Bd2 Nf6 17.Qd3 h5 18.Rac1 h4 19.a3 Rh5 20.Ne2 Qb5 21.Qxb5 cxb5 22.Nd4 Ne4 23.Bb4 Bxb4 24.axb4 a6 25.f3 Ng3 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Rc8+ Kd7 28.Ra8 Re5 29.Kf2 Nh1+ 30.Kf1* ½-½ (44) Deviatkin,A (2574)-Novikov, S (2558) ch-Moscow Final 2010 (7)*)* 16.Bf4]
15...Nf6

(Diagram)

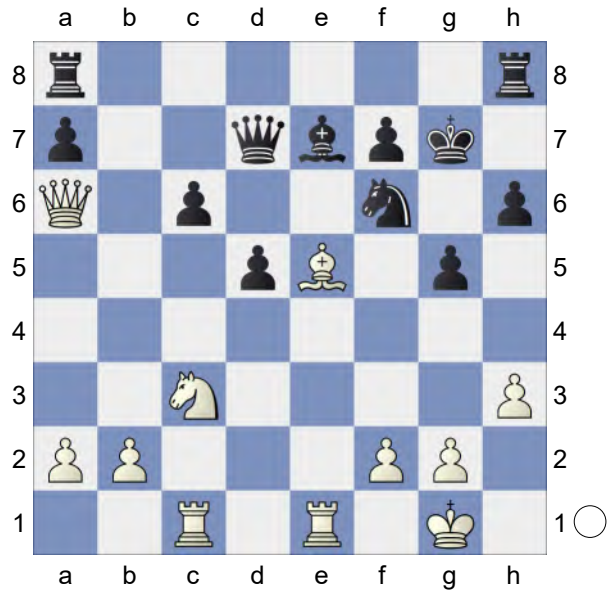


16.Rfe1 Qd8 17.Rac1+- h6N
[17...Qd7 18.Qd3∞ Bd6? 19.Bg5 Ne8 0.88/21 *(19...h5± 0.37/20)* 20.Na4!+- Nc7 Against Qa6 21.Qc2 Ne6 22.Qxc6 Qxc6! 23.Rxc6 Bb4 24.Re5! h6 25.a3 Bxa3 26.Bd2 Be7 27.Rxd5 Ke8 28.Be3 Bg5 29.Bxg5 hxg5 30.Nc5 Rd8 31.Rxd8+ Nxd8 32.Rc8 a5 33.Nb7 Kd7 34.Ra8 g6 35.Nxd8 Rxd8 36.Rxa5 Ke6 37.Ra1 Rb8 38.Rb1 f5 39.b4 1-0 (54) Nisipeanu,L (2675)-Zapata,A (2472) Decameron 2003 (9) Rb5 40.Kf1 Kd5 41.Ke2 Kc4 42.Ke3 Re5+ 43.Kf3 Rb5 44.Kg3 Kc3 45.f3 Kd2 46.Rb3 Kc2 47.Ra3 Kd2 48.Ra6 Ke2 49.Rxg6 f4+ 50.Kg4 Kf2 51.Rxg5 Rxb4 52.Ra5 Rb2 53.h4 Kxg2 54.h5 1-0 Perez Berenguer,V (2675)-Artemiev,V (2472) 20/106 Moscow 1975 (9)]

18.Bf4? 0.48/19
[18.Na4± 0.89/22]

18...Qd7± 19.Qa6!? My favourite for the move of 2019! **19...g5** 0.90/24
[19...Kg8= 20.Na4]
[19...Kg8± 0.42/22 should be considered.]

20.Be5± Hoping for Nxd5! **20...Kg7**



21.Nxd5! cxd5
[21...Qxd5 22.Rxc6 Qd8 *(22...Qd2? 23.Bc3+- Discovered Attack)* 23.Bc3+-]

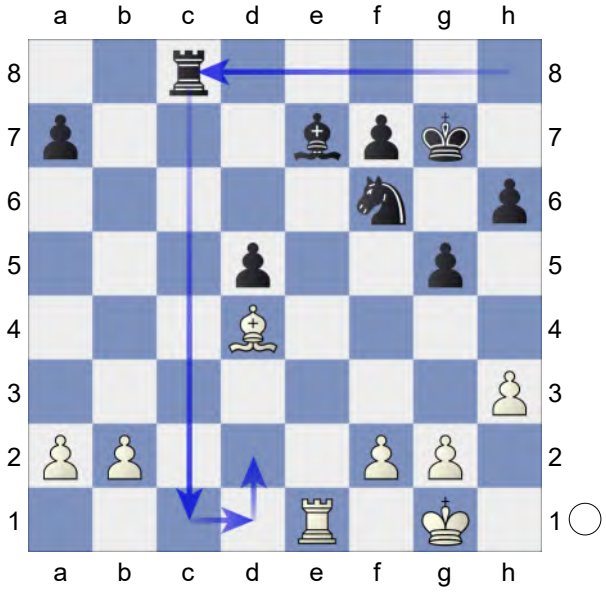
22.Rc6
[22.Rc7 Qd8=]
[22.Rc7!? Qd8□ 23.Qb7=]

22...Qd8! ...Rc8 is the strong threat.
[22...Qf5± 2.99/26 22...Qd8 0.89 /±
A) 23.Bc3? -1.44/23 23.g4 2.59 d4! 24.Bxd4! Rad8! 25.Bc3! Rhe8 26.Rxe7?? -13.20/26 *(26.Qc4!± 0.95/25)* 26...Rd1+□=;
B) 23.g4 Qg6! 24.Bc3;
C) 23.Bd4! Rac8 *(23...Bd8∞ 2.71/24* 23...Rac8 1.58 *24.Qb7)* 24.Rxe7 Rxc6 25.Qxc6 Now White has many possibilities, but none really sets problems for Black. Rc8!? 26.Qd6 0.59/25 *(White should play 26.Rc7!± 1.47/25 Rxc7 27.Qxc7)* 26...Rc1+!± 27.Kh2 Rd1 28.Qe5]

23.Bd4 Rxe7! would now be deadly.

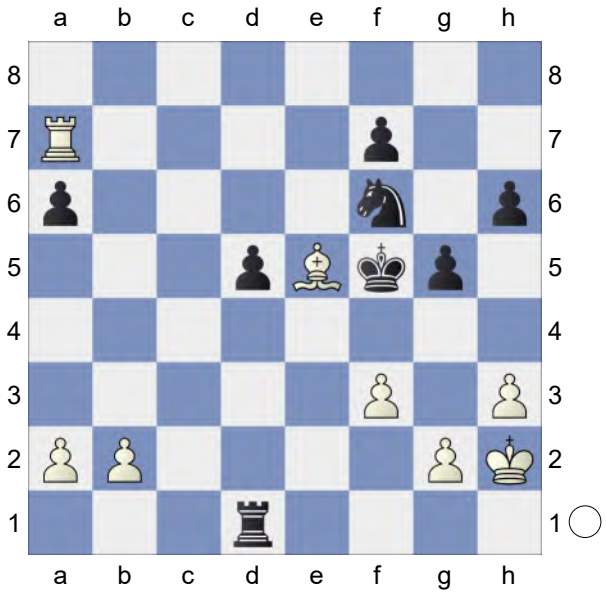
23...Rc8!
[23...Re8? 10.26/25 23...Rc8 0.64 24.Rxe7 Rxe7 25.Rxf6]

24.Rxc8 Deflection. White is much more active.
[24.Bxa7? Qd7 25.Rxc8 Rxc8-+]
24...Qxc8 25.Qxc8
[25.Qxa7? loses. Bd6 26.Qb6 Qb8-+]
25...Rxc8

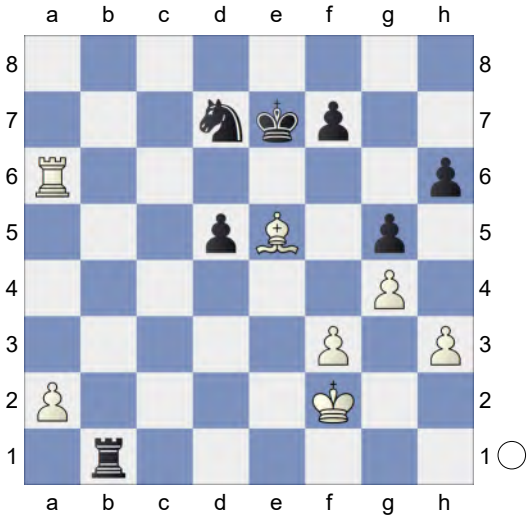


26.Rxe7± Endgame. KRB-KRN
26...Rc1+
[26...Rc4 27.Bxa7]
27.Kh2 Rd1 28.Be5 Kg6! 29.f3
[29.Rxa7 aiming for Ra6. Ne4 1.14/25 *(29...Kf5± 0.58/24 30.Bc7 d4)* 30.Ra6+= 0.47/24 *(*Better is *30.f3±* 1.14/25 *Nd2 31.Ra6+ Kh7 32.Ra7)* 30...Kf5!± 31.Bg7 Nd2! 32.Rf6+ Ke4 33.h4! Strongly threatening h5. g4 And now ...Nf1+ would win. 34.Kg3! h5 35.f3+ 0.56/23 *(35.Rf4+± 1.10/23 Kd3 36.Rf5 Nf1+ 37.Kf4)*]
29...a6 30.Ra7 Kf5

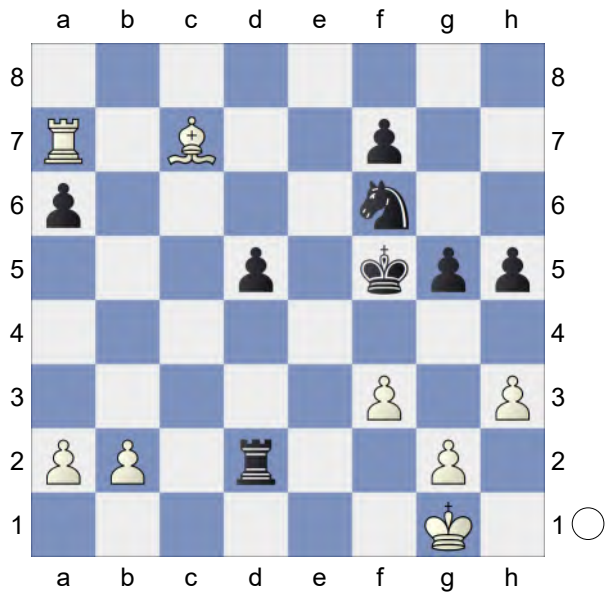
(Diagram)



31.Bc7 Rd2 32.Kg1! h5 2.00/23
[32...Rxb2 1.26/23 32...Rc2 0.75 33.g4+
A) 33...Kg6? 4.91/24 33...Ke6 1. 33 34.Rxa6 Re2 Against Be5 35.Bd8 Re6 36.Rxe6 fxe6 37.Bxf6 Kxf6 38.a4 Ke7 39.a5± Kd6 40.f4± *(40.a6 Kc6= 41.a7 Kb7 42.f4!)* 40...gxf4 *(40...d4 41.f5)* 41.h4;
B) 33...Ke6 34.Rxa6+ Ke7 35.Be5 Rb1+ 36.Kf2 Nd7



37.Bd6+!]
[32...Rc2± 0.76/25]

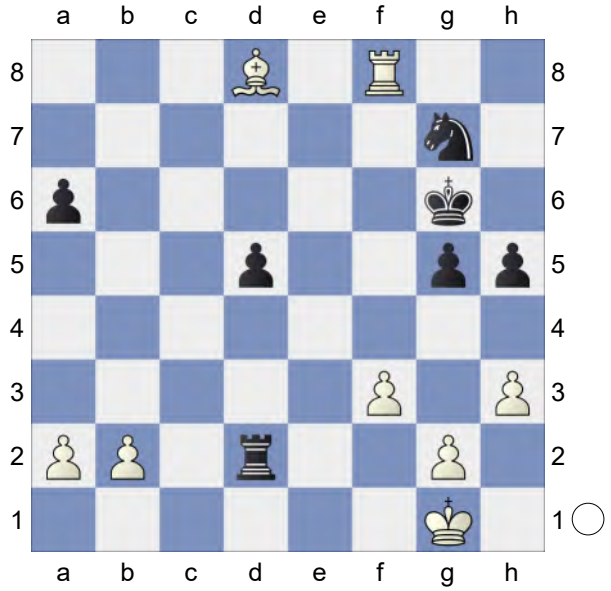


Black cannot hold the game after this.

33.Bd8!+- Ne8 34.Rxf7+

[Worse is 34.Rxa6 Rxb2 35.Ra7 Kg6=]

34...Kg6 35.Rf8 Ng7

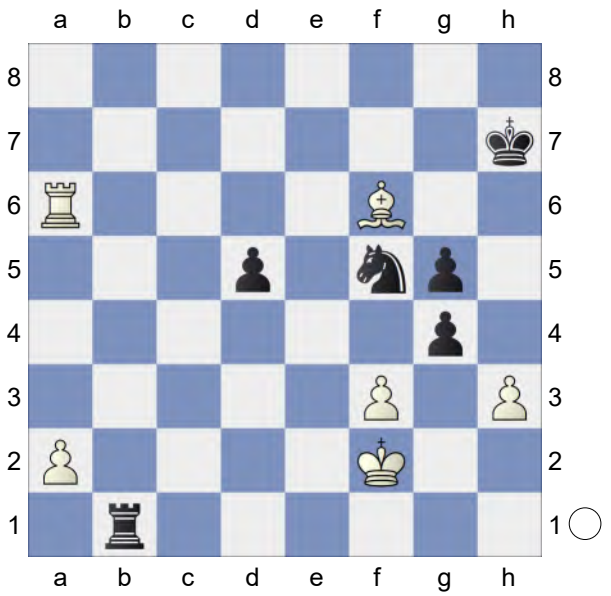


36.Rf6+ Kh7 37.Rxa6= Rxb2! 38.Bf6+- Rb1+ 39.Kf2! Nf5 40.g4

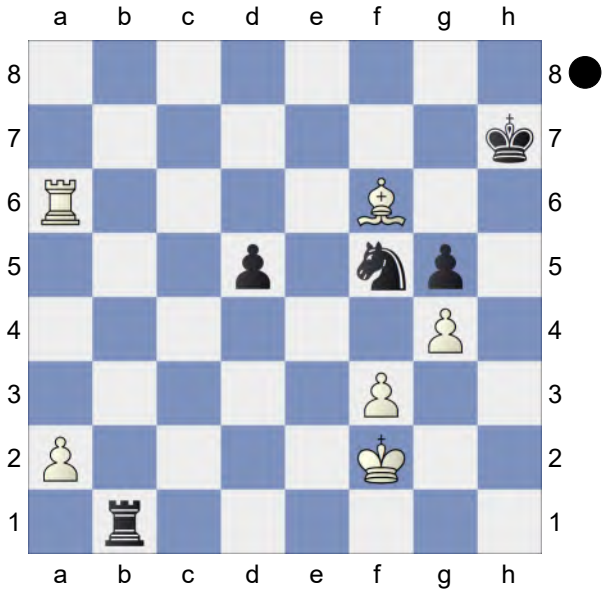
[40.Bxg5 Rb2+ 41.Kg1 d4±]

40...hxg4

(Diagram)



41.hxg4



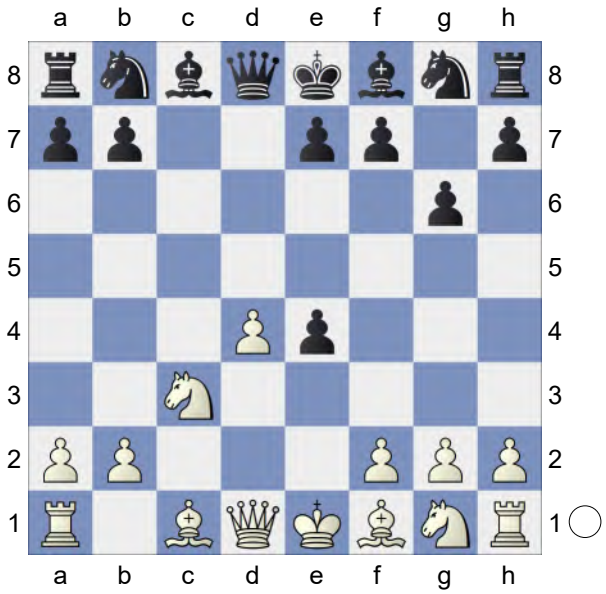
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

1-0

177 **B22**
□ **Pavasovic,Dusko** **2593**
■ **Del Rio De Angelis,S** **2495**
EU-ch 6th Warsaw (12) 30.06.2005
[Rogozenco,Dorian]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 Rogozenco,D **1...c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.Nc3**
[5.exd5 Nf6 6.Nc3 transposes into Panov Attack of the Caro-Kann]
[5.e5 is another option for White Bg7 *(5...Nc6 6.Nc3 Nh6 7.h3 Nf5 8.Bb5 Bg7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.g4 Nh6 11.Be3 f6 12.exf6 exf6 13.Qd2 Nf7 14.0-0-0 Nd6 15.Bd3 Be6 16.Rdg1 Rc8 17.h4 Nb4 18.h5 Nxa2+ 19.Kb1 Nxc3+ 20.bxc3* 0-1 (48) Schmitz,W (2315)-Corzo,A (2360) (izt) 49/325 1990 (10) *)* 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Nh6 8.h3 0-0 9.Nf3 Bf5 10.0-0 Be4 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Re1 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nf5 14.Qd3 f6 15.b3 Qb6 16.Be3 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 fxe5 18.dxe5 Rf7 19.Na4 Qb4 20.Re2 0-1 (31) Hyppola,J (2499)-Renzewitz,S (2634) 40/635 Dortmund 1985 (2)]
5...dxe4

(Diagram)



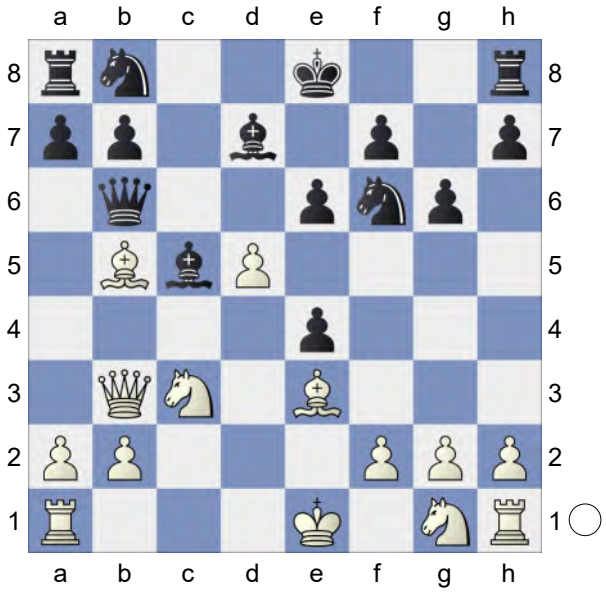
6.Bc4 Nf6N
[6...Bg7 7.Qb3 e6 8.d5↑ Prevents Nc6.]
[6...e6 7.Nxe4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bf6 0-0 12.Qd2 Bxf6 13.Nxf6+ Kg7 14.Ng4 Nf5 15.Rad1 Qa5 16.Qc1 h5 17.Ne3 Nce7 18.Nxf5+ Qxf5 19.Ne5 Qf6 20.Be2 Rd8 21.Rd2 ½-½ (31) French Advanced (2494)-Van Kan,T (2384) USSR ch-19 (Lipiridi Memorial) 9193 1991 (1)]
7.Qb3 e6 8.d5 Against Nc6. White has an edge.
[8.Nge2 Nc6 *(8...Bg7)* 9.d5 exd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 *(10...Bg7* With the idea ...0-0. *11.Bg5↑)* 11.Bxd5 Qe7 12.Qc3 Inhibits Bg7. Ne5 13.Bxe4 Bg7 14.f4 f5! 15.fxe5 fxe4 16.0-0 Qxe5 17.Qa3⩲ 1-0 Loeffler,S (2405)-Casagrande,H (2370)/Austria 1999 (40)]
8...Qb6!? A novelty. White could achieve some initiative after other moves.
[8...exd5]
[8...Na6]
[8...Bg7]
9.Bb5+

[Black has no problems after 9.Qxb6 axb6]
[or 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Qxb6 axb6 12.Nh3 Nbd7 13.Ng5 Nc5 14.Be3!⩱ /=]

9...Bd7 10.Be3

[10.dxe6 fxe6 11.Be3 *(11.Bg5 Nd5 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Qxd5 Nc5∞)* 11...Bc5 transposes to the game]

10...Bc5



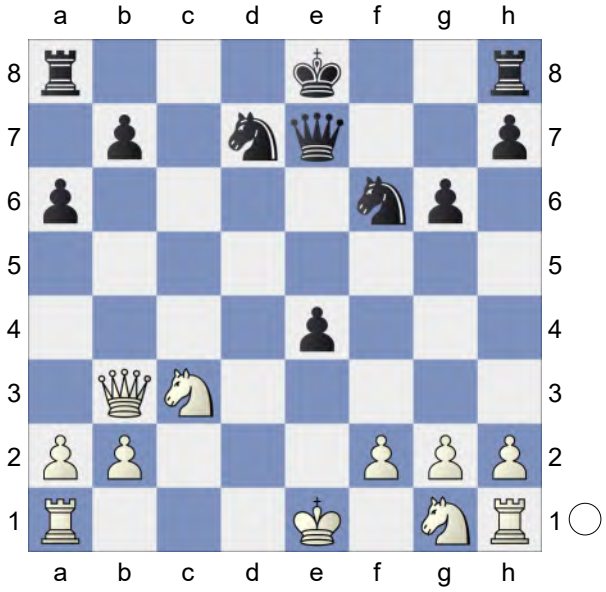
11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.Qxe6+ In spite of attractivness of White's position, the first player has no advantage. Moreover, Black can easier complete development and make better use of open files. **13...Qe7 14.Qb3** -0.26/20

[Black is slightly better after 14.Qxe7+ Kxe7 15.Nge2 Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Nc6 17.Nbc3]
[White could equalize with 14.Qc4! Bxb5 *(14...a6? 0.93/21 14...Bxb5 0.15 15.Qc8+!; 14...Nc6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Nge2=)* 15.Qxb5+ Nc6 16.Nge2 0-0 17.0-0=]
[⩲14.Qxe7+ 0.24/21 Kxe7 15.Bxd7 Nbxd7 16.f3]

14...a6!= 15.Bxd7+ Something went wrong for White - in the resulting positions Black has better prospects.

[15.Bc4 -1.16/20 15.Bxd7+ -0.39 Nc6∓ And now ...Na5 would win. 16.Qxb7 Rb8∓]

15...Nbxd7



16.0-0-0 Other moves would have offered Black a clear advantage as well.

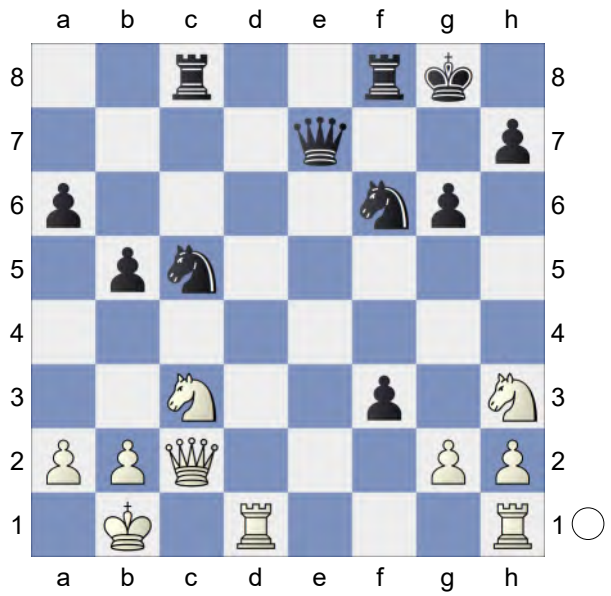
[16.Qxb7 Rb8 *(16...0-0⩱* 0.15/20 16...Rb8 -0.53*)* 17.Qxa6 -1.44/19 *(*White should try *17.Qc7∓* -0.53/21 *)* 17...Nc5!∓ 18.Qc6+ Kf7↑]
[16.Nge2? -2.01/20 16.Qxb7 -0.24 Nc5∓]

16...Nc5 17.Qc2

[17.Qc4 -1.77/21 17.Qc2 -0.40 b5∓]
[17.Qc4? b5 18.Qd4 Nd3+ 19.Kb1 Rd8-+]

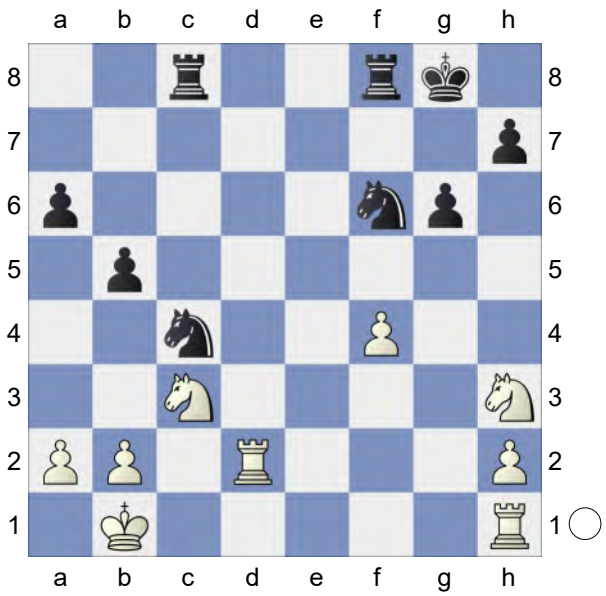
17...0-0 18.f3 Prevents Ng4 **18...Rac8∓ 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nh3 exf3**

(Diagram)

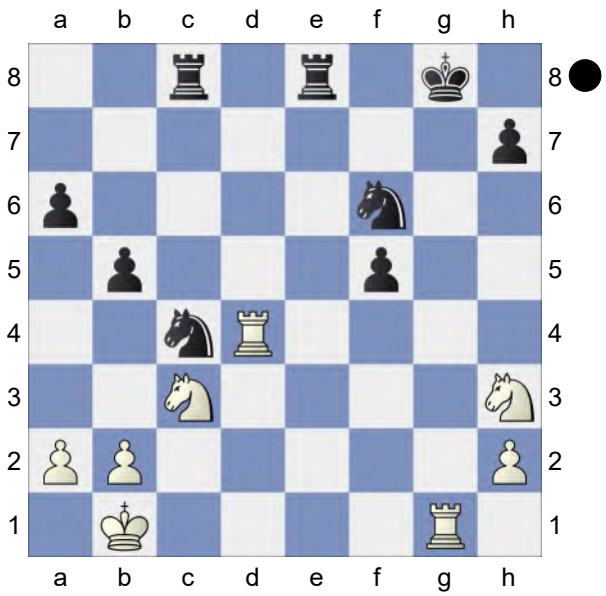


21.gxf3 Qe3
[21...b4 22.Rhe1 *(22.Ne4* -1.43/22 22.Nd5 -0.23 *Ncxe4 23.Qb3+ Kh8 24.fxe4 Qxe4+ 25.Ka1 Qc4∓)* 22...Qb7 23.Ne4 -0.85/21 *(23.Ne2!∓* -0.43/21 *)* 23...Ncxe4∓ 24.Qb3+ Kh8 25.fxe4 Nxe4∓]
22.Qg2 Nd3 Prevents Rhe1. Strongly threatening ...Nxb2! **23.Qd2**
[23.Qe2 Qxe2 24.Nxe2 Ne5∓]
23...Qxd2
[23...Qxf3? 24.Qxd3 Qxd3+ 25.Rxd3+-]
24.Rxd2 Ne5 25.f4 Nc4

(Diagram)



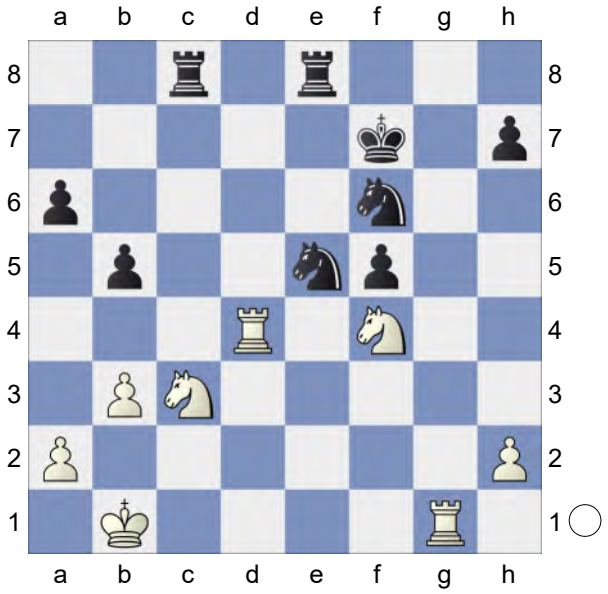
26.Rd4 Rfe8 27.f5 -1.52/21 Black has advantage thanks to the better structure and more active pieces. It is difficult for White to consolidate, therefore the Slovenian GM sacrifices the pawn in order to bring his knight into play. However, now Black will have activity and extra pawn, which is basically close to winning. **27...gxf5** -0.79/21
[⌓27...b4 -1.52/21 28.Na4 Re4 *(28...gxf5? 29.Rc1-+)*]
28.Rg1+



Kf8! 29.Nf4

[29.Rf4 -1.40/20 29.b3 -1.02 Re5∓]

29...Kf7 30.b3 Ne5



31.Rg3 Wards off Nf3 **31...Ng6 32.Ncd5** -2.36/22

[32.Kb2∓ -1.14/18]

32...Nxd5 -0.97/22

[32...Re1+-+ -2.36/22 has better winning chances. 33.Kb2 Rd8]

33.Rxd5 Re1+

[33...Nxf4?! 34.Rxf5+ Ke6 35.Rxf4=]

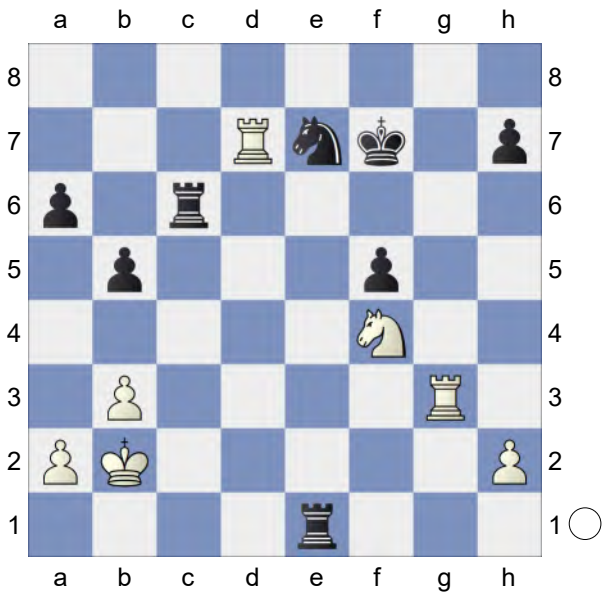
34.Kb2 Ne7 -0.51/21

[Of course not 34...Nxf4 35.Rxf5+ Ke6 36.Rxf4=]

[34...Kf6∓ -1.00/20 35.Nxg6 Re2+ *(35...hxg6 36.Rd6+ Ke5 37.Rgxg6=)* 36.Kb1 hxg6 37.Rd6+ Ke5 38.Rgxg6 Rxh2]

35.Rd7 Rc6

(Diagram)



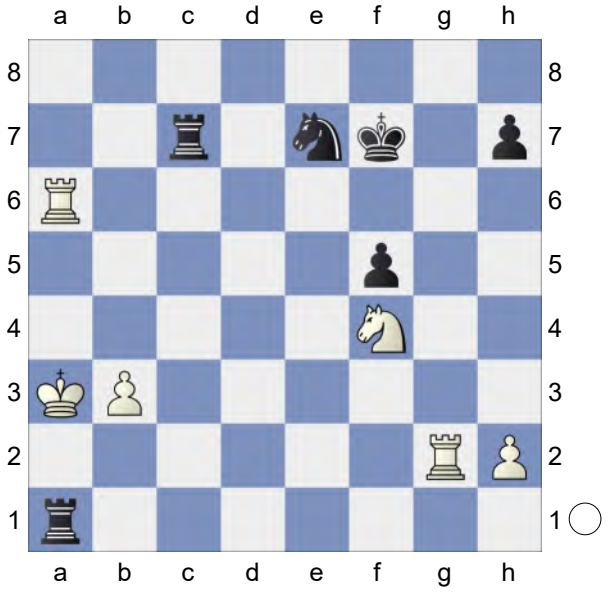
36.Ra7 -0.94/20

[36.Rf3∓ -0.51/19]

36...b4 -0.53/20

[36...Re4∓ -0.94/20 37.Rf3 Kf6]

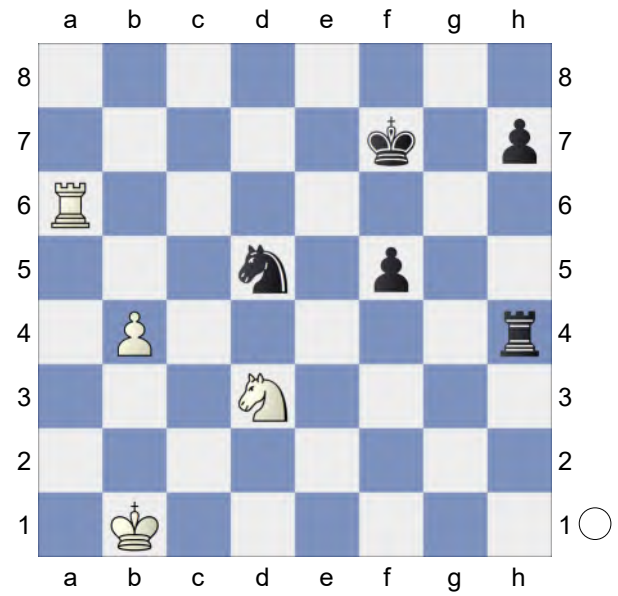
37.a3 Rec1 38.Rg2 Prevents R6c2+ **38...bxa3+ 39.Kxa3 Rc7 40.Rxa6 Ra1+**



41.Ra2 Rxa2+ 42.Kxa2∓ Endgame. KRN-KRN **42...Rc2+ 43.Kb1** -0.83/20

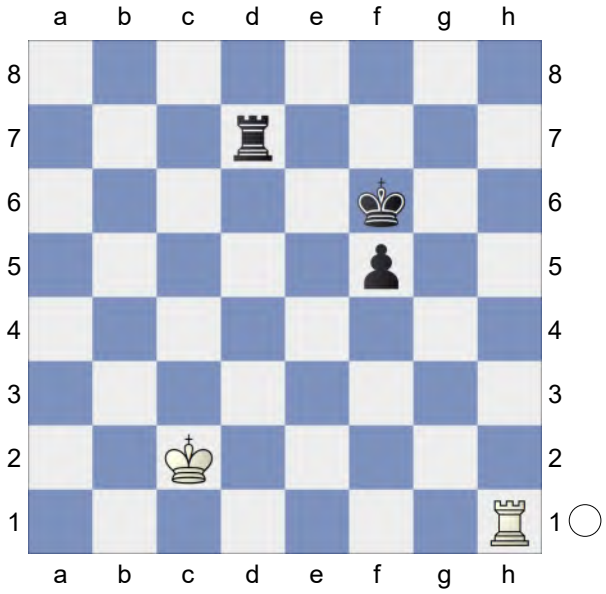
[43.Ka3∓ -0.46/19 is superior.]

43...Rxh2∓ Black is more active. Black converts the advantage convincingly. **44.b4 Rh4 45.Nd3 Nd5**

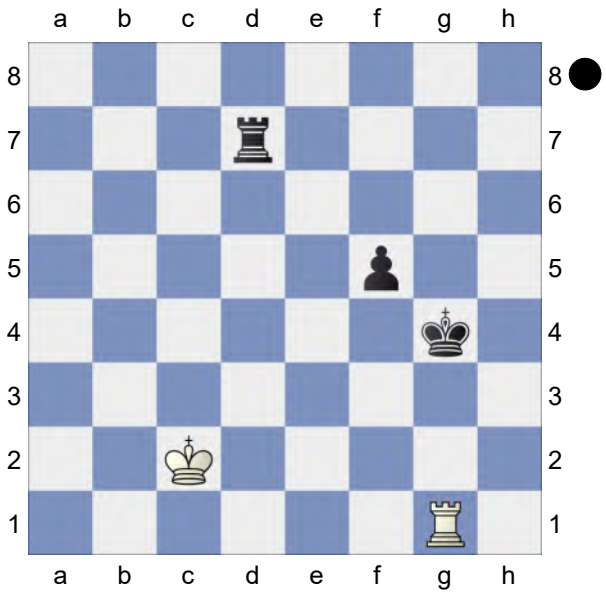


46.Ra7+ -1.33/19
[46.b5 -1.79/22 46.Ra7+ -0.82 Nc3+ 47.Kc2 Nxb5-+]
[White could keep chances for a draw with 46.Ra5! For instance: Nxb4 *(46...Ke6 -0.49/20 46...Nxb4 -0.94 47.b5 with some counterplay)* 47.Rxf5+ Kg6 48.Rf3 Nxd3 49.Rxd3 Rc4! 50.Rg3+ Kh5 Hoping for ...Kh4. *(50...Kf5 51.Rh3 Rc7 52.Rh1!=; 50...Kf6!? 51.Rh3□ Kg6=)* 51.Rh3+ Rh4 52.Rg3 Rg4 53.Rh3+ Kg6 54.Kc2=]
[⌓46.Ra5 -0.79/21 Rd4 *(46...Nxb4 47.Rxf5+ Kg6 48.Rf3∓)* 47.Kc2]
46...Kf6 47.Kc2? -3.07/19
[47.Rb7∓ -0.81/20]
47...Nxb4+-+ 48.Nxb4 Rxb4 49.Rxh7 KR-KR. Black is clearly winning.
49...Rd4 50.Rh1
[50.Kc3 Rd8
A) 51.Rh2 f4? -0.30/30 *(51...Kg5-+ -9.65/28 52.Rg2+ Kh4)* 52.Rd2!= Re8 -0.01/24 *(52...Ra8∓ -0.42/27 53.Kd3 Kf5)* 53.Kd3? -10.32/29 *(53.Rd5=* -0.01/24 *)* 53...Kf5 (-> ...Rd8+) 54.Re2 Rd8+-+;

B) 51.Rh1 f4-+]
50...Rd7

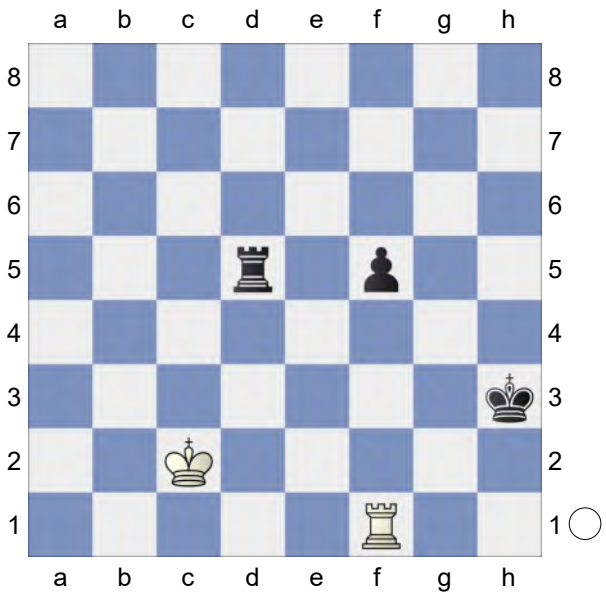


51.Rf1 Kg5 52.Rg1+ Kh4 53.Rf1 Kg4 54.Rg1+

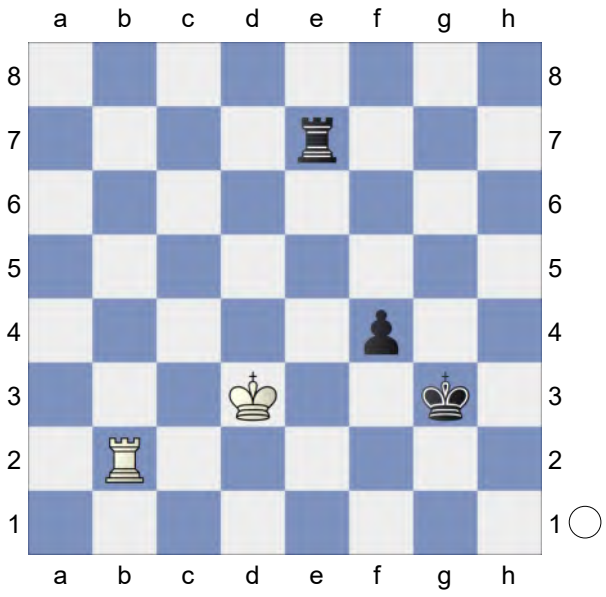


Kh3! 55.Rf1 Rd5

(Diagram)

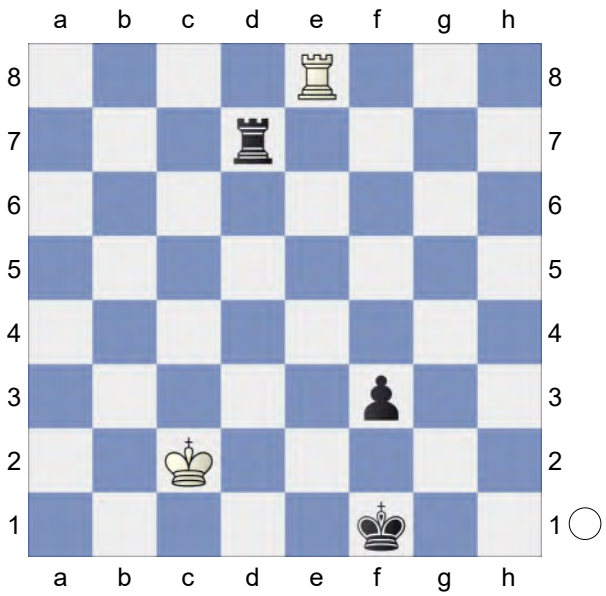


56.Kc3 Kg2 57.Kc4 Re5 58.Rb1 f4 59.Kd3 Re7 60.Rb2+ Kg3 -5.77/28
[⌓60...Kh3 -14.49/29 61.Kd2 f3]

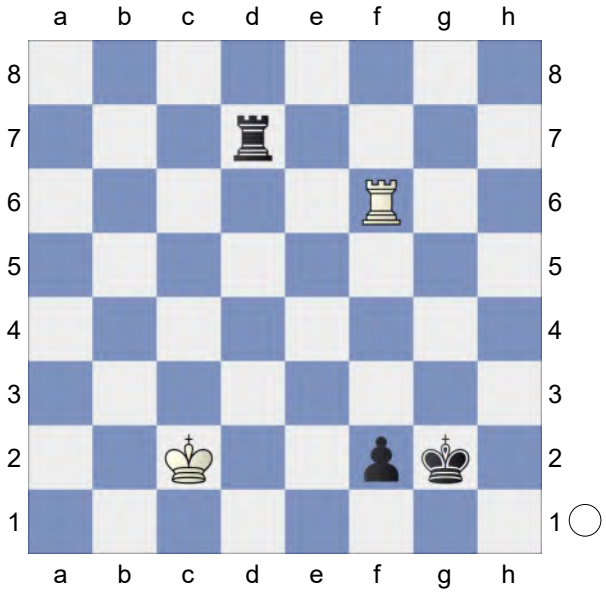


61.Rb8 f3 62.Rg8+ Kf2 63.Kd2 Rd7+ 64.Kc2 Ke2 -5.77/25
[⌓64...Kf1 -14.53/26 65.Kc3 f2]
65.Re8+ Kf1

(Diagram)



66.Rf8 f2 ...Rc7+ would now be deadly.
67.Rf6 Kg2

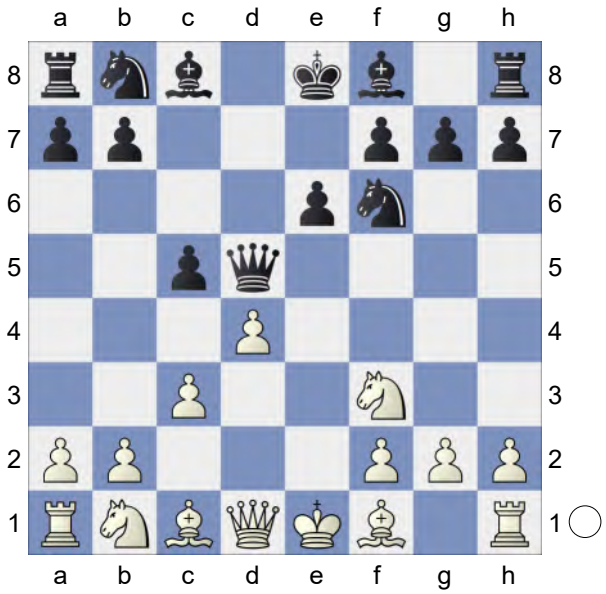


Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

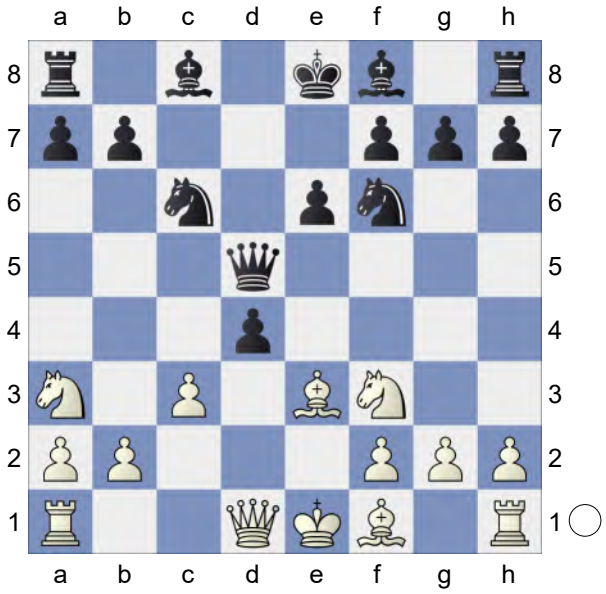
178 **B22**
□ **Fridman,Daniel** **2638**
■ **Kulaots,Kaido** **2560**
Dortmund 47th (1) 13.07.2019
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Vigorito: 'This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship. This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship.' Vigorito: 'Tiviakov: 'This game from the last round of the European Championship was extremely important. Only this victory allowed me to win the tournament alone, without any tie. There were 8 players in the lead before the start of the last round and I was the only one to win (the other 3 games were quick draws). Emil also offered me a draw in the evening before this game. But being White in the last round and also having a big positive score against Emil I saw no single reason to accept it.
" Vigorito: 'Tiviakov: 'Diese Partie aus der letzten Runde der Europameisterschaft war extrem wichtig. Nur durch diesen Erfolg war es mir möglich, alleiniger, ungeteilter Turniersieger zu werden. Vor dem Start der letzten Runde führten 8 Spieler punktgleich, und ich war der Einzige, der gewann. Emil hatte mir am Vorabend der Partie ebenfalls Remis angeboten. Aber da ich Weiß hatte und dazu ein kräftiges Plusergebnis gegen Emil habe, sah ich keinerlei Grund anzunehmen.''
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6

(Diagram)

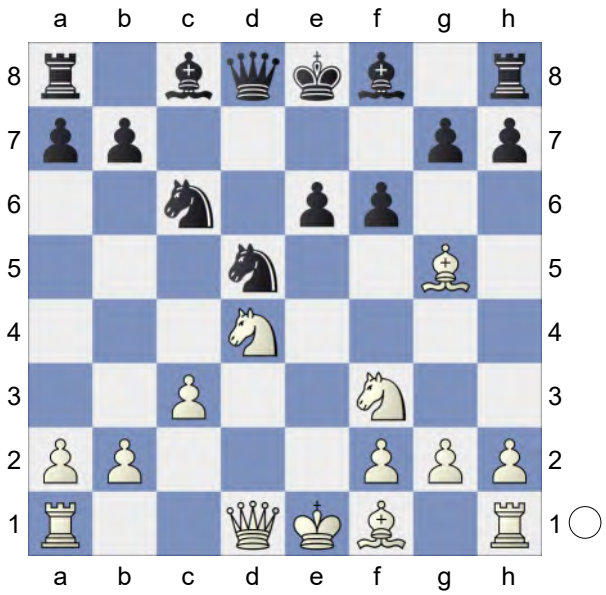


6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4



8.Nb5! Qd8 Repels Nc7+
[8...Qd7 9.Nbxd4]
9.Nbxd4 Nd5 The position is equal.
10.Bg5 f6 0.55/19
[10...Be7= 0.15/19 11.Bxe7 Qxe7]
[10...Qb6 11.Bc4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxd5 Bxd4 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Bc8 20.Rg3 Bd6 21.Qg4 g6 22.Bxh6 Bxg3 23.Qxg3 Qc5 24.Bxf8 Kxf8 25.Bb3 1-0 (59) Tiviakov,S (2635)-Sutovsky,E

(2630) IX EICC Plovdiv BUL 2008 (11)]

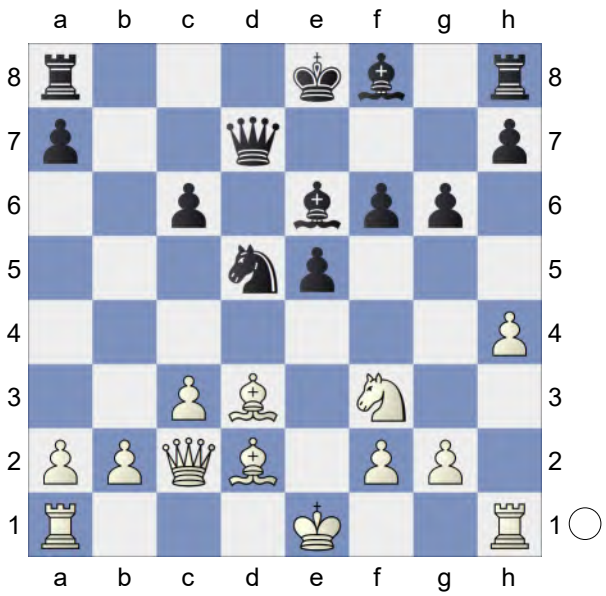


11.Nxc6N

[11.Bh4 e5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bc4 Qd6 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bg3 Qd7 16.Re1 Bd6 17.Bb3 Bf7 18.c4 Nb6 19.c5 Bxc5 20.Nxe5 fxe5 21.Rxe5+ Be7 22.Bh4 Qxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Nc8 24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.Rde1 0-0 1-0 (76) Panin,M (2150)-Prokhorov,A (1839) Cheliabinsk Panchenko Memorial op-A 2023 (9)]

11...bxc6 12.Bd2 e5 13.Qc2 Be6 14.Bd3 g6 15.h4 Qd7

(Diagram)



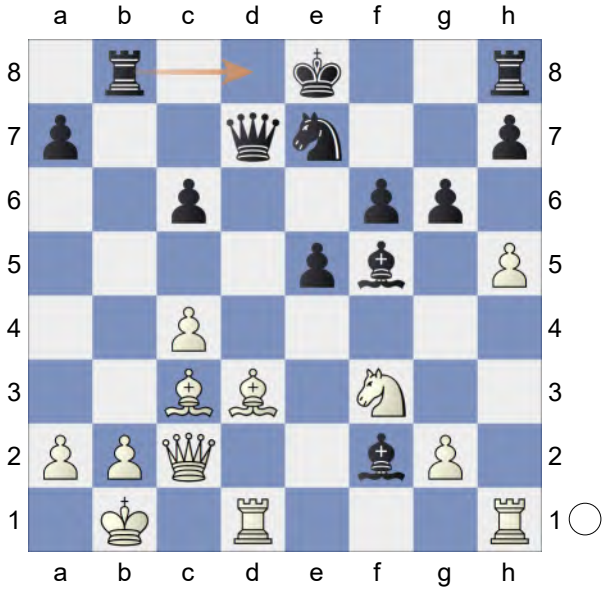
16.0-0-0 Bc5 17.c4 Bxf2 1.44/22

[Black should play 17...Nb6 0.72/17]

18.Kb1± Rb8 2.82/20

[18...Rc8± 1.34/19]

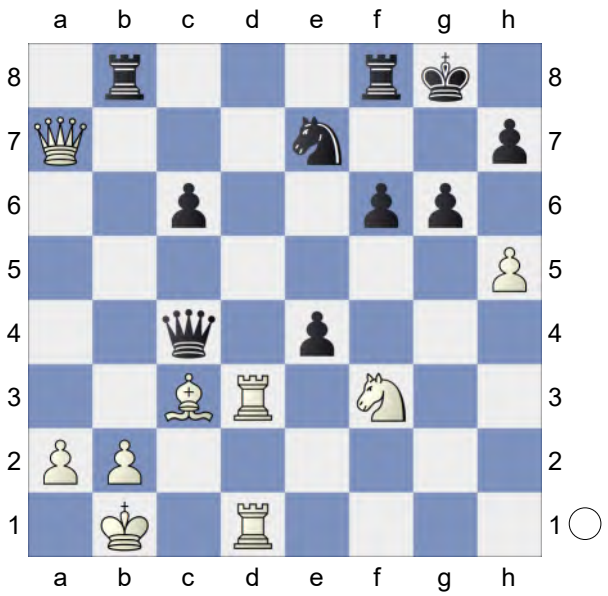
19.h5+- Ne7 20.Bc3 Bf5



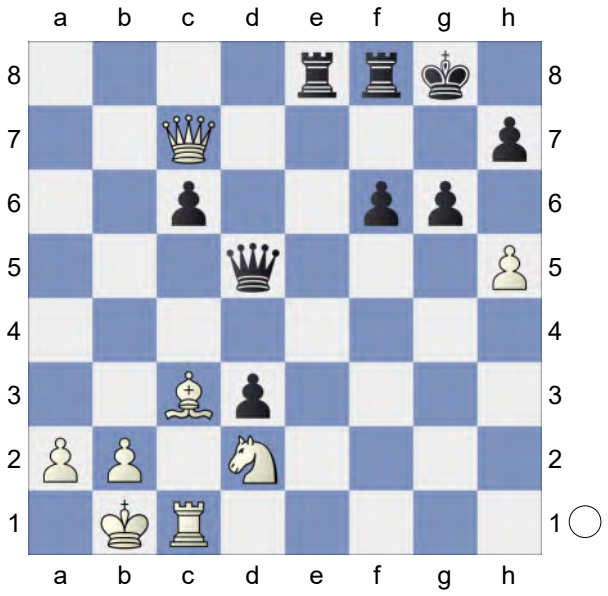
21.g4 Bxd3 22.Rxd3 Qxg4 23.Qxf2 Qxc4 24.Rhd1 0-0 25.Qxa7 e4? 3.26/21

[25...Rbe8 1.68/21 might work better. 26.hxg6 hxg6]

(Diagram)

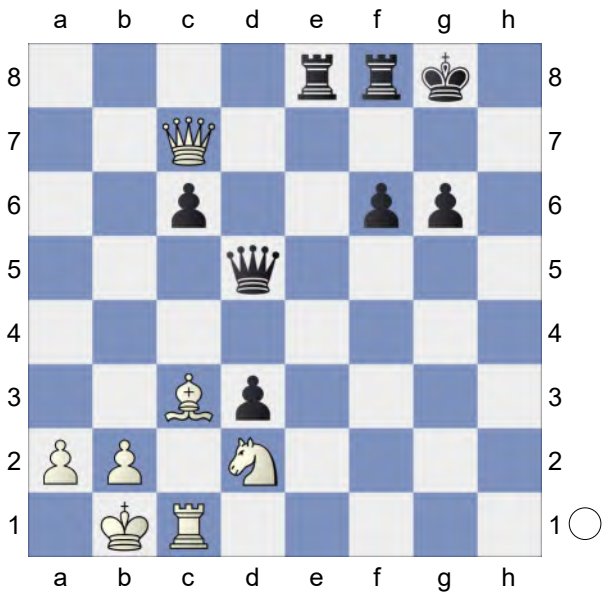


26.Qxe7? 0.52/22 **exd3±** **27.Rc1**
Really sharp!
[27.Bxf6? Qc2+ 28.Ka1 Qxd1#]
[27.Ng5 Rxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Rb8+ *(28...fxg5 29.Qg7#; 28...fxg5 29.Qg7#)*]
27...Rbe8 **28.Qc7** aiming for Ng5! White has compensation. **28...Qe4** (-> ...d2+)
29.Nd2→ White wants a kill. White is more active. **29...Qd5**

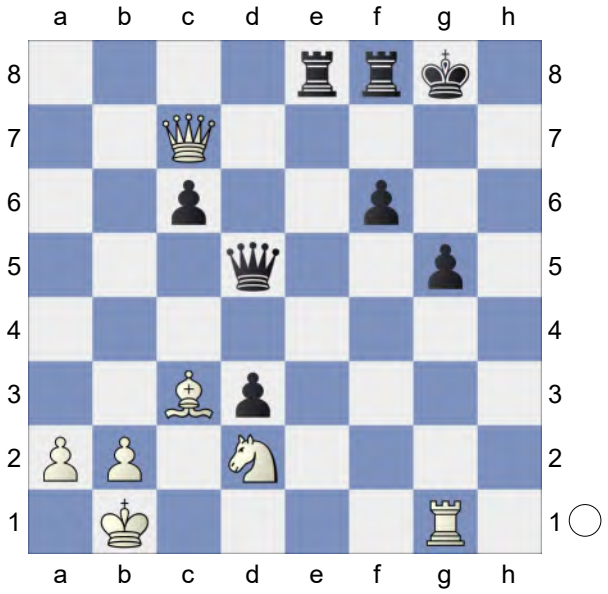


30.hxg6! **hxg6**

(Diagram)



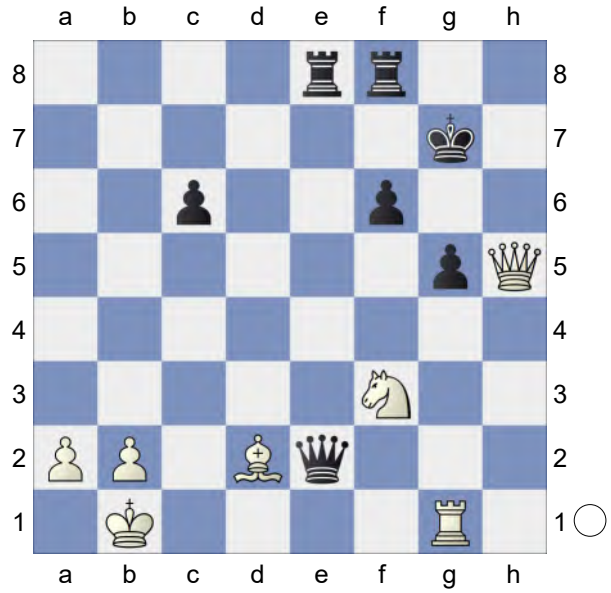
31.Rg1 **g5**



32.Qh2! **Kg7** 4.83/21 Wards off Qh6+
[32...Re3± 1.03/19 is tougher.]
33.Qh5+- **Qg2** 7.90/20
[⌓33...Re5 4.93/22 34.Rh1 Rg8]
34.Nf3
[34.Rxg2? is a self mate. Re1+]
[34.Qxg5+ Qxg5 35.Rxg5+ Kf7=]
[34.Bxf6+? Rxf6 35.Qxg5+ Qxg5 36.Rxg5+ Kf7-+]
[34.Bd4? Qxg1+ *(34...Qxd2? 35.Rxg5++-)* 35.Bxg1 Re1+]
34...d2 **35.Bxd2**

[35.Rxg2? d1Q#]
[35.Qxg5+ Qxg5 36.Rxg5+ Kf7±]

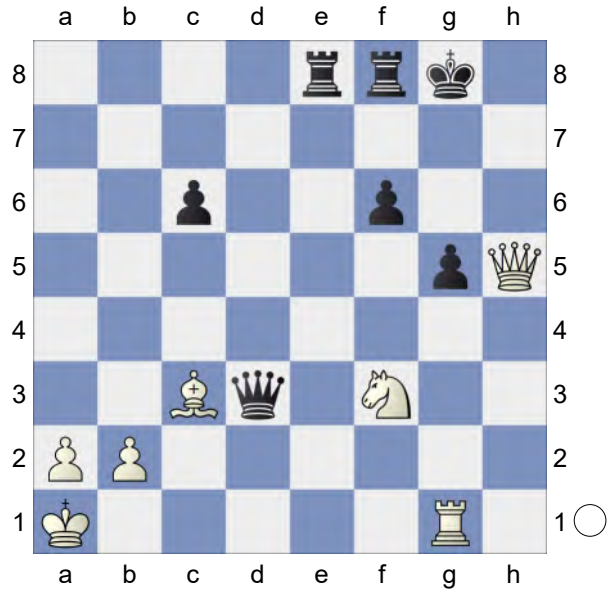
35...Qe2



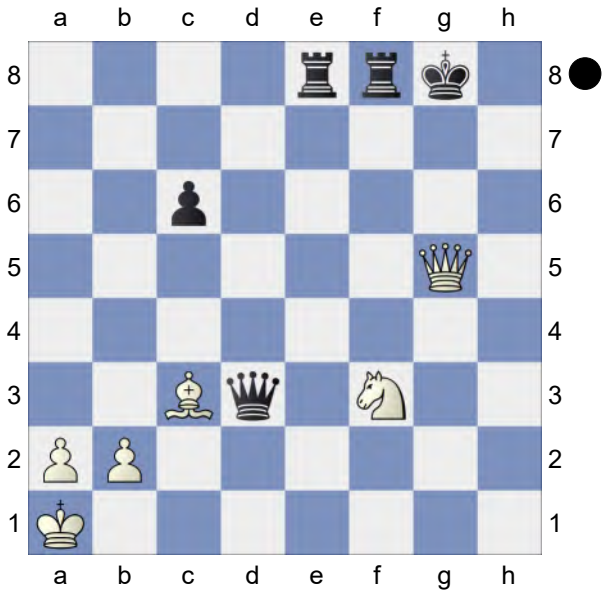
36.Bc3 17.13/24

[⌓36.Bxg5 #21/25 Qe4+ 37.Ka1 fxg5 38.Qxg5+ Kf7 39.Qg7+ Ke6 40.Ng5+ Kf5 41.Qd7+ *(41.Nxe4 Kxe4 42.Re1+ Kf3 43.Rf1+ Ke3 44.Rxf8 Rxf8 45.Qxf8 Ke4; 41.Qh7+ Kf4 42.Nxe4 Re6 43.Re1 Rg8 44.Qf7+ Ke5 45.Qxg8 Re7 46.Qg5+ Ke6)* 41...Kf4 42.Nxe4]

36...Qd3+ 37.Ka1 Kg8



38.Rxg5+! fxg5 39.Qxg5+

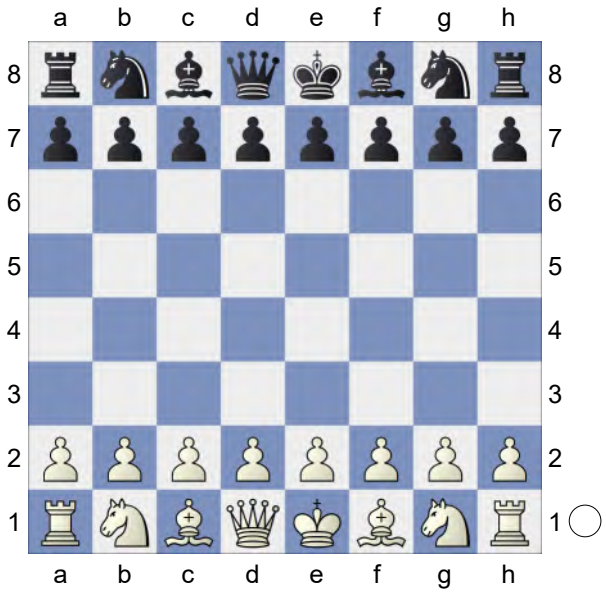


Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.83

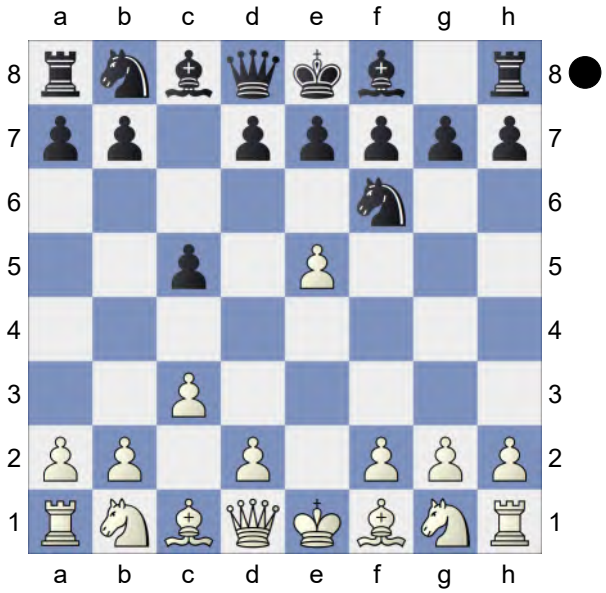
1-0

179 **B22**
□ **Adhiban,Baskaran** **2610**
■ **Beerdsen,Thomas** **2515**
II Wijk aan Zee 2023
[Perunovic,Milos]

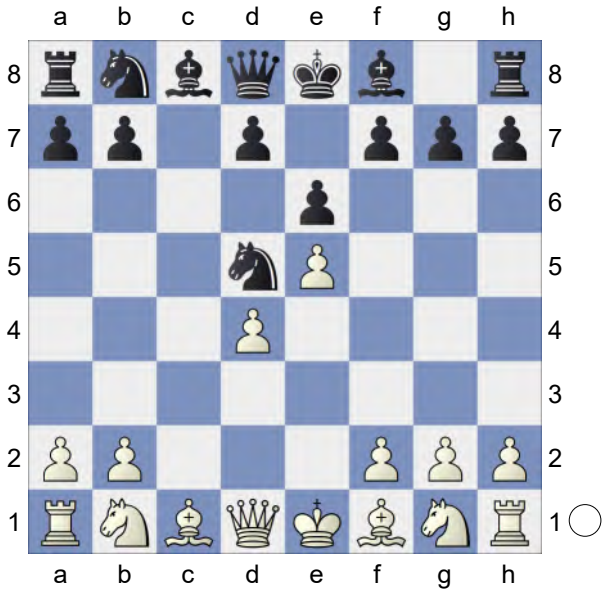
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Diagram



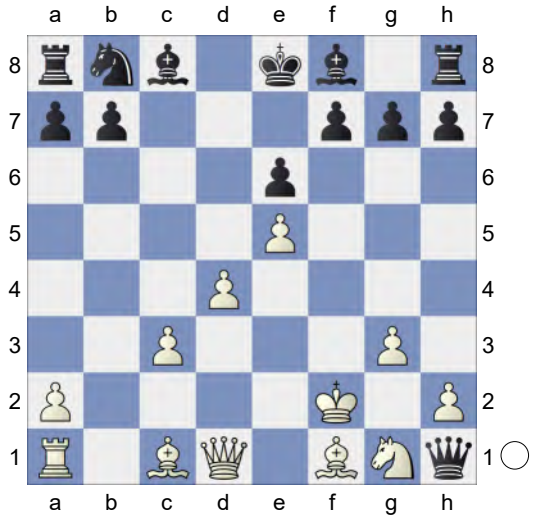
1.e4 White misses the opportunity to crush Black's defence by executing a pawn break in the centre. **1...c5** **2.c3** **Nf6** **3.e5** Diagram



3...Nd5! Black uses the chance to bring his bishop in action. **4.d4** **cxd4** **5.cxd4** **e6**



6.Nc3
[6.Nf3]
6...Nxc3 **7.bxc3** **d6?!**
[7...Qc7 8.Bd2 d6 9.f4]
8.f4 **Qc7**
[8...dxe5 9.fxe5 Qh4+± 10.g3! Qe4+ 11.Kf2 Qxh1 Diagram



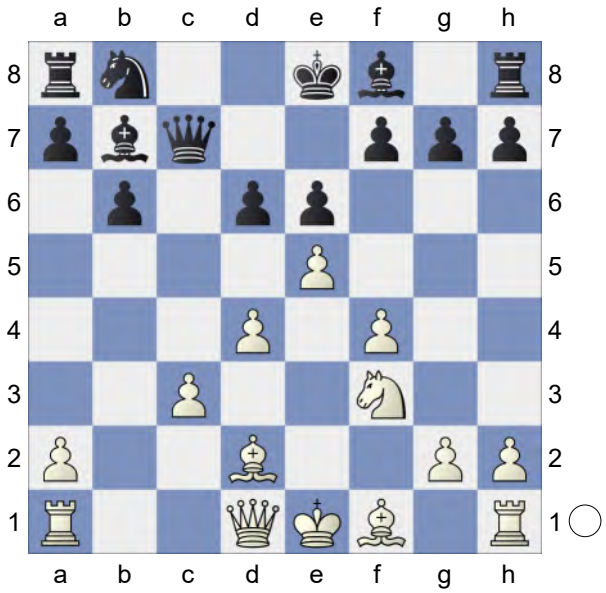
12.Nf3! Bd7 13.Qb3]
9.Bd2 **b6**
[9...Nd7]
[9...Be7 10.Bd3 Nc6= 11.Nf3! White should have exchanged his

bishop for the black knight and reached the position with a clearly dominant knight on d6 versus the "empty" a6-bishop. Moreover, by eliminating the black knight White hinders any posible counter-play. d5]

10.Nf3? Bb7

[10...Be7 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Rae1 *(14.exd6* 0.07/19 14.h4 0.51 *Qxd6 15.f5)* 14...dxe5 1.00/19 *(Black should try 14...g6±* 0.43/16 *)* 15.fxe5± Na5 1.57/21 *(⌓15...Nb8* 0.88/18 *)* 16.Ng5± Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Threatens to win with Qh5. Qxc3 Bishop must return in the centre of action. 18.Rf4! Bd5= 5.47/22 *(18...g6±* 1.52/20 *)* 19.Rh4+- f5 8.05/22 *(⌓19...h6* 4.02/18 *20.Bxh6 f5)* 20.exf6+- gxf6 21.Rc1]

[10...Ba6? 3.61/19 10...Be7 0.34 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Qa4+]



11.Bd3? Nc6N White is slightly better.

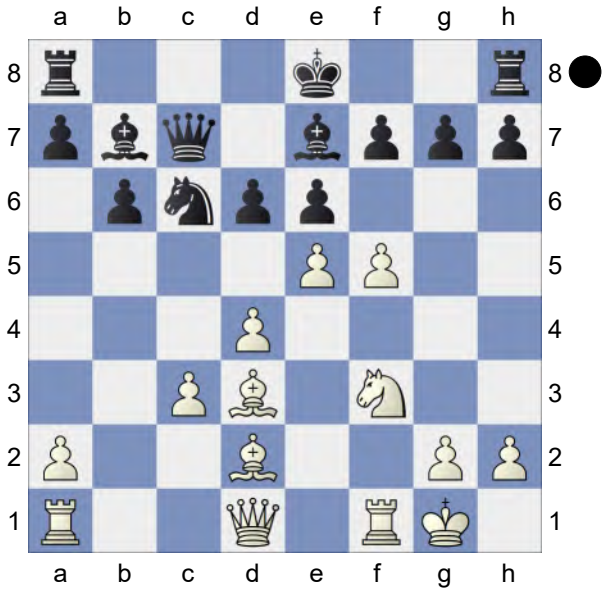
[11...g6 12.0-0=]

[11...Nd7 12.0-0 Be7 13.f5 dxe5 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.Ng5 Bxg5 16.Qh5+ g6 17.Bxg6+ hxg6 18.Qxh8+ Ke7 19.Bxg5+ Kd6 20.dxe5+ Kc6 21.Qg7 Qxe5 22.Qxg6 Nc5 23.Rae1 Qxc3 24.Rxe6+ Nxe6 25.Qxe6+ Kb5 26.Rf5+ 1-0 (27) Vlassov,N (2283)-Hansen,E (2609) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Dec Early blitz 2022 (3)]

12.0-0 Be7 13.f5 0.13/19 Diagram

[13.Qe2 0-0 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.f5]

[13.Qe2± 0.52/17 is superior.]



13...exf5= 14.Bxf5

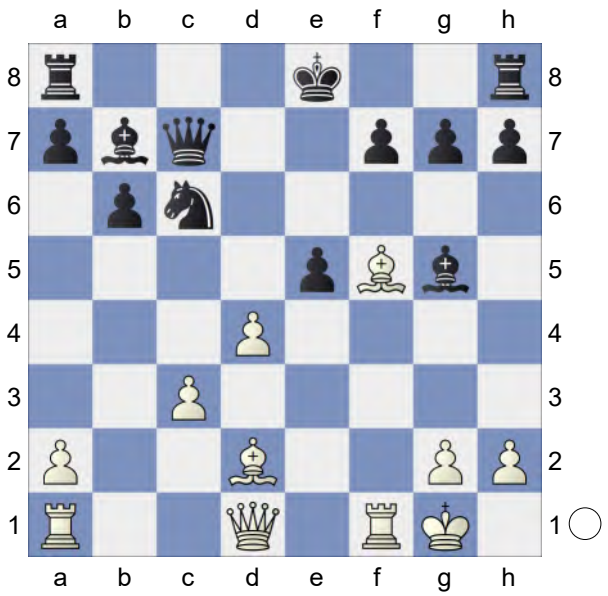
[14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Bxf5 Ne7! *(15...0-0?* 4.11/22 15...Ne7 -0.11 *16.Bxh7+!+-)*]

14...dxe5 15.Ng5 Bxg5 0.83/16

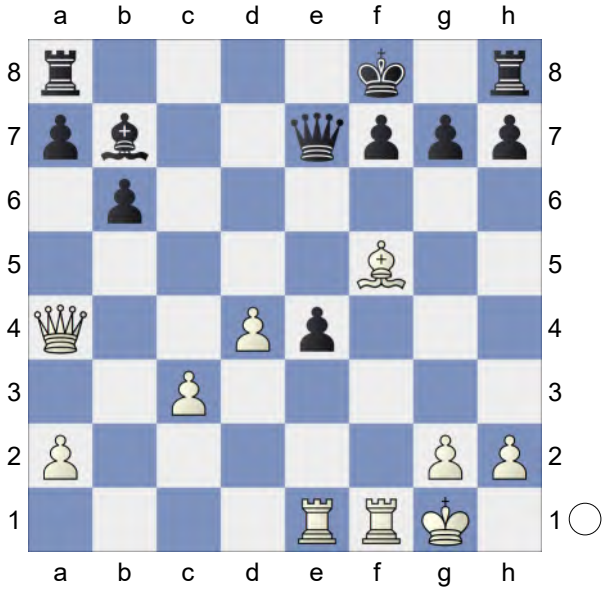
[15...Nd8! 16.Qg4 g6-+ 0.46/19 *(16...exd4!=* -0.01/18 was preferrable. *17.Bf4 h5 18.Bxc7 hxg4)* 17.Bc2!± 0-0 18.Rae1]

[15...Nd8!= -0.01/20]

(Diagram)

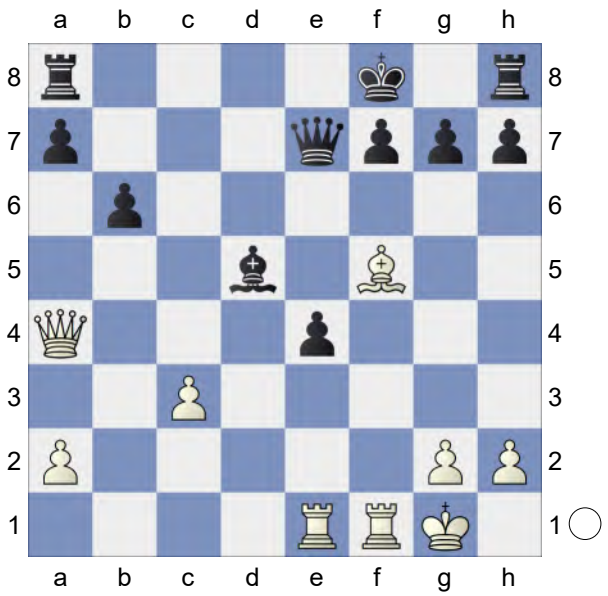


16.Bxg5± Ne7
[16...0-0? 2.49/21 16...Nd8 0.79 17.Qh5=]
17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qa4+ Kf8 19.Rae1 e4

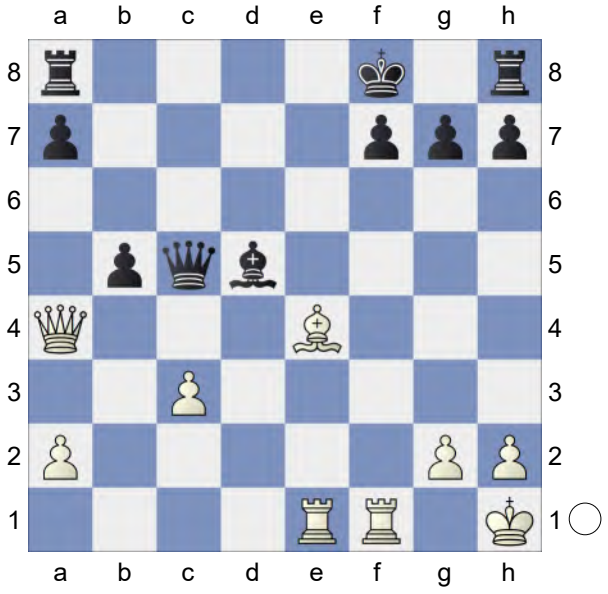


20.d5! White has more active pieces.
20...Bxd5

(Diagram)

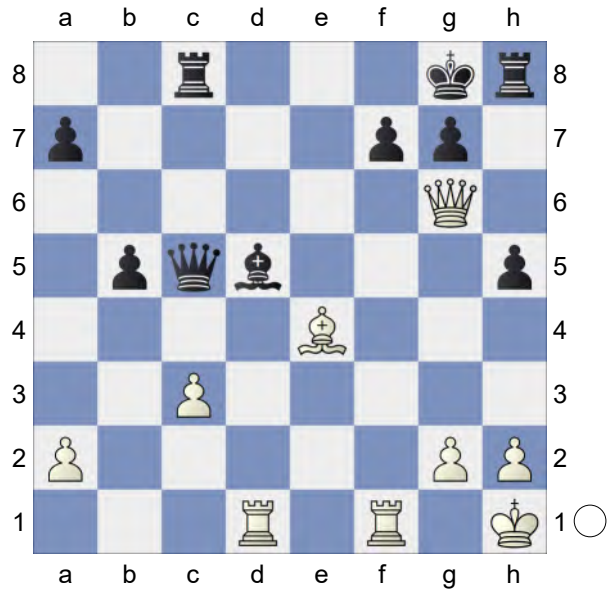


...Re8 is the strong threat. **21.Bxe4 Qc5+** 1.56/23
[21...Bxe4 22.Rxe4 Qc7 23.Rd4 Prevents Rd8]
[⌓21...Bxe4 0.90/23 22.Rxe4 Qd6]
22.Kh1 White has strong compensation.
22...b5



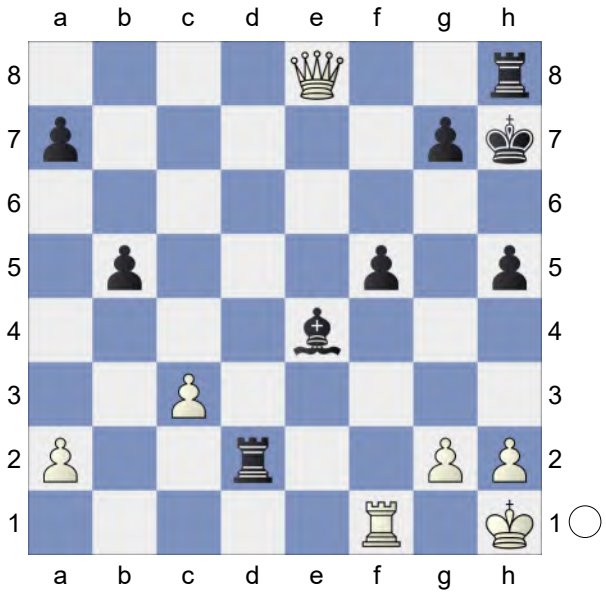
23.Qa6 0.58/21
[23.Qd1! Bxe4 24.Rxe4-+ h6! 3.52/24 *(24...h5* 1.71/24 was necessary.) 25.Qd7+- f6 26.Re6]
[23.Qd1!± 1.57/24 Bxe4 24.Rxe4]

23...h5± 24.Qg6
[24.c4]
[24.c4 simplifies Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Kg8 26.Qxb5 Qxb5 27.cxb5 Rb8 28.a4]
24...Rc8! 25.Rd1
[25.Bxd5 simplifies Qxd5 26.Re5 Kg8 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 28.Rxd5 Rh6 29.Rxb5 Rxc3 30.h3]
25...Kg8!

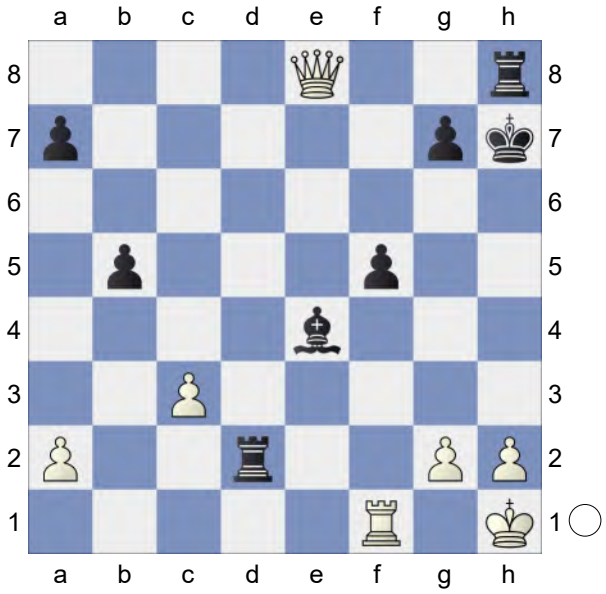


26.Qf5 -0.90/23
[26.Bxd5± 0.43/22 is the one way to stay ahead. Qxd5 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 28.Rxd5]
26...Bxe4∓
[26...Bxa2? 27.Qxc5 g6 28.Qxc8++- *(28.Qxa7 Bb3+-)*]
27.Rd8+ -0.22/5 **Rxd8=** The position is equal. **28.Qxc5** aiming for Qe7! **28...f5**
29.Qe7
[29.Qxa7 Rd2 30.Re1 Rh6]
29...Rd2 30.Qe8+
[30.Qxa7? is the wrong capture. Rxg2 *(30...Bxg2+ 31.Kg1∓)* 31.Rf4 Rxa2+ 32.Rxe4 Rxa7-+]
30...Kh7

(Diagram)



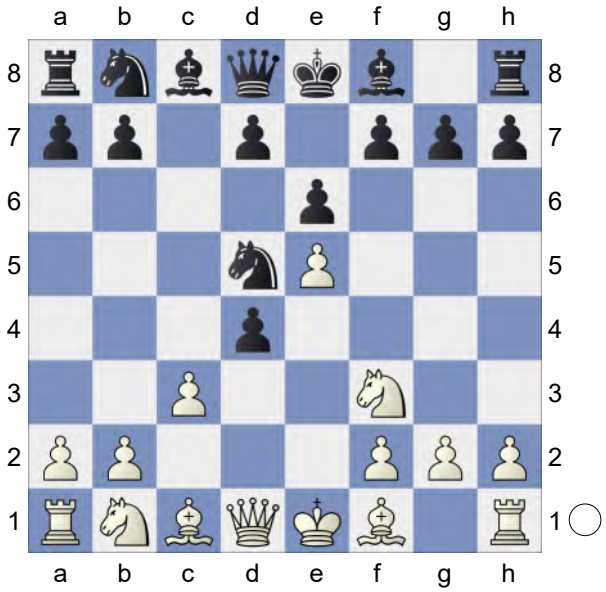
31.Qxh5+ Kg8 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Qh5+ Kg8!! 34.Qe8+ Kh7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)
½-½

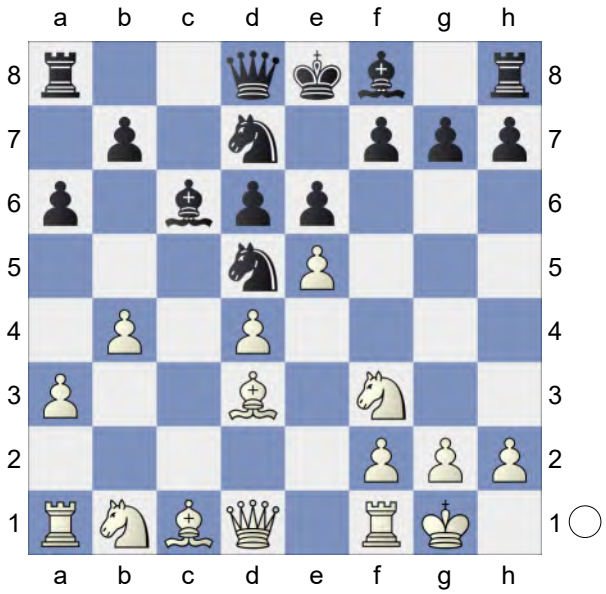
180 **B22**
□ **Tiviakov,Sergei** **2669**
■ **Bosch,Jeroen** **2465**
NED-ch61 Hilversum (4) 20.06.2006
[Jonathan Rowson]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Makarichev,Sergey: 'Rublevsky,S: 'Inf 71/(143)'' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4**



6.cxd4 d6 7.a3 Bd7 This idea of ...Bd7-c6 has always appealed to me, because the bishop is active and the b8 knight will go to d7 and be closer to the kingside (f8, or f6 if Black moves the f-pawn). However, Black does not directly challenge White's extra space, so it is not clear whether this approach cuts all of the mustard, or just parts of it. **8.Bd3 Bc6 9.0-0 Nd7 10.b4 a6**

(Diagram)



11.Nbd2 So far, so conventional.
[11.Re1 Is another mainline. Qc7 0.35/21 I have noticed that Kozul, who has had to play against C3 Sicilian experts Sermek and Pavasovic most of his life, tends to play with his queen on c7, rook on c8 and keeps the tension on e5. If White plays Ne4 or Nc4 he allows the exchange on d6. e.g. *(11...Bb5!?* 0.37/20 11...Rc8 0.00 Anybody desperate to play a half-decent novelty should consider this move, which looks half-decent to me, and seems to be a novelty!*; 11...Rc8=* -0.03/20 *12.Ng5 Be7 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qh6 Bf8 15.Qh3 dxe5 16.dxe5 Bg7 17.Qg3 Bb5 18.Bxb5 axb5 19.Nd2 Ne7 20.Ndf3 Nf5 21.Qf4 Rc4 22.Ne4 0-0 23.Bb2 Rc2 24.Rab1 Qc7 25.h4 f6 26.Qh2 fxe5* 0-1 (61) Akrahm,R (2444)-Teyssou,D (2502) Banicky Kahanec 1997 (4.1)*)* 12.Bb2± Rc8 13.Nbd2 Be7 14.Nc4 b5 *(14...N7b6!?)* 15.Nxd6+ Bxd6 16.exd6 Qxd6 And Black is fine.]
[11.Qe2 Be7 12.Re1 Rc8 13.Ra2

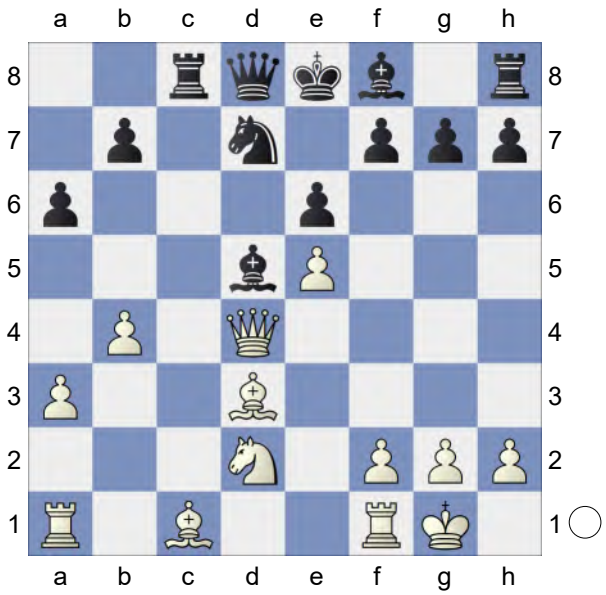
N7b6 14.Rc2 0-0 15.h4 dxe5 16.dxe5 Qd7 17.Bg5 Rfd8 18.Rd2 h6 19.Be3 Na4 20.Nd4 Nxe3 21.Qxe3 Bxh4 22.Bc2 Nb6 23.Nf5 Nd5 24.Nxh6+ Kf8 25.Qh3 Bg5 26.Ng4 1-0 (50) Milesi,L (2564)-2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4. ♗g2 (2686) 100/142 Voronezh 2007 (4.1)]

11...dxe5N I suspect that this is already a slight inaccuracy.

[11...Nc3 Originally played by Rublevsky. 12.Qc2 *(12.Qe1 dxe5 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bb5 15.Bxb7 Ra7 16.a4 Bxf1 17.Bc6 Rc7 18.b5 Bc4 19.Bd2 e4 20.Qxe4 Be7 21.Ba5 0-0 22.Qf4 e5 23.Qc1 Be2 24.Bxc7 Qxc7 25.Bxd7 Qxd7 26.Nxe5 Qxd4* 0-1 (30) Berelowitsch,A (2500)-Rublevsky,S (2645) RUS-chT 04th 1996 (7)*)* 12...Rc8! 13.Qxc3 Hoping for Qb2. Bxf3 14.Qb2 The difference is that White doesn't have d4 for the queen. Bd5 15.Ne4 is like the game, but the queen has less influence on b2, so I suspect Black has reasonable chances here e. g. dxe5 16.dxe5 Be7 Against Bg5 17.Nd6+?! Bxd6 18.exd6 Qf6! since Black hasn't castled, he can put the king on d7 after the queen exchange.]

[11...Nf4!? 12.Be4 *(12.Bc2 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Qg5 15.Qg4 Qxe5 16.Nc4 Qe2 17.Qxf4 Qxc2 18.Ne5 f6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6* Behrensen,J (2205)-3. ♗b5 ♘f6 4. ♘c3 ♘d4 (2440) Sarajevo-12 1969*)* 12...Bb5 13.Re1 d5 Looks quite good too, because after 14.Bb1 Nd3 15.Re3 Nxc1 16.Qxc1 White's initiative on the kingside may lack punch without the dark-squared bishop, while Black has prospects of counterplay based on the c-file, c4 square and pawn breaks ... a5 and ...f6]

12.dxe5 Nc3 13.Qc2 White is slightly better. **13...Rc8 14.Qxc3** Threatens to win with Qd4. **14...Bxf3 15.Qd4 Bd5**



16.Ne4 Wards off Qg5 **16...Be7** Prevents Bg5 **17.Re1 0-0 18.Bf4**

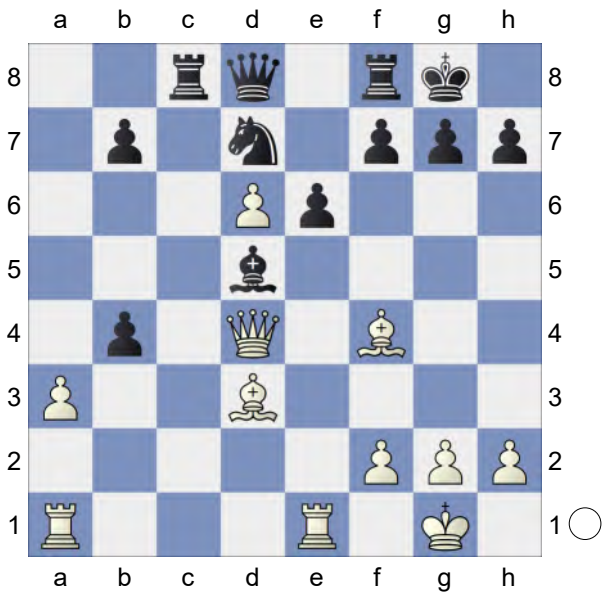
[18.Bb2 simplifies Qb6 19.Nf6+ Bxf6 20.Qxb6 Nxb6 21.exf6 Rfd8 22.Rec1]

18...a5

[18...Qb6 doesn't change anything fundamentally- White still has a useful amount of extra space, for instance after Be3 followed by f4.]

19.Nd6↑ White is more active. **19...Bxd6 20.exd6 axb4**

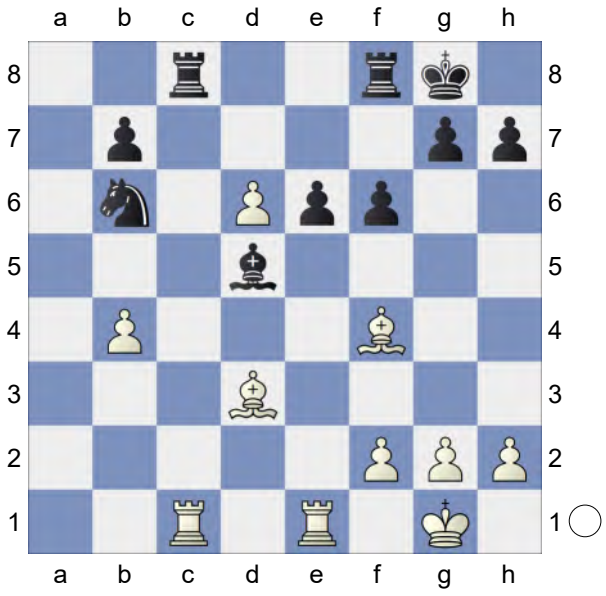
(Diagram)



21.axb4 White now has a commanding position. It is not clear what White is up to exactly, but on the other hand it is hard to find moves for Black. **21...Qb6** 1.38/20

[⌓21...Qh4 0.73/21]

22.Qxb6± Nxb6 23.Rac1 f6



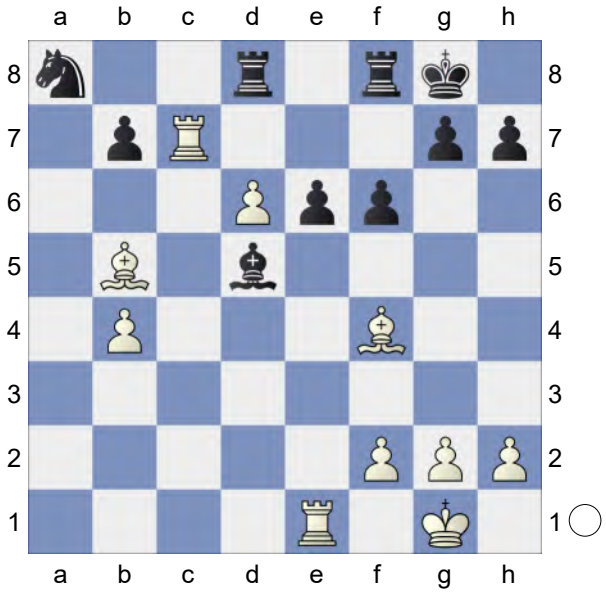
24.Rc7 0.92/20

[Better is 24.Be3!+- 1.62/21 Nd7 25.Bb5]

24...Rcd8 Black is weak on the dark squares **25.Bb5!** White has more active pieces. **25...Na8** 1.46/22

[25...e5? 26.Be3 Na8 27.Rcc1+- *(27.Rd7 Rxd7 28.Bxd7 Rd8±)*]

[⌓25...g5 0.82/20 26.Bg3 Rf7]



26.Rcc1 Nb6 Prevents d7

[26...e5 27.Be3]

27.Red1 0.93/22

[27.Be3+- 1.76/22 Rxd6 28.Bc5 Skewer]

27...Rf7 28.Be3 Nd7 1.64/21

[28...Rxd6? too greedy. 29.Bc5 Nc8 30.Bxd6 Nxd6 31.Be2+-]

[28...Nc8± 0.99/22]

29.Rc7 Nf8 1.97/20 White finally forces a favourable transition this was not forced, but Black was running out of useful moves and Rdc1 and Rc8 was pending.

[29...g5± 1.45/20 30.Rdc1 Ne5]

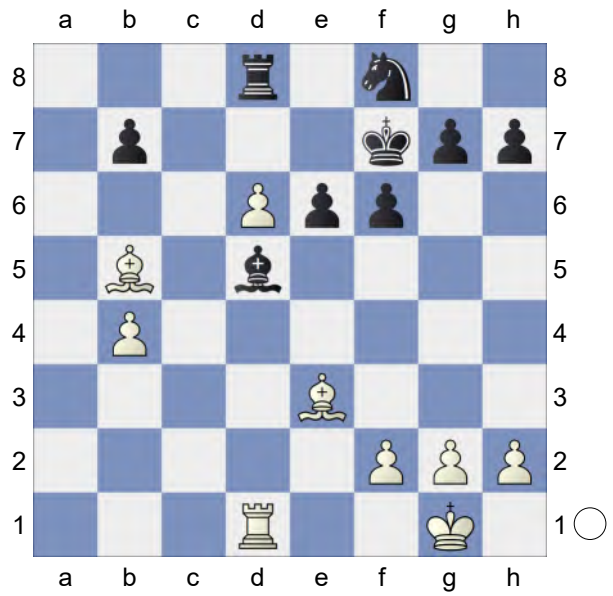
30.Rxf7 1.11/22

[Don't take 30.Bc5?! g6 31.Rxf7 Kxf7]

[White should try 30.f4+- 1.97/20]

30...Kxf7

(Diagram)



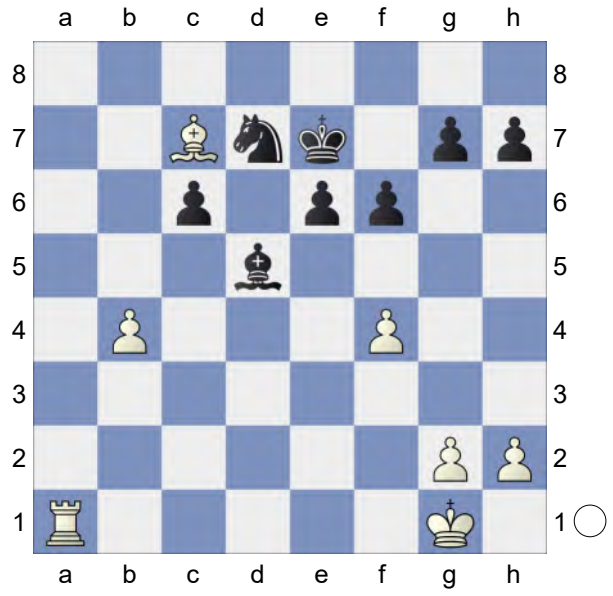
31.Bb6! Rxd6 32.Bc7 This pair of bishops is nice. **32...Rc6 33.Bxc6 bxc6** 1.60/20 Endgame. KRB-KBN

[⌓33...Bxc6 1.15/23 34.f4 Nd7]

34.f4 Ke7 1.88/21

[34...h5± 1.45/20 35.Ra1 Ng6]

35.Ra1+- Nd7



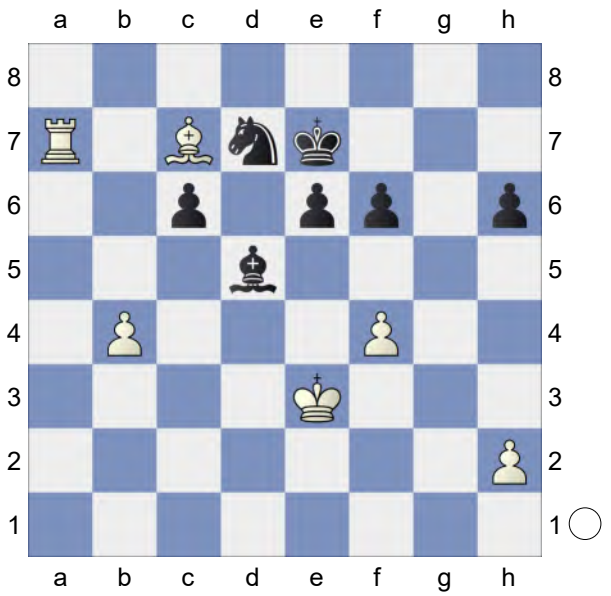
36.Ra7 h6 37.Kf2 g5 2.23/24

[37...h5 1.75/22 is a better defense. 38.Ba5 Bc4]

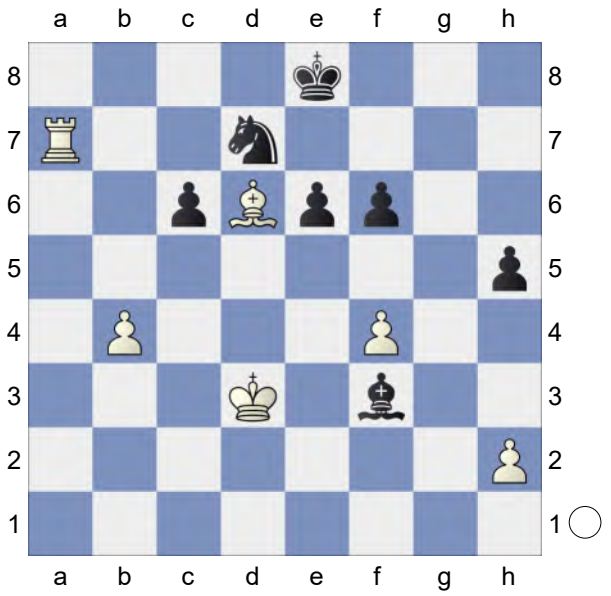
38.g3 gxf4 39.gxf4

[Don't do 39.Bxf4 h5 40.Be3 e5]

39...Be4 40.Ke3 Bd5

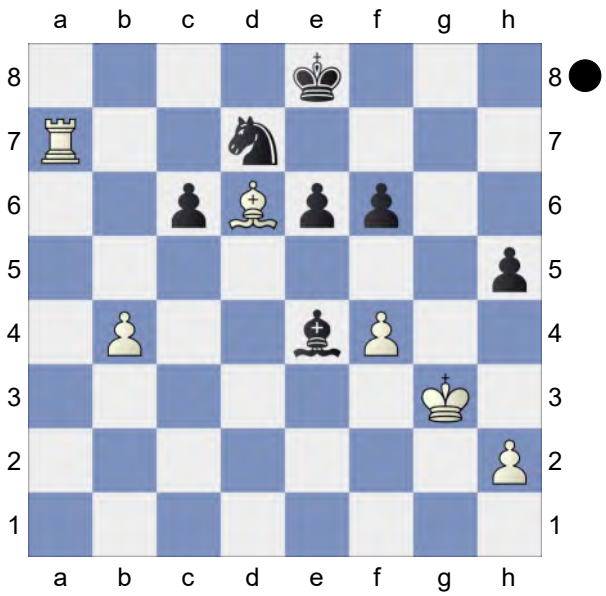


41.Bb6 h5 42.Bc5+ Ke8 43.Bd6 Bb3 44.Kd4 Bd5 45.Kd3 Bf3



46.Ke3 Bd5 47.Kf2 Be4 48.Kg3

(Diagram)



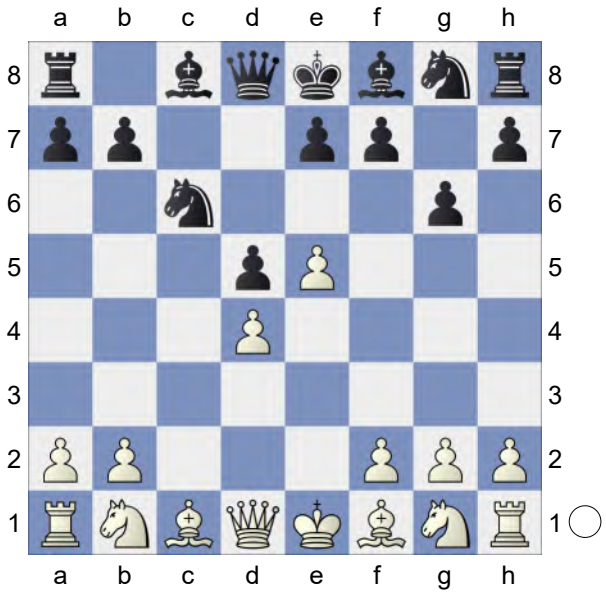
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

1-0

181 **B22**
□ **Pavasovic,D** **2579**
■ **Durarbayli,Vasif** **2476**
11th EICC Men (11) 17.03.2010
[Mikhalchishin,Adrian]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 Mikhalchishin,A: 'Mikhalchishin'
1...c5 2.c3 g6 A very dangerous choice against the world's top specialist in the Alapin.
3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5
[A few years ago the top specialist believed in another weapon, but practice did not reward him at all: 5.Nc3 dxe4 6.Bc4 Gambit style play, but Black has sufficient counterplay Nf6 *(*Possible is *6...Nc6 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.Qb3 e6 9.d5 exd5 10.Nxd5 Be6 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.0-0 Bxc4 13.Qxc4 Bg7 14.Qxe4+ Qe5 15.Qxe5+ Nxe5 16.Rd1 0-0 17.Be3 Nc4* Black has no problem. *18.Bd4 Rfe8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Ng3 Nxb2 21.Rdb1 Na4 22.Rxb7 Nc5* 1/2 Pavasovic,D (2593)-Fercec,N (2504)/Rijeka 2005/CBM 107 *)* 7.Qb3 e6 8.d5 Qb6! 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Be3 Bc5 11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.Qxe6+ Qe7 14.Qb3 *(14.Qc4* was stronger, but not sufficient for an advantage. After the move in the game, Black takes the initiative.*)* 14...a6 15.Bxd7+ Nbxd7 16.0-0-0 Nc5 17.Qc2 0-0 18.f3 Rac8 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nh3 exf3 21.gxf3 Qe3 22.Qg2 Nd3 23.Qd2 Qxd2 24.Rxd2 Ne5 25.f4 Nc4 26.Rd4 Rfe8 27.f5 gxf5 28.Rg1+ Kf8 29.Nf4 Kf7 30.b3 Ne5 31.Rg3 Ng6 32.Ncd5 Nxd5 33.Rxd5 Re1+ 34.Kb2 Ne7 with good winning chances.]

5...Nc6



6.Nc3 Bg7 7.h3
[Before Pavasovic tried a more ambitious continuation, but without spectacular success: 7.Bb5 f6 8.exf6 0.16/20 *(8.Nf3⩲* 0.60/17 is superior.*)* 8...exf6 9.Nge2 Be6 10.Nf4 Bf7 11.0-0 Nge7 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Na4 0-0 14.Nc5 Qc8 Against Nfe6 15.Re1 Re8 16.Qd3 g5 17.Ne2! Bg6 18.Qc3 Nf5 19.Bd2 Nd6 20.Be3 -0.15/18 *(20.Ng3* 0.21/21 deserves consideration.*)* 20...Ne4 0.28/18 *(20...Bf8* -0.15/18 might be stronger.*)* 21.Nxe4= Rxe4 22.Rac1 Re6 23.Qd2 -0.23/19 *(⌓23.h4* 0.20/21 *)* 23...Qa6= 24.Nc3 Rae8 25.f3 h6 26.Bf2 f5 27.Rxe6 Rxe6 28.Re1 -0.56/23 *(28.b4=* -0.18/18 *)* 28...Rxe1+∓ 29.Qxe1 Kf7! Prevents Qe6+ 30.f4 Qc4 31.Qd2 Bf6 and White cannot exploit the weakness of the c6-pawn and the c5-square. 32.b3 1/2 Pavasovic,D (2581)-Zelcic,R (2554)/Solin/Spilt 2002/CBM 093 (46)]
7...f6 **8.f4** Of course, the principled decision is to keep fighting in the centre,

as there are no serious reasons to give it up.

[8.exf6 exf6 9.Nf3 Nge7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 g5 12.Re1 Bf5 13.Be3 Bg6 14.Rc1 Qd7 15.h4 h6 16.hxg5 fxg5 17.Nh2 -0.15/18 *(17.b4± 0.62/17)* 17...Kh8 18.Bf3 Rad8 19.Nf1 Nf5 20.Bg4 Qf7 21.Bxf5 Bxf5 22.Ng3 Bg6 and Black is even attacking the centre more directly.]

8...Nh6 9.g4 Prevents Nf5. **9...0-0** White is slightly better. **10.Bg2 e6N**

[The correct decision in principle was to try to create direct counterplay: 10...fxe5 11.fxe5 e6 0.56/20 *(11...Qb6=* 0.18/19 *)* 12.Nf3±

A) Weaker was 12...Bd7 13.Be3 Rc8 14.Qd2 Nf7 15.0-0 Na5 16.b3 Repels Nc4 Qb6 17.h4! starting a typical attack and the opponent has no good counterattack after it. Rc7 18.Rac1 Rfc8 19.h5 gxh5 1.75/18 *(19...Nc6±* 1.01/18 *)* 20.gxh5+- And now h6 would win. Be8? 3.92/20 *(20...Qb4±* 1.51/20 *)* 21.Bh3+- Qc6 6.12/21 *(⌓21...Nc6* 4.22/17 *22.h6 Ncd8 23.hxg7 Bb5)* 22.h6+- Bf8 23.Kh1 Nd8 8.26/24 *(⌓23...Qa6* 5.05/19 *24.Rg1+ Kh8)* 24.Nh4 Bg6 25.Nxg6 hxg6 26.Ne2 Qb5 27.h7+ Pavasovic,D (2597)-Lie,K (2526)/Dresden 2008/CBM 128/1-0 (35);

B) 12...Rxf3 13.Bxf3 Qh4+ 14.Kf1 Qg3 15.Rg1 Qxh3+ 16.Kf2 Qh2+ 17.Rg2 Qh4+ 18.Rg3 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Nf5 20.Qf4 g5 21.Qa4 Qxg3+ 22.Ke2 Qxe5+ 23.Kf1 Nd6 24.Bd2 b5 25.Qc2 0-1 Ahmadinia,E (2379)-Amin,B (2608) Dubai op 14th 2012 (8);

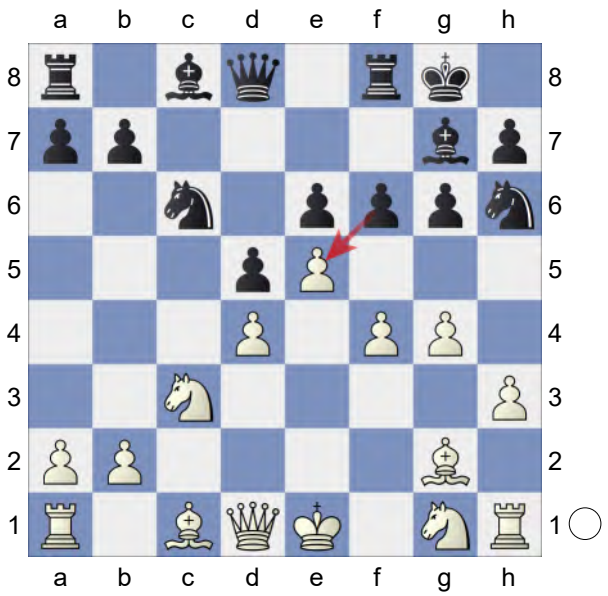
C) 12...Nf7 13.0-0 b5! Direct counterattack on the queen side. *(13...b6 14.Rf2 a5 15.Be3 Ba6 16.Qd2 Qe8 17.h4 h6 18.Bf1 Bxf1 19.Raxf1 a4 20.Qd3 Ne7 21.Ne2 Qd7 22.Bd2 Nh8 23.Bb4 Rf7 24.Bd6 Bf8 25.Qe3 Kg7 26.h5 Ng8 27.Nf4 g5 28.Nxd5* 1-0 (70) Smagin,S (2565)-Borriss,M (2439) Bundesliga 2004-5 2005 (8) *)* 14.Be3 Bd7?! *(14...Ba6* was correct with sufficient counterplay.*)* 15.Qd2 b4 16.Ne2 Qb6 17.Kh1 0.46/21 *(17.Ne1±* 0.91/18 *)*

C1) 17...Rac8 18.b3 Nb8 1.01/20 *(18...a5±* 0.65/20 *)* 19.Rfc1± Bb5 was much better.;

C2) 17...a5± 0.46/21;

C3) 17...b3 0.83/21 18.axb3± Qxb3 19.Nc1 Qb6 20.Nd3 Rfb8 21.Nc5 Bc8 22.b3 Bf8? 2.80/21 *(22...Qd8±* 1.05/17 *23.h4 Bd7)* 23.Qf2 1.44/20 *(23.Ng5+-* 2.80/21 *Nxg5 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Rf1+ Kg8 26.Bxg5 Nxe5 27.dxe5)* 23...Bxc5? 3.05/23 *(23...Qd8±* 1.44/20 might work better. *24.Ng5* Discovered Attack *Nxg5)* 24.dxc5+- Qc7 25.Ng5 Goodger,M (2147)-Indrebo,K/Caleta 2010/CBM 134 Extra/1-0 (31)]

(Diagram)



11.Nf3 Nf7 12.0-0 g5?! It looks logical to destroy the opponent's centre, but Black's pieces are not active enough to do it successfully.

[Much better was a typical French plan of counterplay on the queen side: 12...Qb6 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Be3 b6 15.Rc1 Ba6 16.Rf2 Rac8]

13.exf6

[Another good option was 13.Ne2 0.56/20 13.exf6 0.93 gxf4 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bxf4 Qb6 16.Qd2 e5 17.Be3 Threatens to win with dxe5. e4 18.Ne5! with better play.]

13...Bxf6 14.fxg5

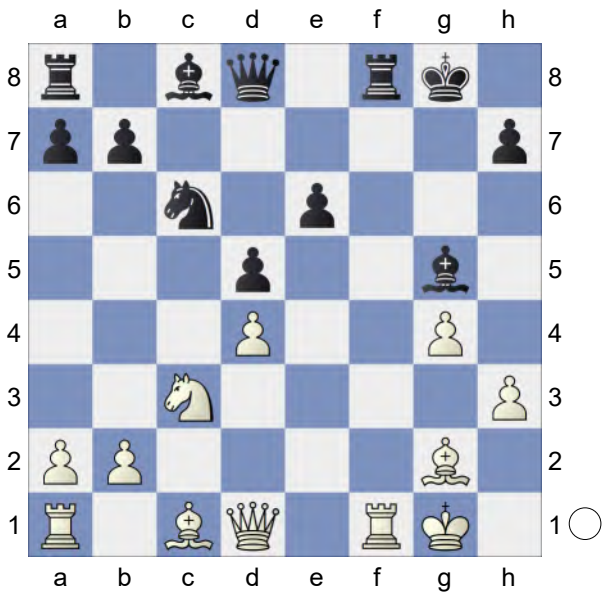
[Here it was possible to transpose to the previous variation: 14.Ne2]

14...Nxg5 15.Nxg5 Direct exchanges allow White to develop all his pieces easily.

[There was another slightly unnatural possibility: 15.Be3 0.40/19 15.Nxg5 1.03 Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Bd7]

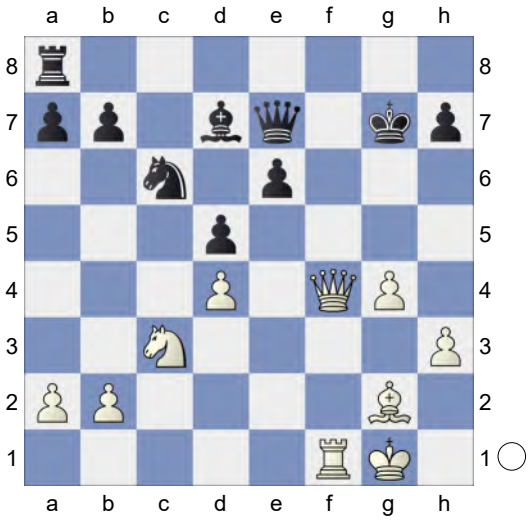
15...Bxg5

(Diagram)



16.Rxf8+ Kxf8 17.Qf3+ Kg7 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Rf1↑ White is in control. Now Black has to be very carefull, as the opponent has mobilisised all his pieces. **19...Qe7** Against Qf8+ **20.Qe3**

[A very interesting possibility was a tactical transition into a sharp endgame: 20.Qf4 Bxd5! would now be deadly. Bd7

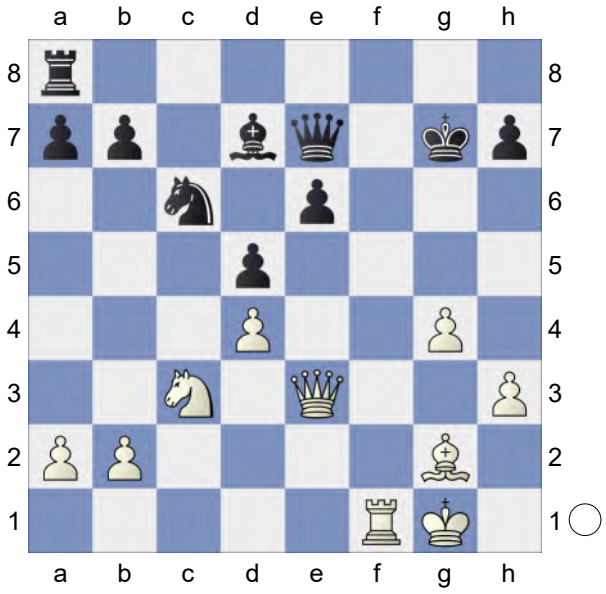


21.Bxd5! exd5 22.Nxd5

A) 22...Qe2 2.13/24 22...Rf8 1.09 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Qxd7 1.14/22 (White should play *24.Nf6*+- 2.20/22 *Qd3 25.Kg2*) 24...Qxb2± 25.Nc7 Threatening mate with Ne8.

Rg8 26.Ne6±;
B) 22...Rf8 23.Nxe7 Rxf4 24.Rxf4 Nxe7 25.Re4 Kf6 26.a3 b6 27.Kf2 h6 28.Rf4+ 0.47/21 (White should try *28.Re1±* 1.14/20) 28...Kg7 1.11/21 (Better is *28...Kg6±* 0.47/21 *29.Rf8 h5 30.gxh5+ Kg7*) 29.Kg3 and Black has typical problems defending an ending with rook plus 2 pawns against two pieces.]

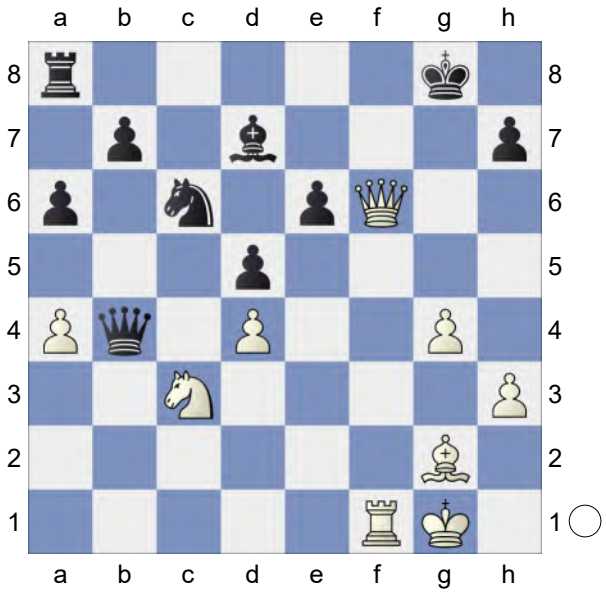
20...Bd7



21.b4! White is more active. A very interesting positional idea - with this flank break White tries to deflect his opponent's knight which is controlling the important central e5-square. **21...a6** **22.a4** Hoping for b5.
[The more timid approach 22.a3 Rf8 23.Rxf8 Qxf8 24.Ne2 h6 25.Nf4 guaranteed White a stable advantage.]

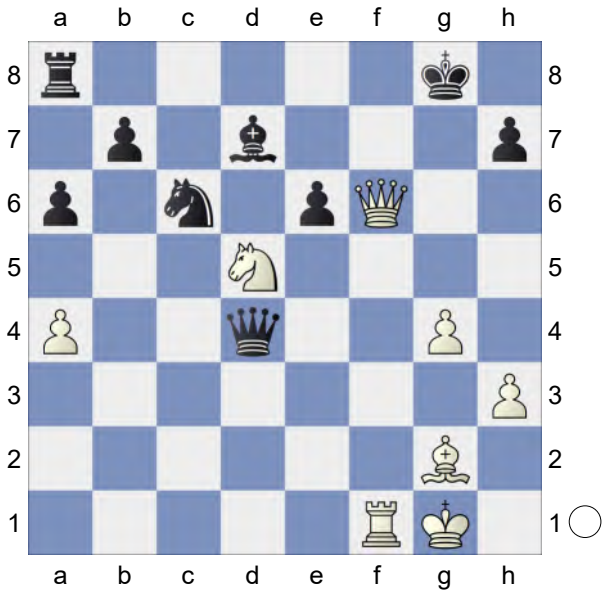
22...Qxb4 3.87/23 This move loses the game for Black.A very nervous decision, losing on the spot.
[Much more stubborn was 22...Rf8 23.Rxf8 0.29/20 (*23.b5±* 0.66/20 *axb5 24.axb5 Rxf1+ 25.Bxf1*) 23...Qxf8 24.b5 Nb4 0.84/17 (*24...Ne7!±* 0.33/20) 25.Bf1 0.41/18 with a slight white advantage. (*25.Qe5+±* 0.84/17 *Qf6 26.Qd6 Qxd4+ 27.Kh2 Qxc3 28.Qxd7+ Kf6 29.g5+ Kxg5 30.Qxe6*)]
[22...b5± 0.75/21]

23.Qg5++- Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8

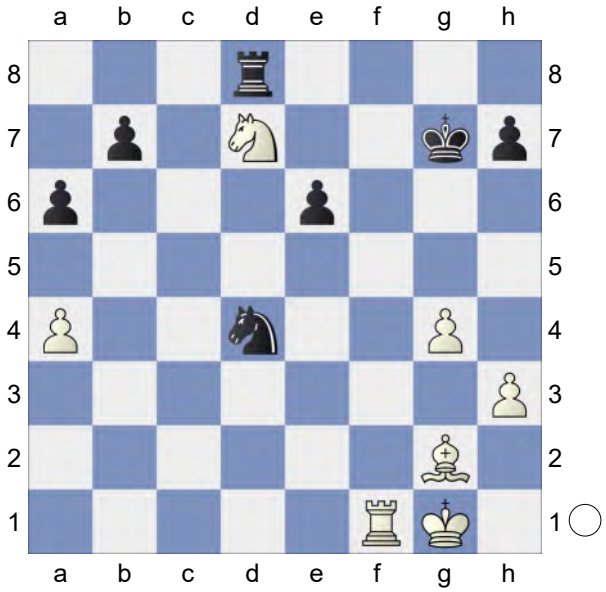


25.Nxd5! White is winning.It is this blow, which was not evaluated properly by the young Azerbaijani. **25...Qxd4+**
[25...Qf8 5.93/23 25...Qxd4+ 3.98 26.Qg5+ Qg7 27.Nf6+ was losing the bishop - as in the game.]

(Diagram)



26.Qxd4 Remove Defender **26...Nxd4**
27.Nf6+ Discovered Attack **27...Kg7**
28.Nxd7 Rd8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.42
1-0

182 **B22**
□ **Tiviakov,Sergei** **2669**
■ **Van der Wiel,John** **2511**
NED-ch61 Hilversum (6) 23.06.2006
[Jonathan Rowson]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6

I am not sure what to make of this move. I have the impression that is should be playable, but White has so many different ways to try to get an advantage that I would be wary of trying it myself. However, if you want to knock a suspected "I'm a c3 player who wins by lulling opponents to sleep in boring positions player" then it is worth considering. **4.d4**

[4.c4 e6 Ought to be more or less ok for Black. This transposes to the line 1.e4 d5 2ed Nf6 3c4 e6 4.de Bxe6 5. Nf3 c5!? which has traditionally been thought to be sufficient compensation for the pawn due to the white's weaknesses on the d-file and Black's lead in development.]

[4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.c4 a6 *(5...g6* is well worth considering. It has been played before, but I can't detect any obvious pattern in the theory. *6.Nf3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.Qxd4 Nb6!?)* 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.d4 Rc8!?∞]

4...cxd4

[4...Nxd5 5.dxc5 e6 6.b4 a5 7.Bc4 axb4 8.Bxd5 exd5 9.cxb4 Nc6 10.b5 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Bxc5 12.Qxa5 Nxa5 13.Ne2 Nb3 1-0 Kabanov,N (2532)-Ovetchkin,R (2556) Ekaterinburg UrFO-ch 2008 (9)]

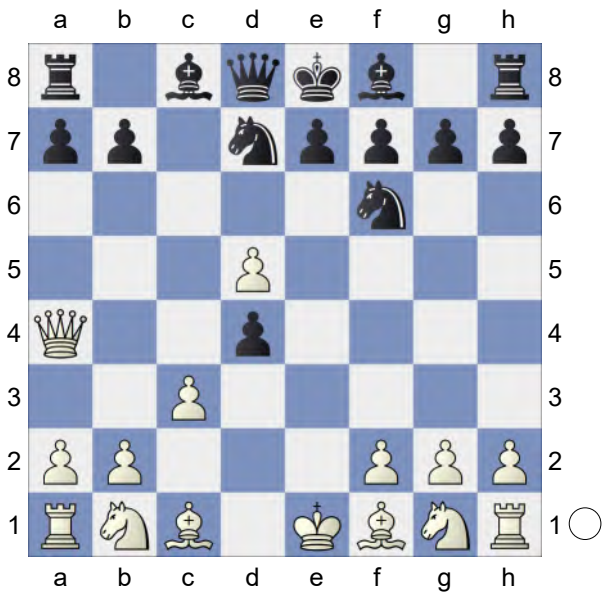
5.Qa4+N

[5.Bb5+ Was the choice of another major c3 Sicilian proponent, Slovenian GM Pavasovic. Nbd7 then looks best. *(5...Bd7 6.Bc4!?* Seemed to give White some initiative in Pavasovic-Basagic, Bled 2003.*)* 6.Qxd4 a6 *(6...g6 7.d6* is probably better for White, either here or after Nf3, or after Nf3 and 0-0. *Bg7 8.dxe7 Qxe7+ 9.Qe3 a6 10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Be2 Re8 12.Na3 Kf8 13.Bf4 Ne4 14.Nc4 Nxc3 15.Nd6 Re6 16.Rc1 Nd5 17.Bg3 N7b6 18.Rc2 f5 19.Nh3 Bh6 20.Nxc8 Rxc8 21.Rxc8+ Nxc8 22.Bb8* 0-1 (27) Pilhoefer,A (2124)-Ivanisevic,I (2633) Zuerich Chess Challenge op 6th 2017 (1) *Nce7 23.f4 Nc6 24.Be5 Nxe5 25.fxe5 Rxe5 26.Kf2 Be3+ 27.Kf3 g5* 0-1 Pilhoefer, A (2124)-Ivanisevic,I (2633) Zuerich Chess Challenge op 6th 2017 (1)*)* 7.Be2!?]

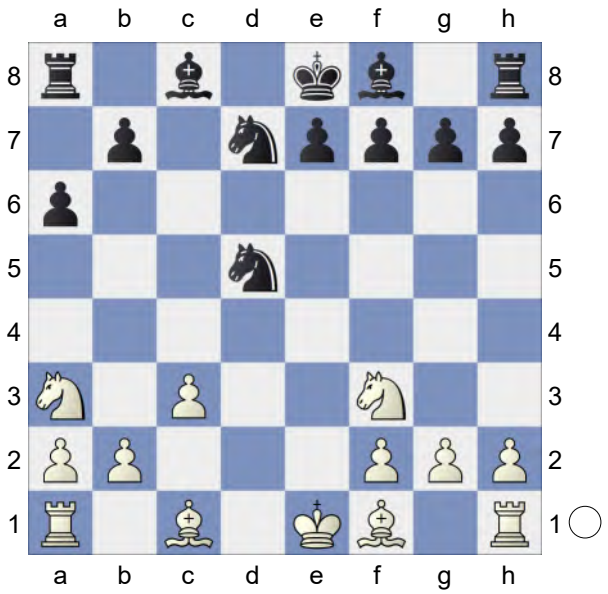
[5.cxd4 Nxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Bb4 9.Bd2 0-0 10.0-0 Ba5 11.a3 a6 12.Re1 Bc7 13.Bc2 Nf4 14.Be3 b5 15.Qd2 Nd5 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Ne4 Bb7 19.Rad1 Rc8 0-1 (31) Von Herman,B (1911)-Dolzhikova,K (2321) GER-ch Blitz (Women) 2023 (14) 20.Bb3 Bf4 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.Nexg5 Nce7 23.Ne5 Rf8 24.Qh3 h5 25.Nxe6 fxe6 26.Qxe6+ Kh7 27.Nf3 Nf5 28.Ne5 Nf4 29.Nf7 Nxe6 30.Nxd8 Nxd8 31.Be6 Nxe6 0-1 Von Herman, B (1911)-Dolzhikova,K (2321) GER-ch Blitz (Women) 2023 (14)]

5...Nbd7

(Diagram)



6.Qxd4 Qb6! 7.Qc4 Qa5 8.Na3 The position is equal. White has an edge. **8...a6** Prevents Nb5. Dodges Nb5 **9.Nf3 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Nxd5**



11.Bc4 e6 A surprising choice, which no doubt pleased Tiviakov.

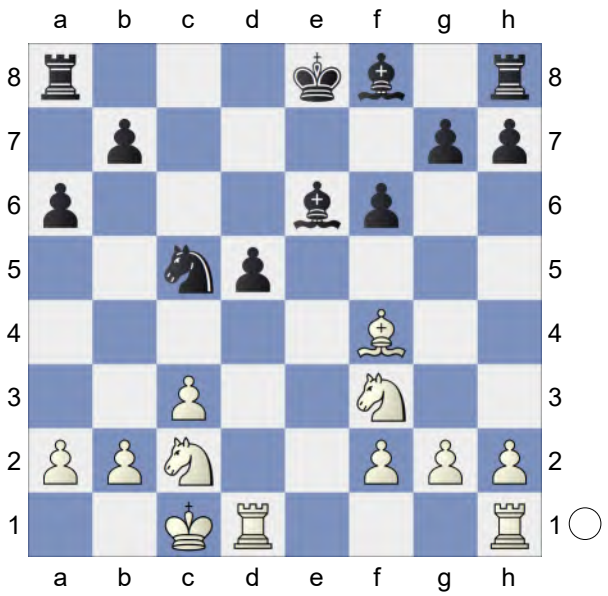
[11...N7f6]

[11...N5f6]

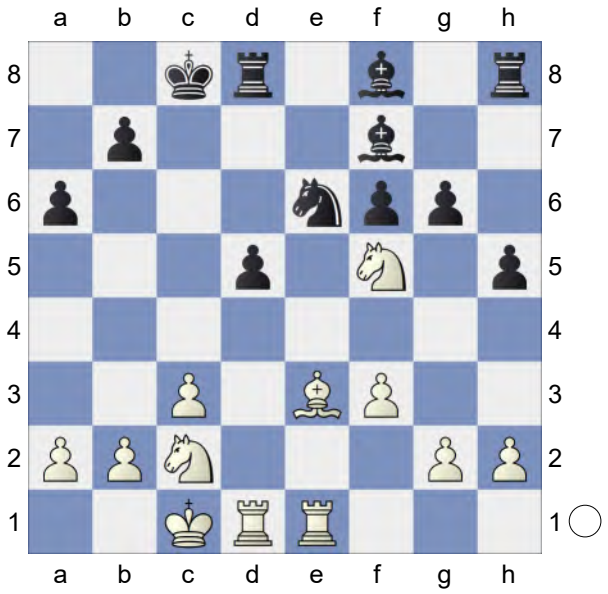
12.Bxd5 exd5

[12...Bxa3 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.bxa3 looks a bit better for White.]

13.Nc2 f6 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.0-0-0 Be6 (Diagram)



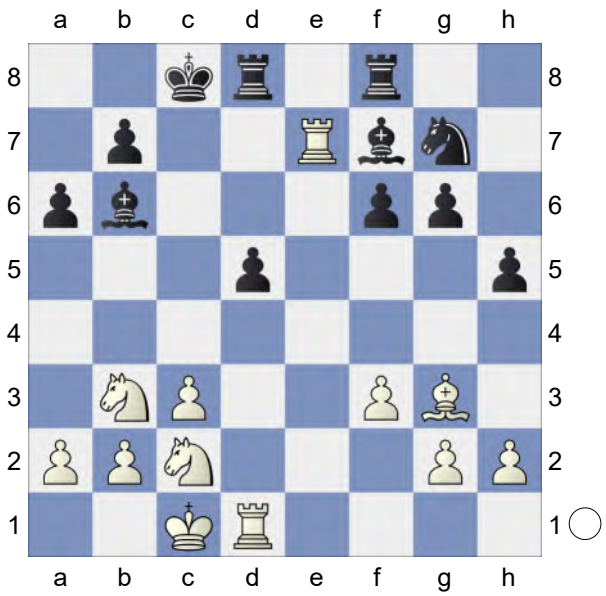
16.Rhe1 aiming for b4! **16...0-0-0** Black is weak on the dark squares **17.Nfd4 Bf7 18.f3** White has a comfortable edge. **18...h5 19.Nf5 Ne6 20.Be3 g6**



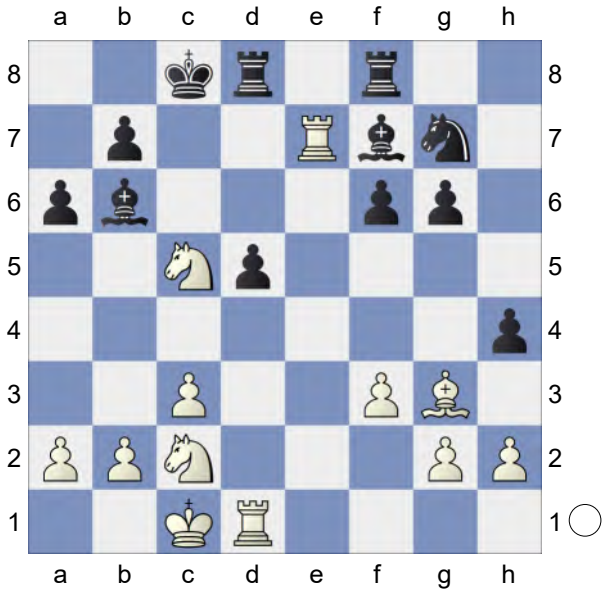
21.Nfd4 Ng7 22.Bf2 Bd6 23.Bg3 Bc5 24.Nb3 Excellent horsemanship. A dynamic duo of knights. **24...Bb6 25.Re7 Rhf8** 0.77/26

[25...Rd7= 0.01/22 26.Re2 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Nxe8]

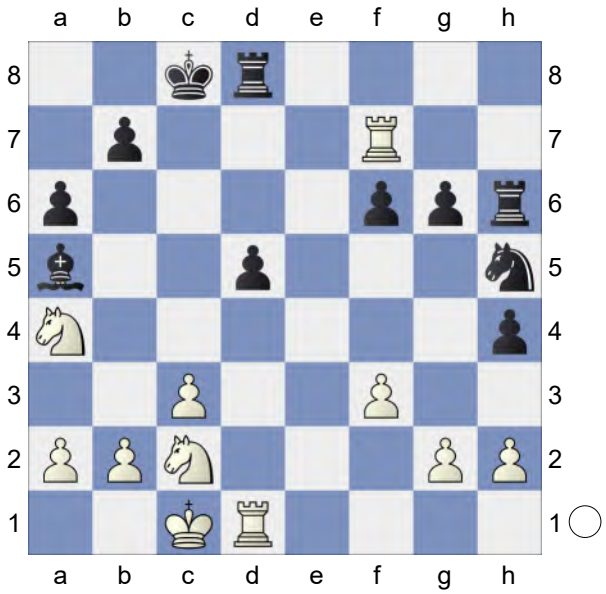
[25...Rd7= 0.16/25 26.Rxd7 Kxd7]



26.Nc5!↑ Decoy. White is in control.
26...h4

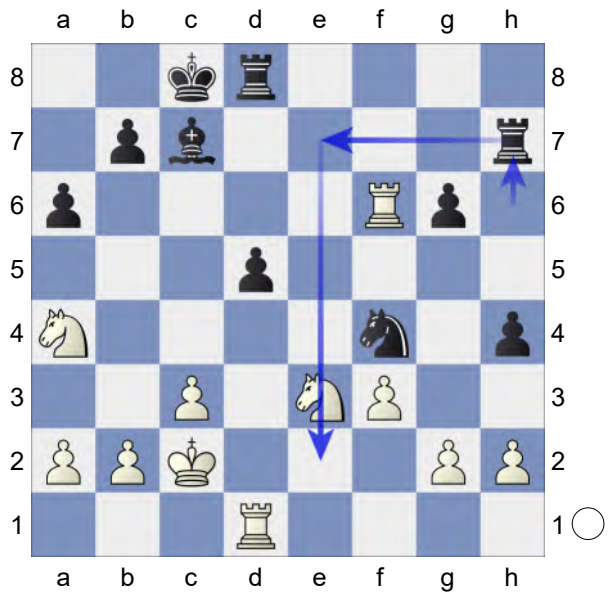


27.Bf4↑ White has strong initiative. White is much more active.
[27.Na4 0.24/20 27.Bf4 1.02]
[27.Nxb7? -1.42/22 27.Bf4 0.94 hxg3 28.Nxd8 Bxd8 29.Rxf7 Rxf7-+]
[27.Nxb7 hxg3 28.Nxd8 Bxd8 29.Rxf7 Rxf7-+]
[27.Na4 Ba5 28.Bxh4 Nf5 29.Bxf6 Be8∓]
27...Nh5 28.Na4!
[28.Nxb7? -1.24/23 28.Na4 0.88 Nxf4 29.Nxd8 Bxd8∓ *(29...Kxd8 -0.94/23* 29...Bxd8 -1.41 *30.Rb7∓)*]
[28.Rxb7? Bxc5 29.Rc7+ Kb8 30.Rxc5+ Nxf4-+]
[28.Nxb7 Nxf4 29.Nxd8 Bxd8∓ *(29...Kxd8 30.Rb7∓)*]
[28.Rxb7? Bxc5 29.Rc7+ Kb8 30.Rxc5+ Nxf4-+]
28...Ba5 1.48/24
[⌓28...Ba7 0.87/25 29.Bh6 Be8 30.Bxf8 Bxa4]
29.Bh6± Ne3! is the strong threat.
29...Rh8 30.Rxf7 Rxh6



31.Ne3 1.52/22
[31.Re1+- 1.91/24 Nf4 32.Ree7 *(32.Rxf6? Nd3+ 33.Kd1 d4-+)* 32...Nd3+ 33.Kb1]
31...Nf4 32.Rxf6 Bc7 33.Kc2 0.99/21
[Better is 33.g3 1.39/20 hxg3 34.hxg3 Ne2+ 35.Kb1]
33...Rh7

(Diagram)

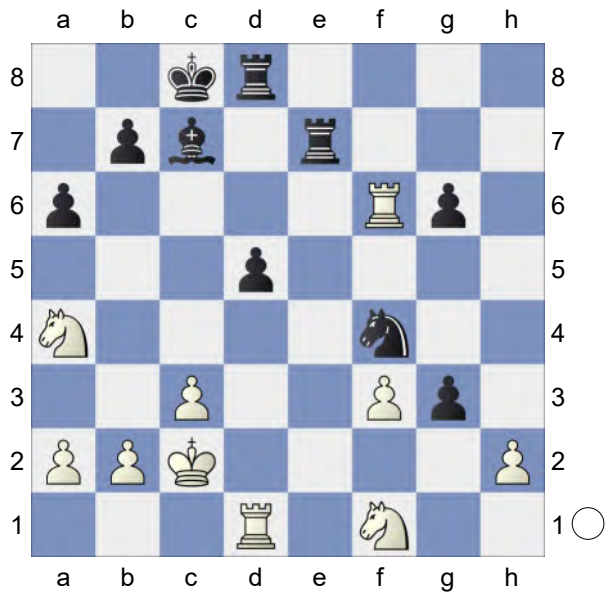


34.g3! **Re7** ...Nh5 would now be deadly. Strongly threatening ...Nh5. **35.Nf1** 0.46/23

[35.Ng4± 1.09/20 hxg3 36.hxg3 Re2+ 37.Rd2 Rxd2+ 38.Kxd2]

[35.Rxf4± 1.12/24 Rd3! would now be deadly. hxg3 *(35...Bxf4 36.Nb6+ Kb8 37.Nbxd5+-)* 36.hxg3 *(36.Nxd5 Re2+ 37.Kd3 Rg2±)* 36...Rxe3 *(36...Bxf4 37.Nb6+ Kb8 38.Nbxd5±)* 37.Rf7]

35...hxg3



36.hxg3 **Ne6** **37.b4**

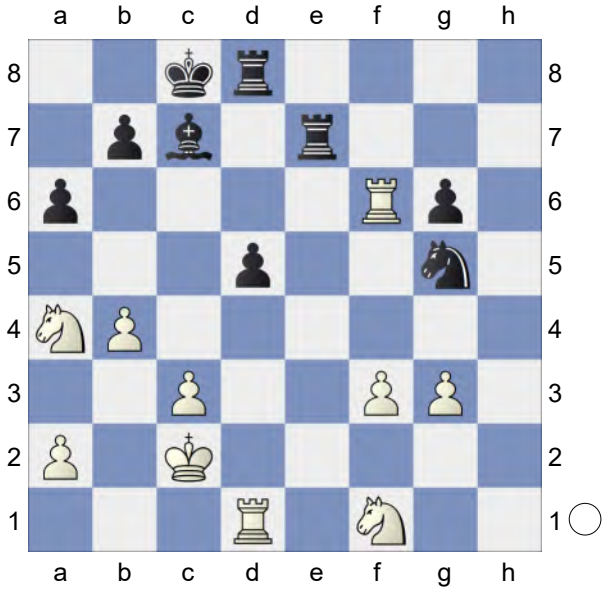
[37.Rxg6 -0.01/24 37.b4 0.71 b5=]

[37.Rxg6 b5=]

37...Ng5 1.87/24

[37...Rd6!± 0.46/21]

[37...Rd6± 0.76/23 was necessary.]



38.f4!+-

[38.Rxg6 0.50/21 38.f4 1.80 Nxf3 39.Nc5 0.01/24 *(39.Kb3± 0.45/24)* 39...Re2+= 40.Kb3 Rf2=]

[38.Rxg6 Nxf3 39.Rf6 Re2+ 40.Kb3 Ne5=]

38...Nf3 **39.Nd2** 1.28/25

[White should try 39.Rxg6+- 1.88/21 Re2+ 40.Nd2]

[White should try 39.Rxg6+- 1.64/24 Re2+ 40.Nd2]

39...Re2 2.37/25

[39...Ne1+± 1.31/20 40.Kb1 Nd3]

[39...Ne1+± 1.28/25 40.Kb1 Nd3]

40.Kd3

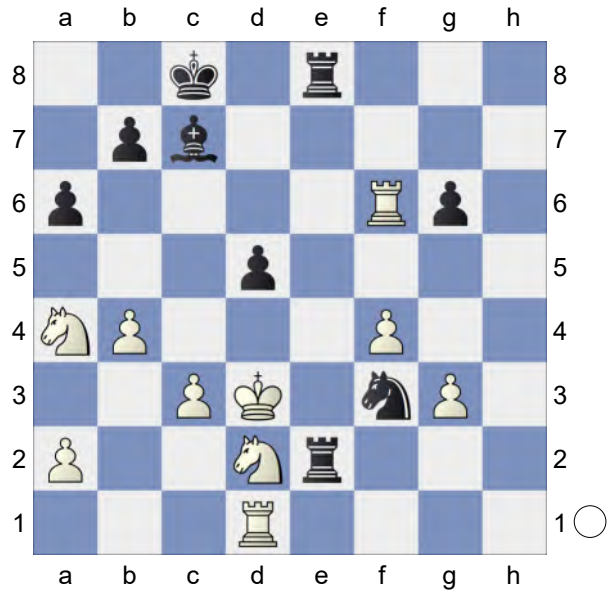
[40.Rxg6?! d4±]

[40.Rxg6 Rde8 41.Kc1 Ne1±]

40...Rde8 3.54/24

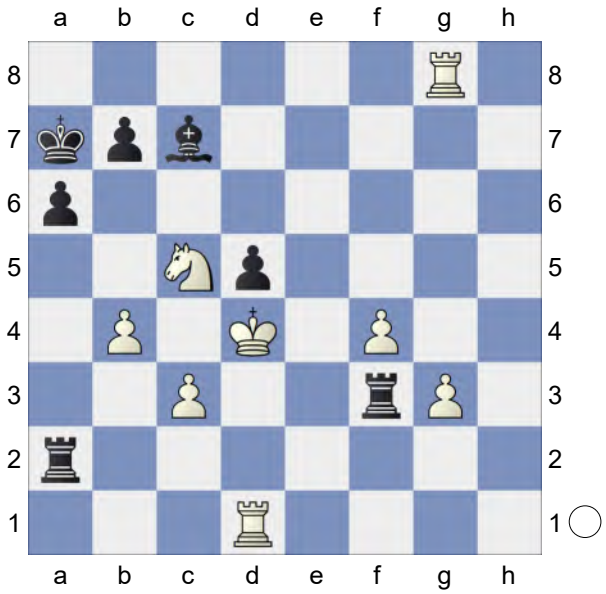
[⌓40...Rf2 2.23/22 41.Rxg6 d4]

[40...Re1 2.37/24 was called for. 41.Rxe1 Nxe1+ 42.Ke2 Re8+ 43.Kd1 Nd3 44.Rxg6 d4]



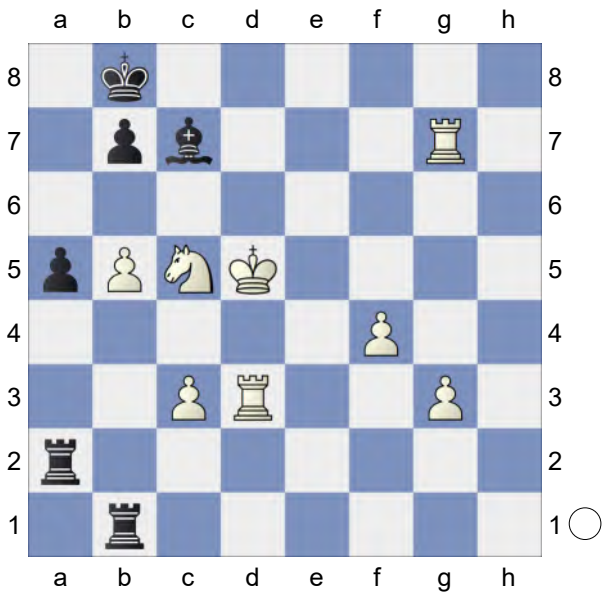
41.Nxf3 R8e3+ 42.Kd4 Rxf3 43.Rxg6
[43.Kxd5 Re8 Prevents Rf8 44.Rxg6 Rd8+ 45.Ke4 And now Rxd8+ would win. Rxf4+ 46.gxf4 Rxd1 47.Rg8+ Kd7 48.Nc5+ Kc6]
[43.Kxd5 Rxg3 44.Rf8+ Kd7±]
43...Rxa2? 8.20/25
[43...Bd8 3.73/20 44.Rg8 *(44.Kxd5 Rg2+-)* 44...Kc7 Against Nb6 45.Kxd5 Be7]
[⌓43...Re4+ 3.93/22 44.Kxd5 Re8]
44.Nc5 3.96/23 Black must now prevent Rg8+.
[⌓44.Rg8+ 8.20/25 Bd8 45.Nb6+ Kb8 46.Nxd5 *(46.Rxd8+ Kc7+-)*]
44...Kb8 45.Rg8+
[Weaker is 45.Kxd5 Rxc3 46.Rg8+ Ka7+-]
[Resist 45.Rd3 Rxd3+ 46.Nxd3 Rd2+-]
45...Ka7

(Diagram)

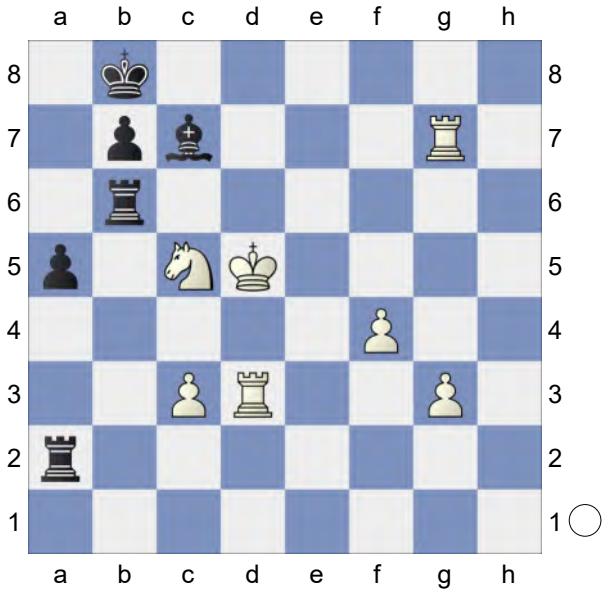


46.Rg7
[Don't do 46.Rd3 Rxd3+ 47.Kxd3 a5+-]
[Not 46.Rd3 Rxd3+ 47.Kxd3 Rf2+-]
46...Kb8 4.97/24
[46...Kb6 3.21/21 keeps fighting. 47.Kxd5 *(47.Rd3 Rxd3+ 48.Kxd3 Rg2+-)* 47...Rg2? 7.71/22 *(47...Rxc3* 2.98/19 *48.g4 Rca3)*]
47.Rd3 White is clearly winning. **47...Rf1** 5.70/20
[47...Rxd3+ 3.80/22 is a better defense. 48.Kxd3 Rg2]
48.Kxd5 White is clearly winning. **48...a5** 8.38/22
[⌓48...Rg2 5.11/18 49.Ke6 Rxf4 50.gxf4 *(50.Rxc7?* 0.01/24 50.gxf4 6.74 *Re2+ 51.Kd7 Rf7+ 52.Kd8! Rf8+ 53.Kd7 Rf7+ 54.Kd8! Rf8+ 55.Kd7 Rf7+=)* 50...Rxg7]
49.b5 And now b6! would win. **49...Rb1**

(Diagram)

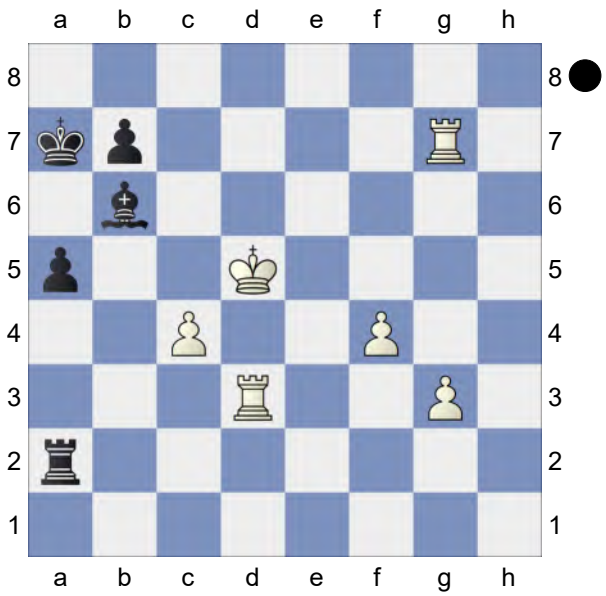


50.b6! Decoy **50...Rxb6**



51.Nd7+ Ka7 52.Nxb6 Bxb6 53.c4

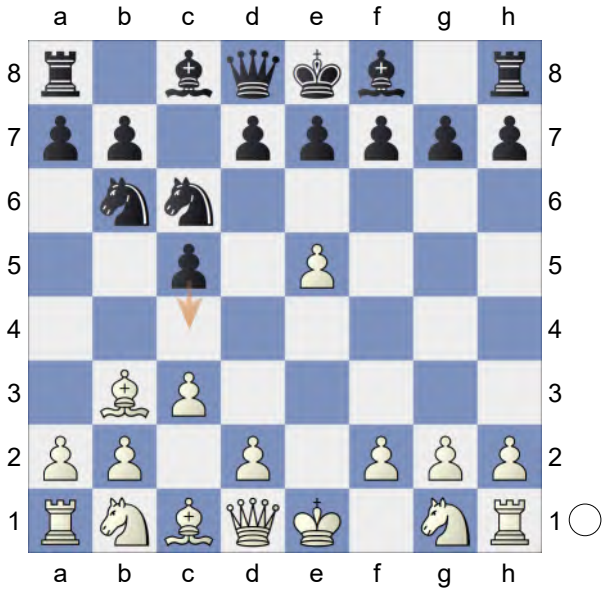
(Diagram)



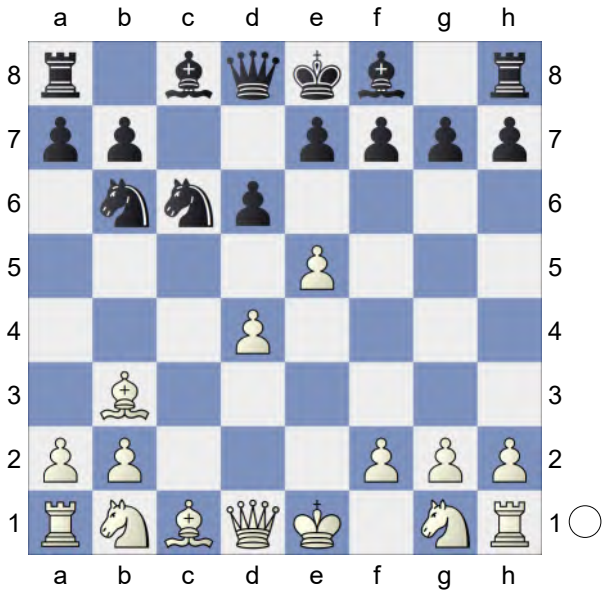
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise) .
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

183 **B22**
□ **Motylev,Alexander** **2676**
■ **Kasimdzhanov,Rustam** **2687**
Corus-B Wijk aan Zee (13) 01.02.2009
[Marin,Mihail]

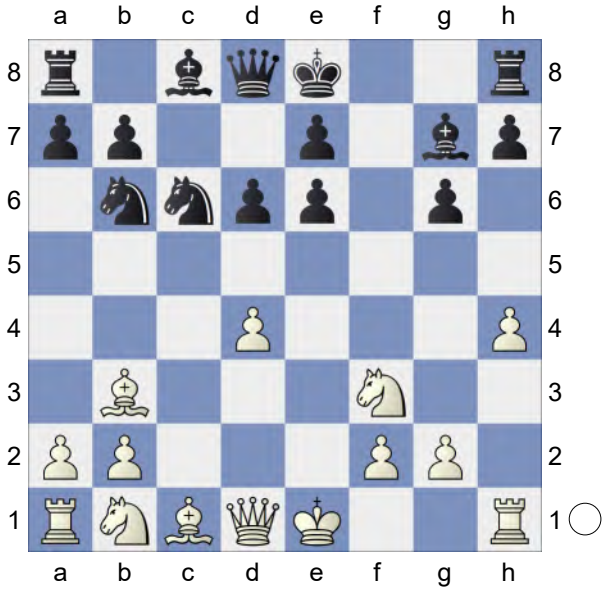
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6



6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 d6



8.e6! White is slightly better.This is one of the critical tabyias of the Pirc. I have faced it many times and tried virtually all the reasonable moves with Black. **8...fxe6** So far, this has been considered to be a sideline, but after being employed in this game by the Ex-FIDE World Champion , it may become fashionable, despite the unfavourable result. Black clears the a5-d8 diagonal, preparing the activation of the queen. The main drawback is that a further break of the enemy centre with ...c5 will suppose the loss of a tempo.
[8...Bxe6 0.70/21 8...fxe6 0.21 9.d5]
9.Nf3!? A rare move. White prevents ... ♕a5 and prepares to meet ...♘xg3 with ♘xg3. **9...g6!** This looks natural, but weakening the defence of the d6-pawn offers White the possibility to open play in the centre. **10.h4!N** White has compensation. **10...Bg7**



Black cannot maintain the tension in the centre. **11.h5 Nd5N** 0.54/18
[11...e5
A) 12.d5 Nd4 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Nd2 a5 15.a4 Nd7;
B) 12.h6 Bf6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Qxd8+ Nxd8 15.Nc3 Be6;
C) 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8

14.Nh4 exd4 *(14...Nxd4 15.Nxg6 Bf6 16.Qh5 Kd7 17.Be3 Kc7 18.Na3 Nxb3 19.axb3 Bd7 20.Rc1+ Bc6 21.g4 Rc8 22.g5 Bh8 23.Qh7 Kb8 24.Qxe7 Nd5 25.Qxd8 Rxd8 26.Nc4 Bg7 27.Ke2 Nxe3 28.Kxe3 Be8 29.Ne7* 1-0 (58) Vlassov,N (2283)-Kezin,R (2513) Barnaul Kura Memorial rapid 2023 (6)*)* 15.Nxg6 Kd7;

D) 12.dxe5 Bg4 *(12...dxe5 13.Qxd8+ Nxd8 14.Nc3 Be6; 12...Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Nc3 Qd7 16.Be3 Be6 17.Bxb6 Bxb3 18.Qxb3 axb6 19.Nd5 Ra6 20.Rac1 Ra5 21.Rc7 Qb5 22.Rc8+ Kf7 23.Qf3+ Bf6 24.Rxh8 Qxd5 25.Rxh7+ Kg8 26.Qxd5+ Rxd5 27.hxg6* 1-0 (51) Vlassov,N (2283)-Kotepalli,S (1910) Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd May Early blitz 2023 (2)*)* 13.exd6 gxh5 14.Nc3 And now Nb5 would win. Qxd6 15.Qxd6 exd6]

[11...e5= 0.09/19]

12.Nc3± Qb6? After this move White gains a clear advantage by force. **13.0-0** Black must now prevent h6.

[13.hxg6 0.02/22 13.0-0 0.52 hxg6 14.Rxh8+ Bxh8]

[13.Nxd5 exd5 14.0-0 Bg4∓]

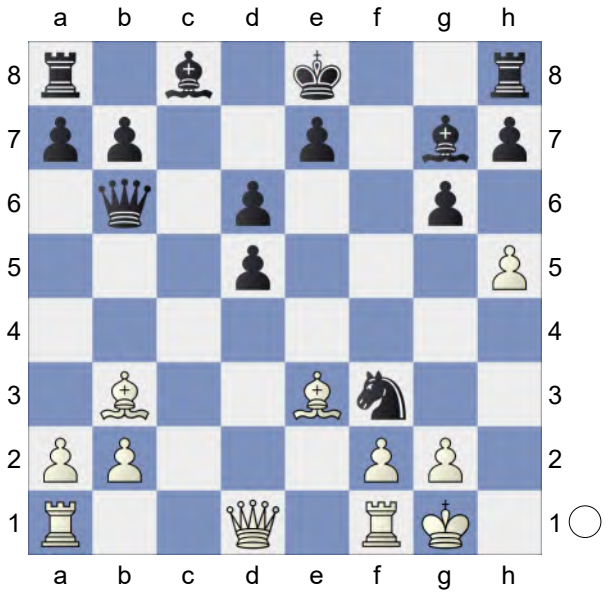
13...Nxd4 14.Nxd5 An elegant move, sacrificing the queen, but eliminating or trapping all the black developed pieces with the exception of the b6-queen.

14...exd5 15.Be3

[15.Bxd5 Qb5 16.Be3 Qxd5∓]

15...Nxf3+

(Diagram)



16.Qxf3 Qb5 17.Rad1 Rf8

[17...Be6 18.Bd4 Bxd4 19.Rxd4 0-0-0 1.33/21 *(⌓19...Rf8* 0.88/18 *20.Qe3 Bd7)* 20.Re1]

18.Qg3± White has achieved considerable material advantage and should count on winning the game.

[Reject 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Bxd5 Bxb2∓]

18...Qb4

[18...Be5 19.f4 Bf6 1.31/22 *(19...Bxb2±* 0.59/21 *20.Rxd5 Qa6)* 20.hxg6± hxg6 21.Qxg6+ Kd8 22.Rxd5]

19.hxg6?!

[Of course not 19.Bxd5 Qg4=]

19...Qg4? 2.92/19 A mistake that costs the game.

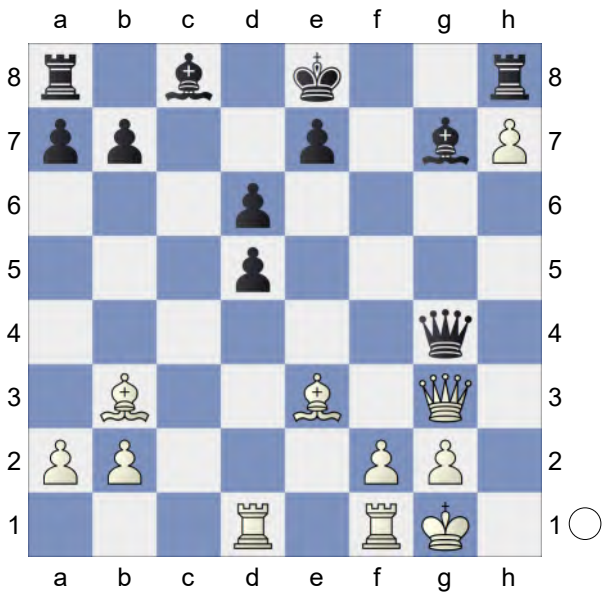
[19...Qe4 20.Rfe1 Qxg6 21.Bg5 Be5 22.Rxe5 dxe5 23.Rxd5 h6 2.31/21 *(23...Be6±* 1.12/20 *24.Rxe5 h6)* 24.Rd8++- Kxd8 25.Bxe7+!]

[19...Qe4± 0.94/21 was necessary.]

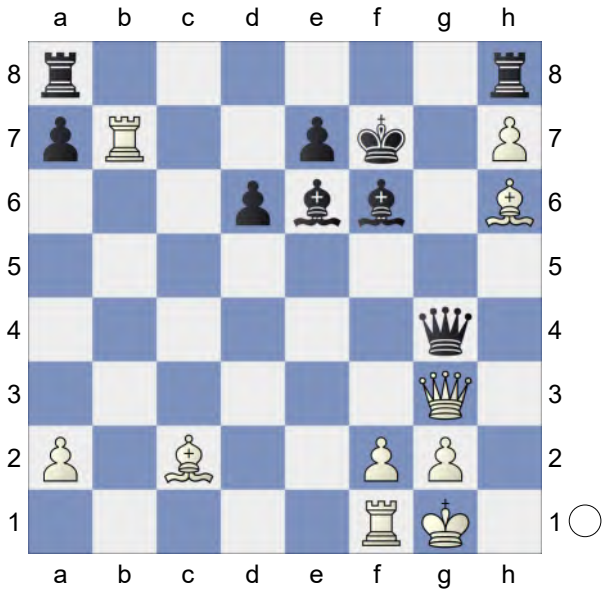
20.gxh7+- Rh8?

[20...Qxg3 21.fxg3]

(Diagram)

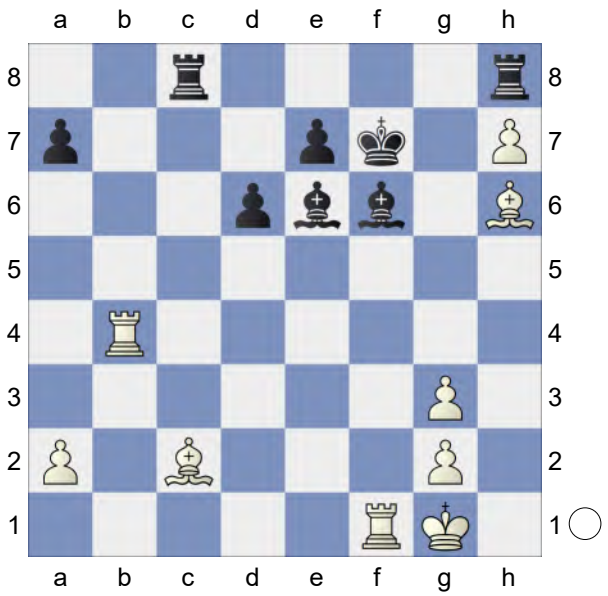


21.Bc2
[Weaker is 21.Bxd5 Rxh7 22.Qxg4 Bxg4±]
21...Bxb2 22.Rxd5 Be6 Strongly threatening ...Qxg3. **23.Rb5 Bf6 24.Rxb7±** Things have reentered the normal paths and Black is in a hopeless situation. **24...Kf8 25.Bh6+ Kf7**

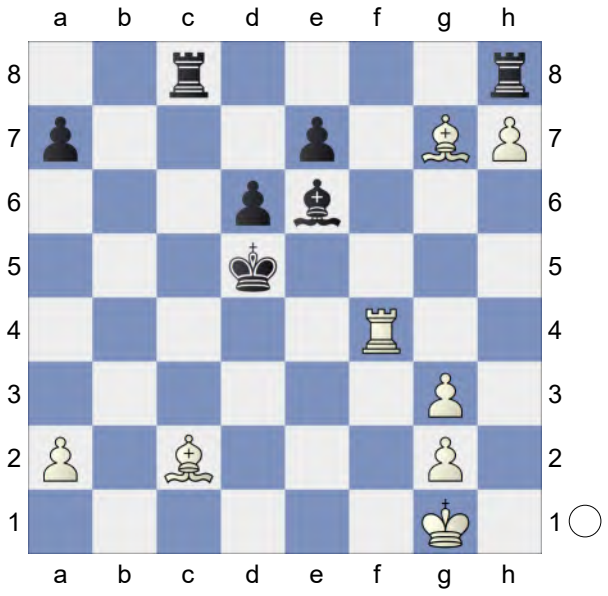


26.Rb4!! Deflection **26...Qxg3 27.fxg3 Rac8?** 7.56/21
[27...Rab8 3.23/20 28.Rxb8 Rxb8]

(Diagram)

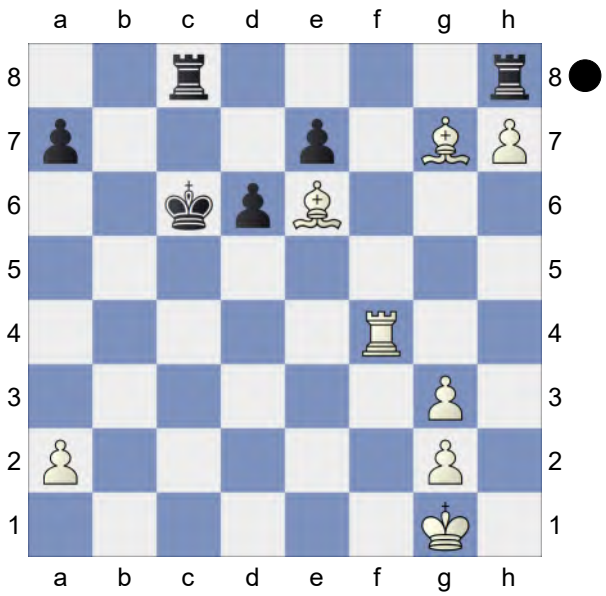


28.Rxf6+!+- White is clearly winning.
28...Kxf6
[28...exf6 29.Rb7+ Ke8 30.Bg7 Rxh7 31.Ba4+ Kd8 32.Bxf6+]
29.Rf4+ Ke5 30.Bg7+ Kd5



31.Bb3+ Skewer, Deflection. This pair of bishops is nice. **31...Kc6 32.Bxe6**

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.41

1-0

184 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
Bullet Chess Losers blitz (5.17) 21.07.23
[John Watson]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 This is an Alapin Sicilian, but since it's the equivalent of 1 e4 e6 2 c3 c5, I felt some analysis would be appropriate in this month's column.

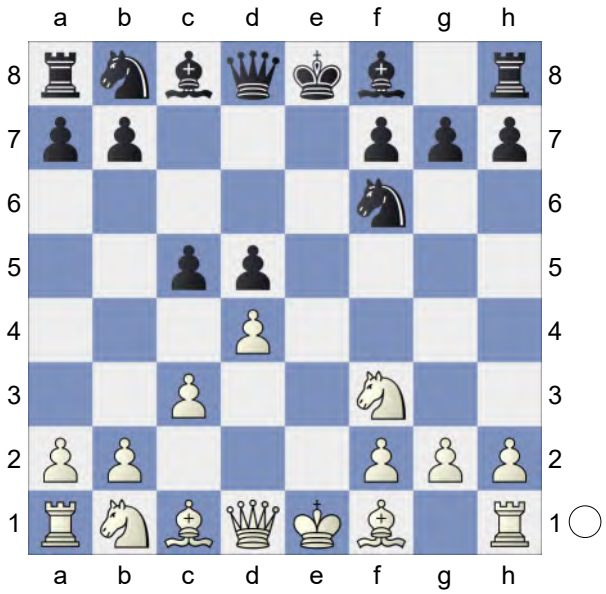
3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3

[A very recent game went 5.Be3 Nf6!? This risks staying a pawn down, but in a Blitz game that's not too concerning. *(5...c4* and*; 5...cxd4 6.Bxd4 Nc6* are much more common alternatives.*)* 6.dxc5 *(6.Nf3* gives Black another chance for *c4* or 6...Qb6*)* 6...Nc6 7.b4 *(7.Nd2!)* 7...Be7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Ng4 10.Bd4 Nxd4 *(10...Bf6 11.h3 Nge5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Bxe5 Nxe5 14.Nb3±)* 11.cxd4 Bf6 12.Be2 Re8 13.0-0 Bf5 14.h3 Nh6 15.Re1 and White is a pawn up for nothing, but Black eventually prevailed in Bortnyk,O (2607)-Caruana,F (2782) Chess.com 2023.]

5...Nf6

[Carlsen was White in our other game with this variation, which went 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd6 *(6...Nf6* transposes to the main game *)* 7.dxc5 Bxc5 - see this month's game Carlsen-Dubov]

(Diagram)



6.Bb5+ Nc6 transposes to the main game

[Usually, the reason for playing 5... Nf6 instead of 5...Nc6 is to answer 6 Bb5+ with 6...Bd7 , which has excellent practical results. Of course the whole game lies ahead.]

7.0-0 Bd6!? Perhaps trying to confuse White a bit. Carlsen has also played the normal

[7...Be7 , when 8.dxc5 transposes.]

8.dxc5

[8.Bg5 is presumably the reason that Black prefers 7...Be7. Then cxd4!? *(8...Be6* is fairly solid*)* 9.Re1+ Be6 10.Nxd4 0-0! tries to get compensation for a pawn after 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Rxe6 Qd7]

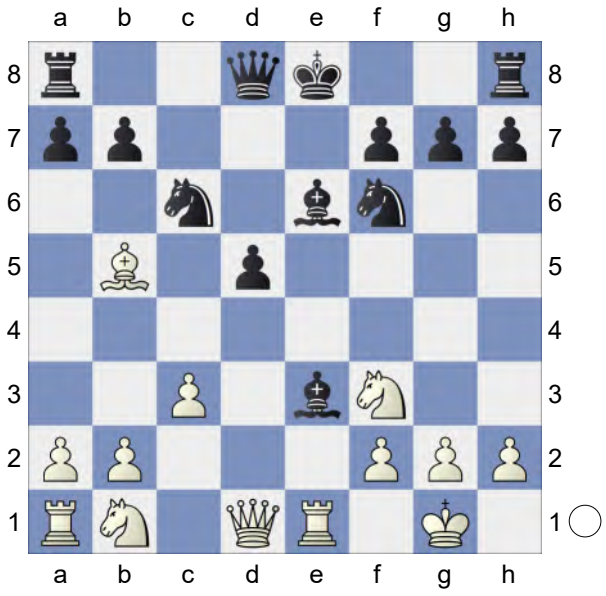
8...Bxc5 9.Re1+N

[Another Carlsen game went 9.Bg5 0-0 *(9...Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.h3 Qb6 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Nb3 Re8 14.Qc2 h6 15.Be3 c5 16.Rfe1 Bb7 17.Ne5 Qc7 18.Nf3 Rad8 19.Rad1 Bd6 20.Bc1 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Qc8 22.Nbd2 Nh5 23.Nf1 d4 24.cxd4* ½-½ (77) Tangborn,E (1955)-Krnak,V (2144) Nuremberg 1888 (3)*)* 10.Bxf6

Qxf6 11.Qxd5 Bb6
A) 12.Nbd2 Rd8 13.Qh5!? *(13.Qe4! Bf5 14.Qf4* 6) 2...e6 3. d4 d5 Main Lines-7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.O-O Nf6 #1 *)* 13...Bf5 14.Nc4 Bc7 15.Rfe1 g6 16.Qh6± Xiong,J (2685)-Andreikin,D (2729) Chess.com INT 2022;
B) 12.Na3 Bf5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qe5 Qe6 15.Rfe1 Rad8 Anton Guijarro,D (2691)-Carlsen,M (2864) chess24.com 2022 and here 16.Qf4! Qc8 17.Qa4 was a good course, since along with the extra pawn, White's knights are almost a match for Black's bishops in this structure.]

9...Be6 10.Be3
[10.Nd4 0-0! 11.Bg5∞]

10...Bxe3

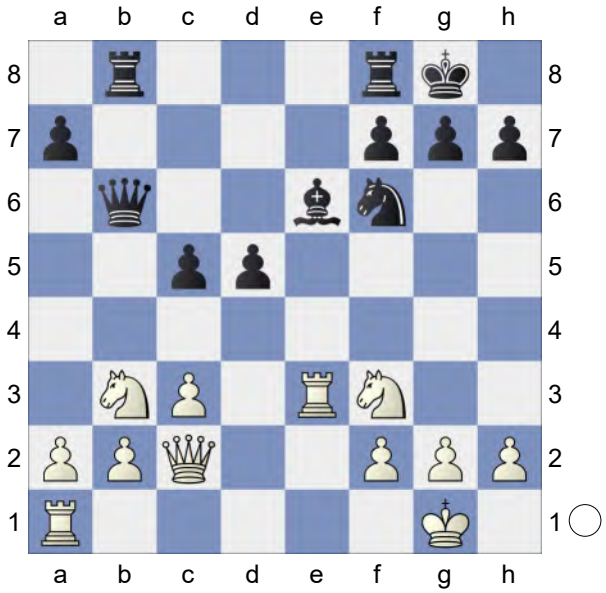


11.Rxe3 0-0
[11...Qb6 12.Qb3 0-0 13.Bf1 Qxb3 14.axb3 d4=]

12.Nbd2!? Qb6! 13.Bxc6
[13.Qa4 a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Qb4 Qc7]

13...bxc6 14.Nb3?! -0.72/21
[14.b4]
[14.Qa4= -0.27/19]

14...c5∓ Black has the superior center and useful open lines. **15.Qc2 Rab8**



16.Re2 -1.07/20
[16.Rb1∓ -0.68/18 is more appropriate.]

16...a5 -0.55/19
[16...Bg4!∓]
[16...Bg4∓ -1.07/20 17.Rae1 a5]

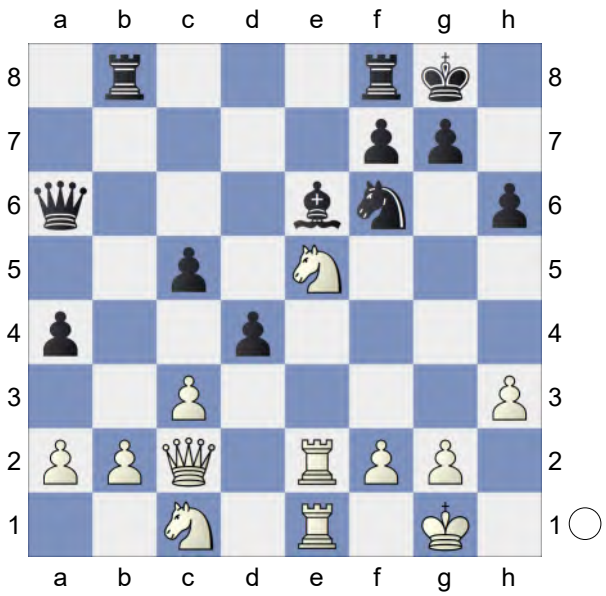
17.Rae1 h6 -0.53/18
[17...Bg4!∓]
[17...a4∓ -0.89/21 18.Nc1 a3]

18.h3∓ a4 19.Nc1 Qa6 -0.07/20
[19...a3 20.b3 Rfd8∓]
[19...a3∓ -0.49/21 should be considered. 20.b3 Rfd8]

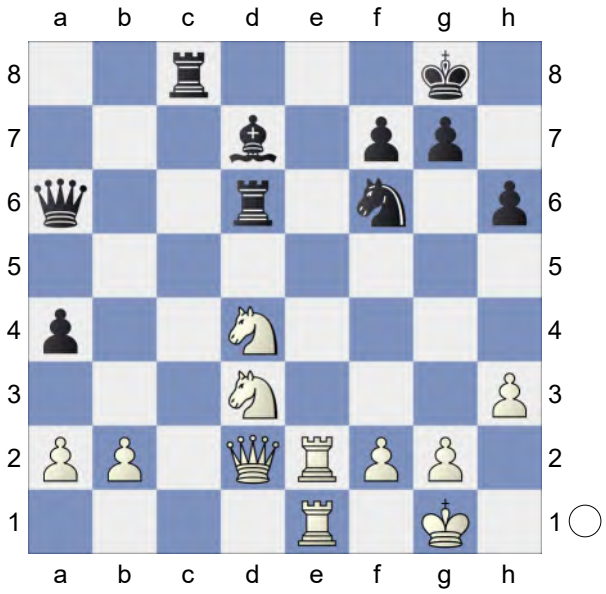
20.Ne5 -0.71/19
[20.Nd3= -0.07/20 keeps the balance. Rfc8 21.Nfe5]

20...d4? -0.01/22
[Better is 20...a3∓ -0.71/19 21.b3 Qd6]

(Diagram)

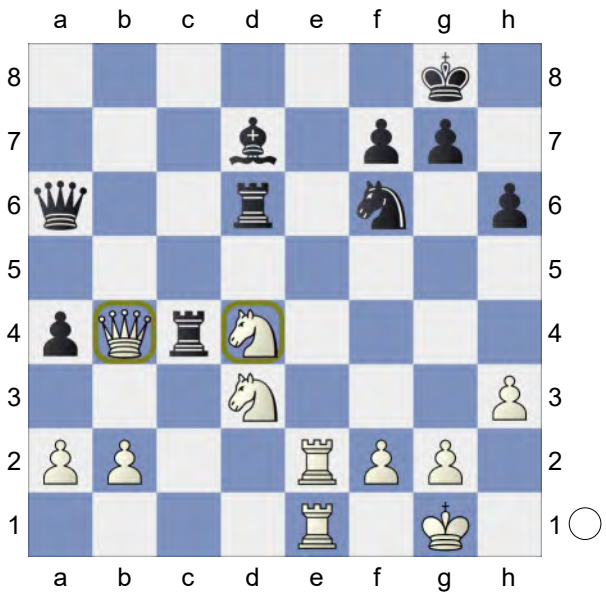


21.cxd4 cxd4 22.Nc6! Rb6 23.Nxd4 Bd7 0.61/20
[23...Rc8= 0.07/19 24.Qb1 Bc4]
24.Nd3± Rc8 25.Qd2 -0.45/21
[25.Nc5± 0.75/22 Qa5 26.Re5]
25...Rd6∓

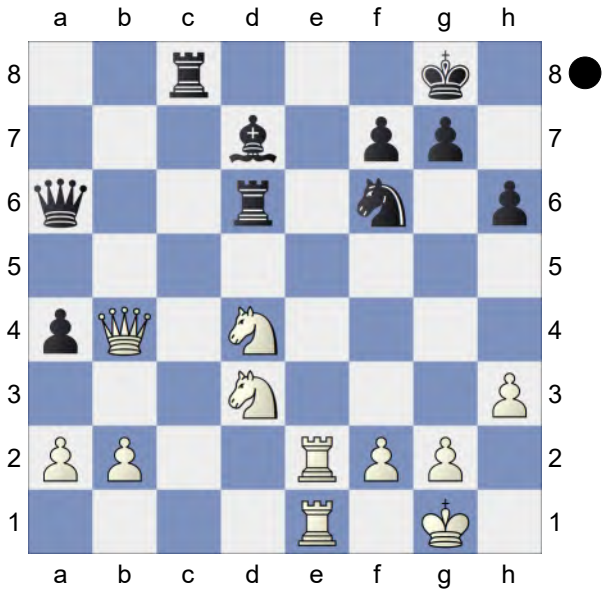


Black has compensation. **26.Qb4 Rc4**

(Diagram)



Double Attack **27.Qb8+ Rc8** 0.01/23
[Black should try 27...Kh7∓ -1.04/22
28.Nb4 Qb6 29.Qxb6 Rxb6]
28.Qb4= Rc4 Double Attack **29.Qb8+ Rc8** 0.01/22
[29...Kh7∓ -0.36/24 was preferrable.
30.Nb4 Qb6 31.Qxb6 Rxb6]
30.Qb4



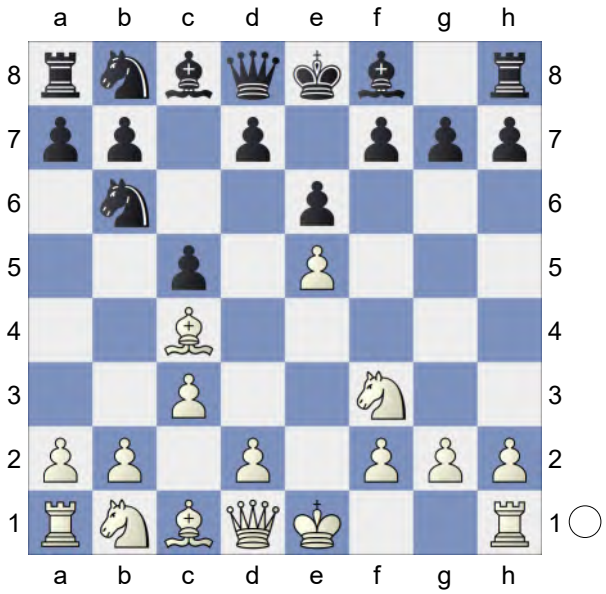
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
½-½

185 **B22**
□ **Tiviakov,Sergei** **2631**
■ **Castano,Duvan Martin** **2332**
Huila Centenary op (1) 10.05.2005
[Jonathan Rowson]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 If you already play the c3 Sicilian, or if you are thinking about it, I strongly recommend that you look at how the following GMs play it: Tivakov, Sermek, Pavasovic and Rozentalis. I would even go so far as to say that if you don't play it the way that they do, you are probably doing something wrong! In any case, I have noticed that they all seem to prefer to play an early Bc4, leaving d4 until later. Rowson,Jonathan: 'If you already play the c3 Sicilian, or if you are thinking about it, I strongly recommend that you look at how the following GMs play it: Tivakov, Sermek, Pavasovic and Rozentalis. I would even go so far as to say that if you don't play it the way that they do, you are probably doing something wrong! In any case, I have noticed that they all seem to prefer to play an early Bc4, leaving d4 until later.' **5...Nb6**

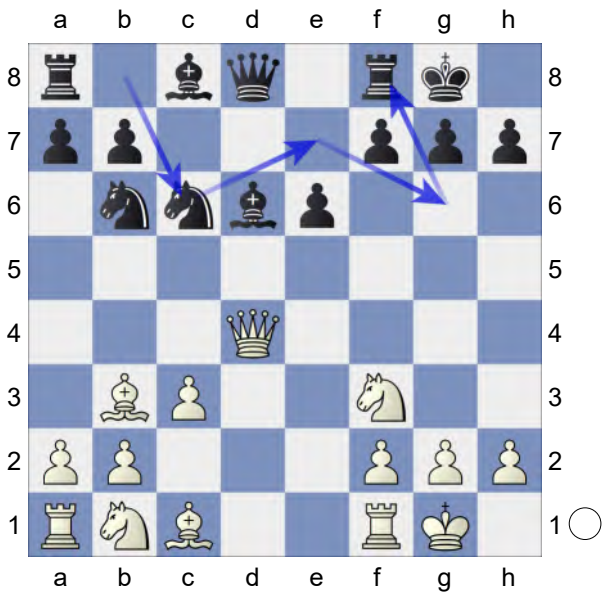
[5...b6!?]
[5...d6]
[5...Nc6]

(Diagram)

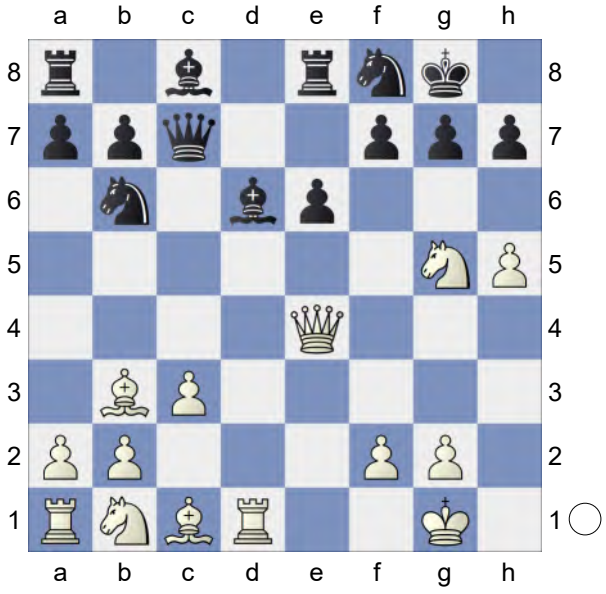


It is not necessary to retreat the knight. Black should probably opt for one of the following: Rowson,Jonathan: 'It is not necessary to retreat the knight. Black should probably opt for one of the following:' **6.Bb3 d6 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Qxd4!** One of the benefits of delaying d4 is that you can sometimes recapture on d4 with the queen. The only reason Black has problems here is that the knight on b6 should really be on f6. Without it, black's kingside lacks protection, and Tiviakov gets straight to the point. Rowson,Jonathan: 'One of the benefits of delaying d4 is that you can sometimes recapture on d4 with the queen. The only reason Black has problems here is that the knight on b6 should really be on f6. Without it, black's kingside lacks protection, and Tiviakov gets straight to the point.' **9...0-0 10.0-0 Nc6**

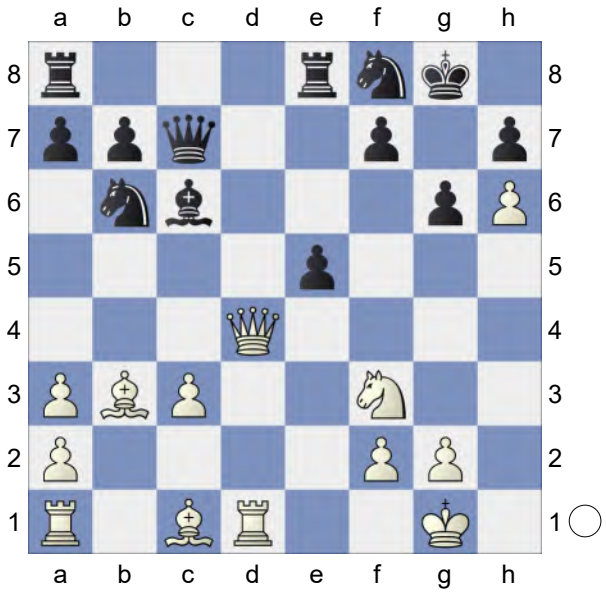
(Diagram)



11.Qe4 Ne7 12.Ng5! 0.01/21
[12.a4± 0.40/16]
12...Ng6= 13.h4! Re8 0.81/19
[13...Nd7= -0.10/19]
14.h5 Nf8 15.Rd1 Qc7

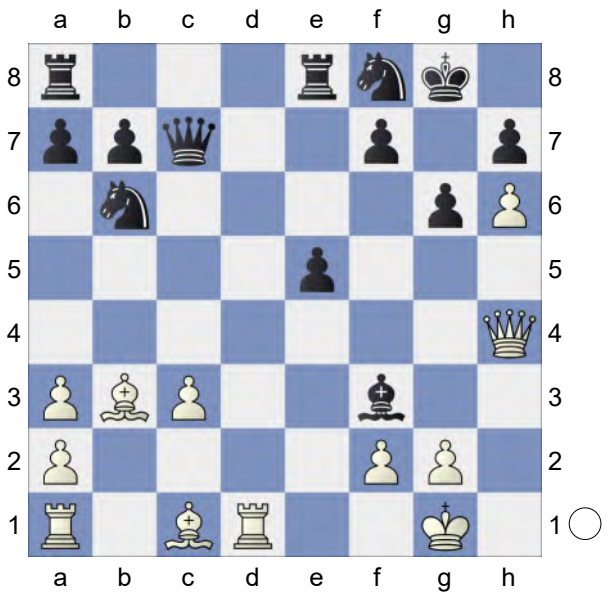


16.h6 White is much more active. The black rooks are passive. **16...g6** 1.73/20 The first wave of the attack has been repelled, but at a huge cost- the h6 pawn is a massive asset for white- like being a pawn up or perhaps even more. Rowson,Jonathan: 'The first wave of the attack has been repelled, but at a huge cost- the h6 pawn is a massive asset for white- like being a pawn up or perhaps even more.'
[16...gxh6± 0.76/16 was necessary.
17.Nf3 Ng6]
17.Na3+- Bd7 Inhibits Nb5. **18.Nf3** intending Bg5. Wards off Bh2+. Strongly threatening Qd4. **18...Bxa3?** Looks like Black couldn't handle the tension. Now it will be almost impossible to hold the kingside dark squares in the long term. Rowson,Jonathan: 'Looks like Black couldn't handle the tension. Now it will be almost impossible to hold the kingside dark squares in the long term.' **19.bxa3 Bc6** Black is weak on the dark squares **20.Qd4** Provoking e5 in order to increase the scope of the bishop on b3. Rowson,Jonathan: 'Provoking e5 in order to increase the scope of the bishop on b3.' **20...e5**

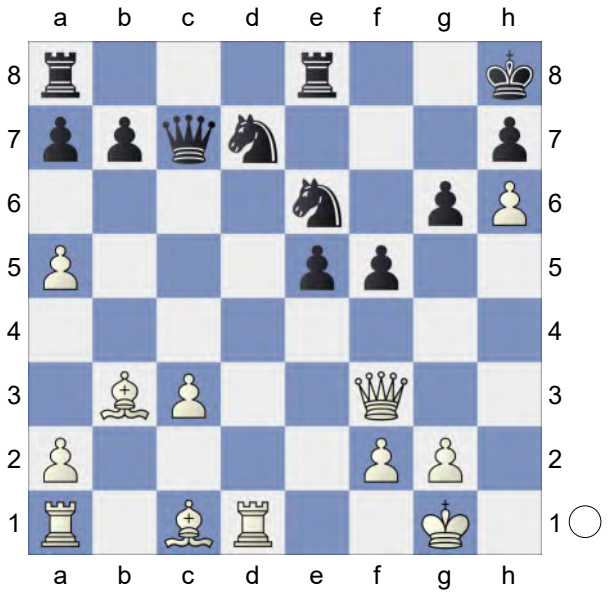


21.Qh4→ aiming for Qf6. Black is in trouble. **21...Bxf3** 1.38/22
[Black should try 21...Qe7 0.97/20]

(Diagram)

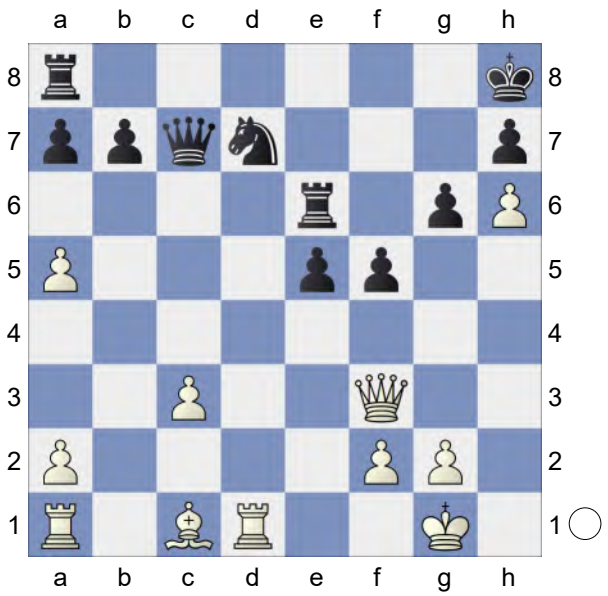


22.Qf6!± Ne6 Repels Qg7+ **23.Qxf3**
[23.gxf3 Nd7 24.Qh4 Ndc5±]
23...f5 24.a4 Kh8? 3.10/22 A mistake that costs the game.
[24...Rac8± 1.11/19]
25.a5+- Nd7 5.15/23
[25...Nc4 3.30/20 is a better defense. 26.Bxc4 Deflection Qxc4 27.Qxb7 Rac8]

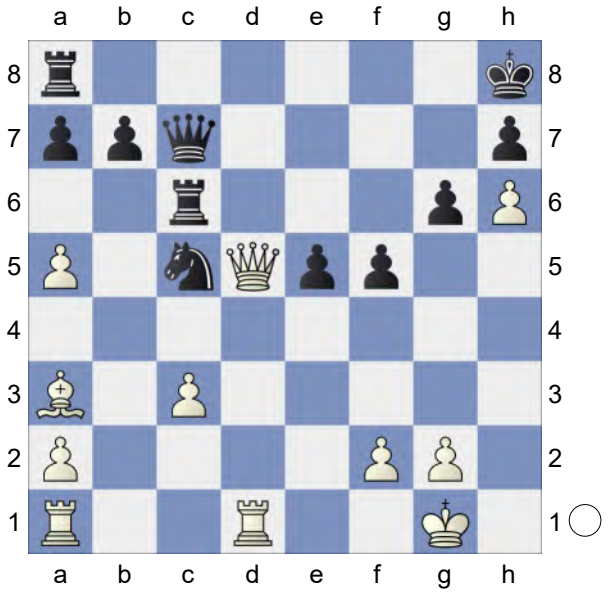


26.Bxe6 Rxe6

(Diagram)

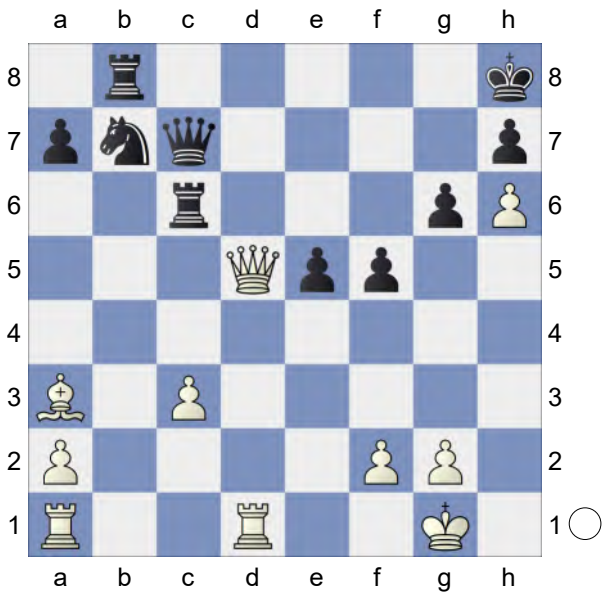


27.Qd5! Nc5 28.Ba3 Rc6

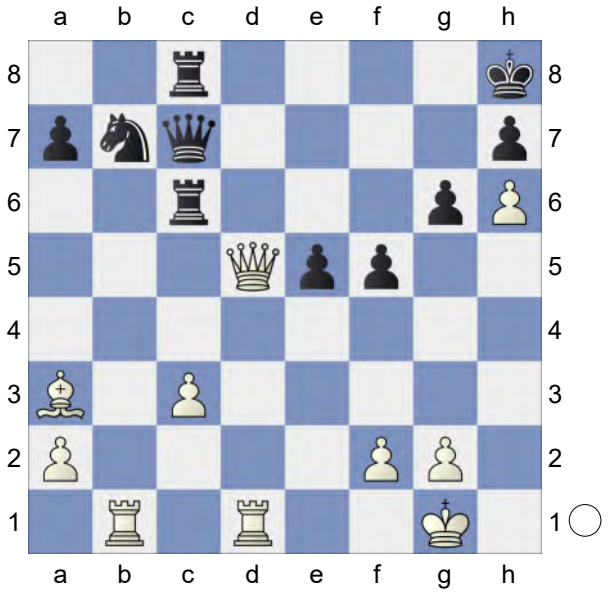


29.a6! Tiviakov's play is crisp and to the point-now Black's position begins to collapse. Rowson,Jonathan: 'Tiviakov's play is crisp and to the point-now Black's position begins to collapse.'
29...Rb8 8.92/25
[⌓29...Nxa6 4.98/23 30.Bd6 Qxd6]
[29...Re8 30.axb7]
30.axb7 And now Rab1 would win.
30...Nxb7

(Diagram)

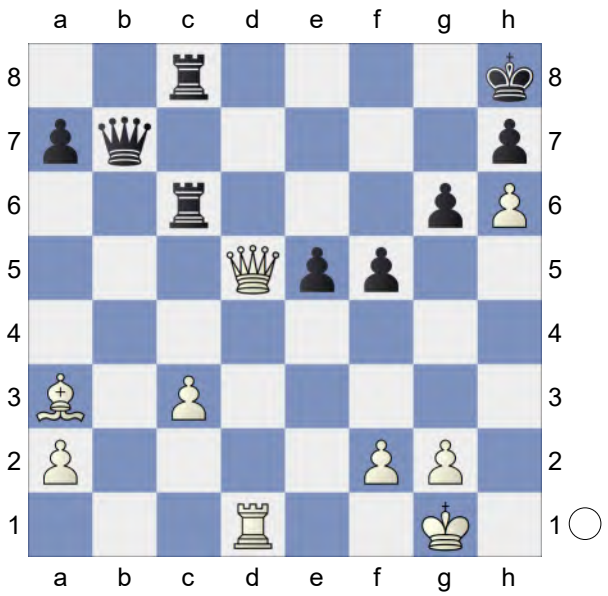


31.Rab1 Rxb7! would kill now. **31...Rc8**

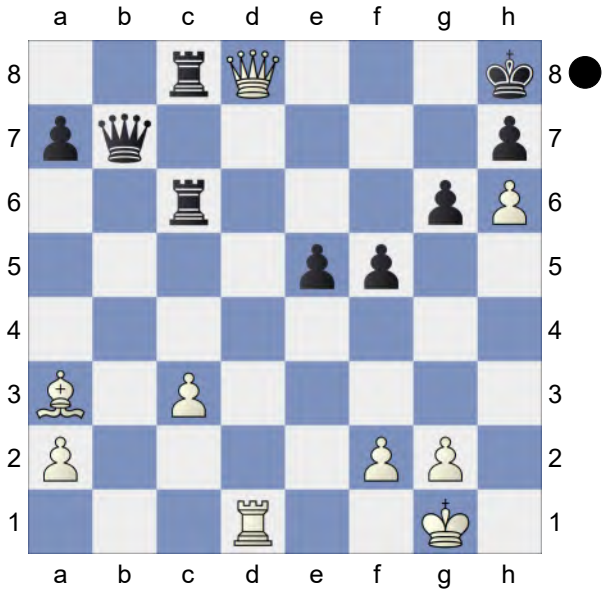


32.Rxb7! Remove Defender, Back Rank
32...Qxb7N
[32...Rf8 33.Rxc7]

(Diagram)



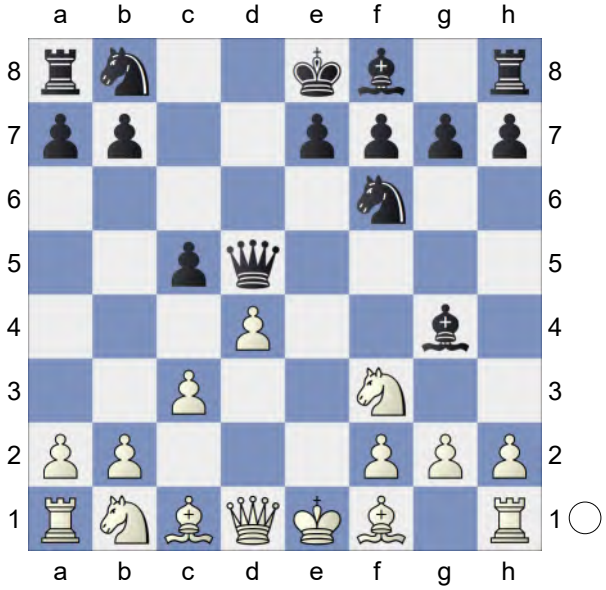
33.Qd8+!!



1-0 (33) Tiviakov,S (2631)-Castano,D (2332) Neiva COL 2005 The Week in Chess 550 [Jonathan Rowson]. Back Rank.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.64
1-0

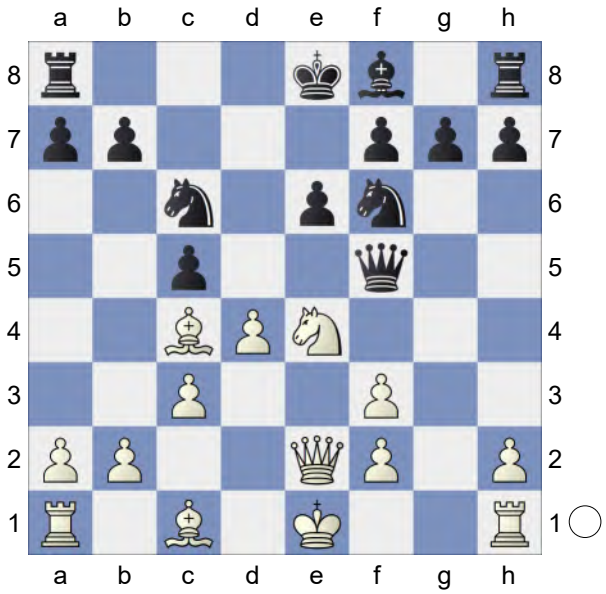
186 **B22**
□ **Ellithorpe,Gilbert P** **2660**
■ **Jaivardhan,Raja Pilla** **2635**
USSR 44/301 (11) 26.01.1996
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4

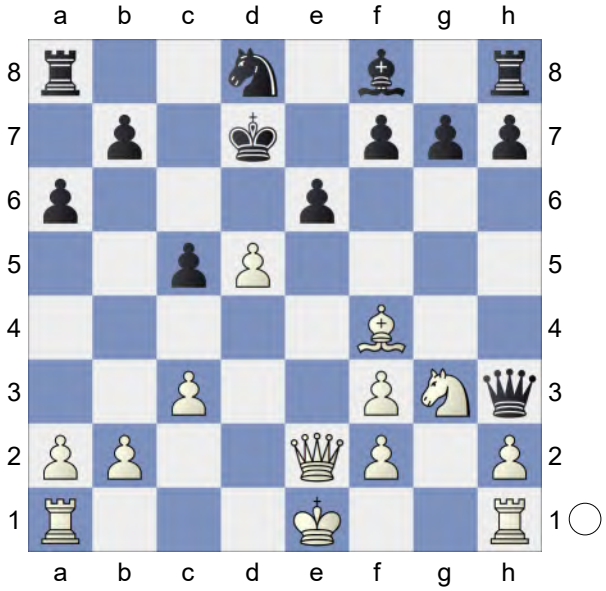


6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.Bc4 Bxf3 8.gxf3
[8.Qxf3 simplifies Qxf3 9.Nxf3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4]
8...Qg5 0.76/21
[8...Qf5= -0.10/19]
9.Ne4± Discovered Attack **9...Qf5**
10.Qe2 Nd6+ would now be deadly. White is more active.
[10.dxc5 Nxe4 11.Qd3 *(11.Bd3? 0-0-0-+)* 11...e6 *(11...b5? 12.Bxb5 Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.fxe4+-)* 12.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 13.fxe4 Bxc5±]
[10.Nxc5 e5]
10...e6
[10...cxd4? loses. 11.Nd6+ Kd8 12.Nxf5+-]

(Diagram)

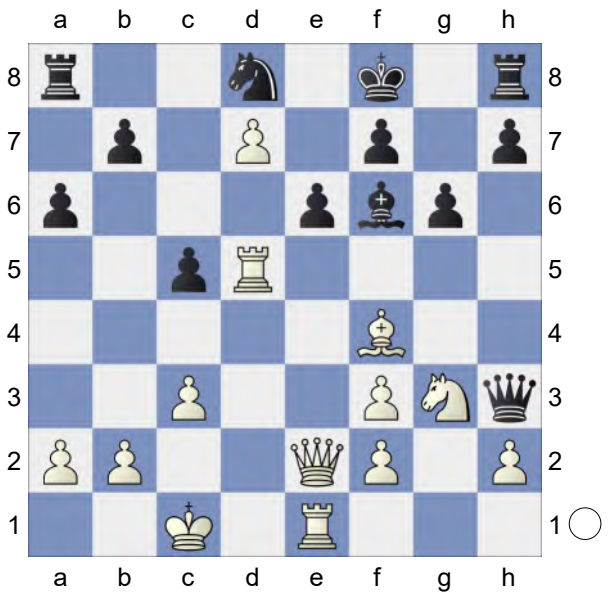


White is better. **11.Ng3! Qh3N**
[11...Qg6 12.Bd3 B 22/23 2000]
12.d5 Nd8 13.Bb5+ Nd7 14.Bf4
Black is weak on the light squares
14...a6 15.Bxd7+ Kxd7

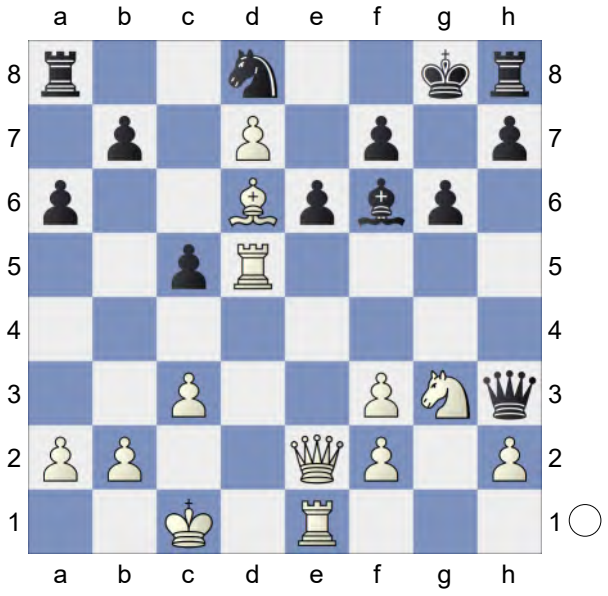


16.0-0-0 Ke8 17.Rhe1 Black must now prevent Qe5. **17...Be7 18.d6 Bf6 19.d7+ Kf8 20.Rd5** Back Rank
20...g6? 4.58/24
[20...h5 2.49/19 21.Bd6+ *(21.Rxc5 Nc6+-)* 21...Kg8]

(Diagram)

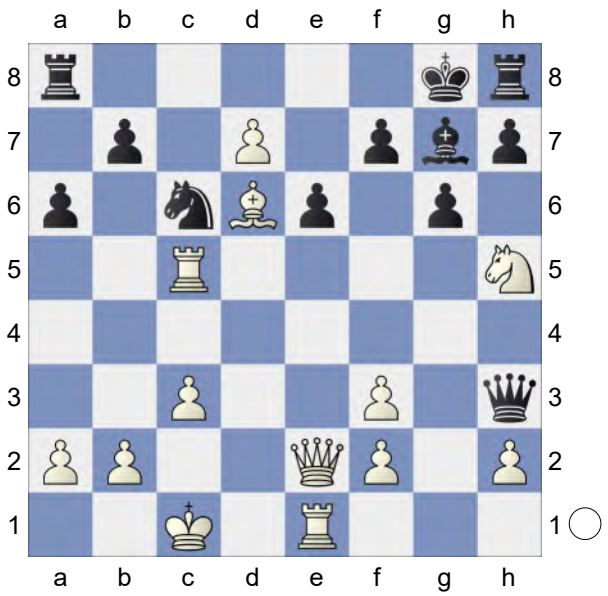


21.Bd6++- Kg8

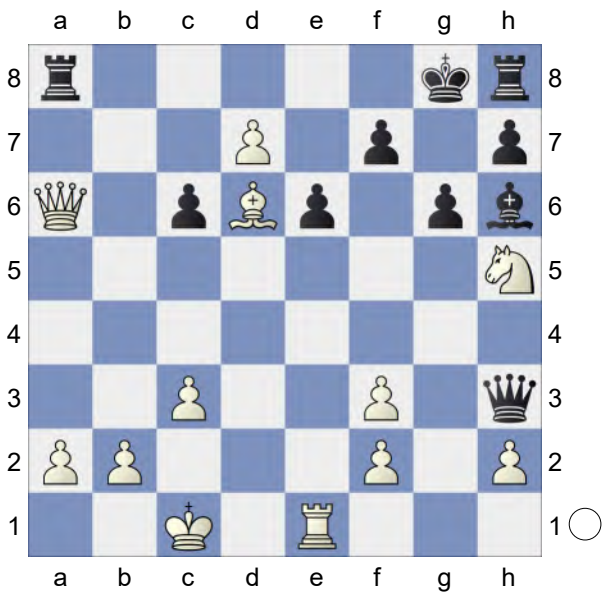


22.Nh5! Bg7
[22...Qh4 23.Bg3]
23.Rxc5 Nc6

(Diagram)

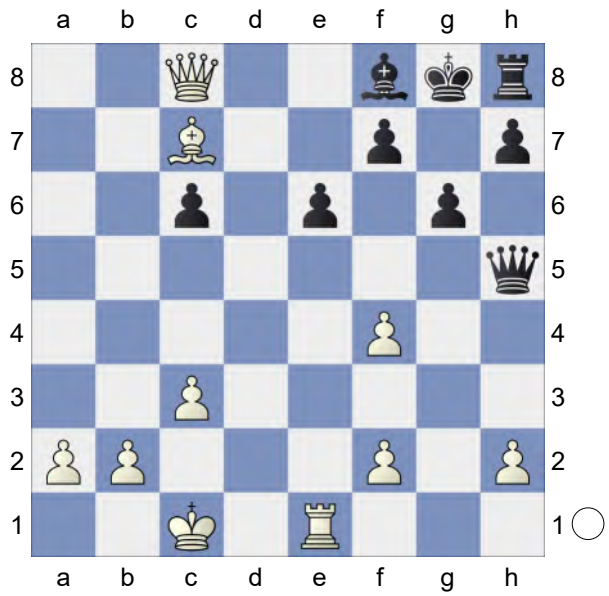


24.Rxc6! bxc6 25.Qxa6 Double Attack
25...Bh6+ 9.43/24
[⌓25...Rd8 4.52/20 26.Qc8 Qh4]

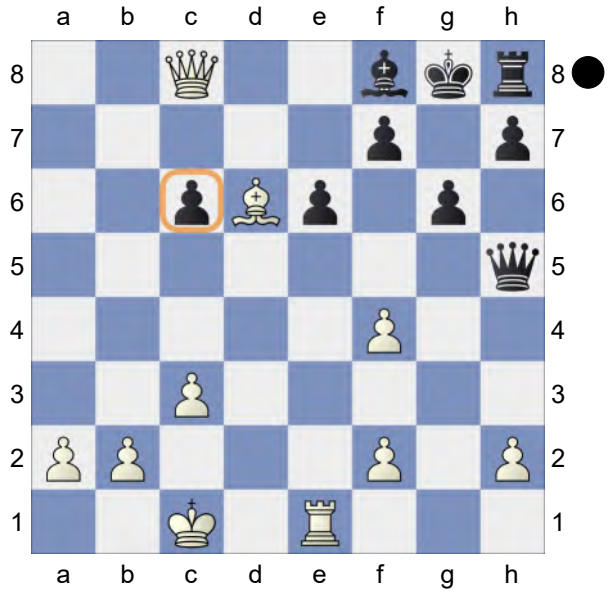


26.f4 Rd8 27.Qc8 Qh4 28.Bc7 Pin
28...Rf8 29.d8Q Qxh5 30.Qxf8+? 3.21/5
[30.Rxe6 13.45/23 White wants to mate with Bd6! Qc5 31.Qxf8+ *(31.Re8 Kg7+-)* 31...Bxf8 32.Bd6]
30...Bxf8

(Diagram)



31.Bd6



Discovered Attack. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.41

1-0

187 **B22**
□ **Feller,S** **2573**
■ **Donchenko,Alexander** **2581**
Bundesliga 2016-17 (7.4) 18.02.2017
[John Emms]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Markovic,Ivan: 'Markovic,Iv: 'Inf 84/(85)''

1.e4 c5 2.c3 b6 3.d4 Bb7 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.Qe2

[5.f3 cxd4 6.cxd4 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nc3 d6! is fine for Black. 9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.Rc1 0-0! 11.0-0 e5! 12.Bc4 exd4 13.Nxd4 Rc8 Black has three pawns for the piece and White's king has no pawn cover. 14.Qe2 Re8 15.Ba6!? Bxa6 16.Qxa6 Nc5 17.Qa3!? d5]

[5.Nd2 cxd4 *(5...g6 6.Ngf3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.Qe2 cxd4? 10.cxd4! Nc6 11.a3 Nd7 12.Qe3 e5? 13.d5 Nd4 14.b4 f5)* 6.cxd4 Nc6

A) 7.Ngf3 e6 *(7...Nb4 8.Bb1 Ba6)* 8.e5 Nd5 9.Ne4 f5;

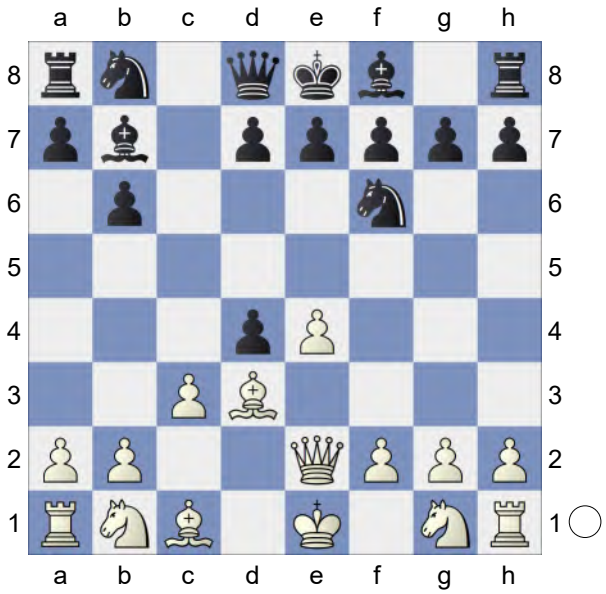
B) 7.Ne2 with compensation. 7...e6 8.0-0 Be7= Against 9.a3 Black has the counter-desperado 0-0! 10.Nf3 Rc8 with roughly level chances. 11.Bg5]

5...cxd4

[5...e6 Donchenko's 11...Bg4 12 h3 Nh5! is a clever idea and seems to be fine for Black. 6.Nf3! Be7 is the last chance. 7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.dxc5 *(8.a3)* 8...bxc5 9.e5 Nd5 10.Ne4 Qc7! 11.Ng3! is more resilient. f6!?]

[5...g6!]

(Diagram)



6.cxd4

[6.Nf3 dxc3 7.Nxc3 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bg5 0-0 10.e5]

6...Nc6 7.Nf3

[7.d5]

7...Nb4 8.Nc3 Nxd3+

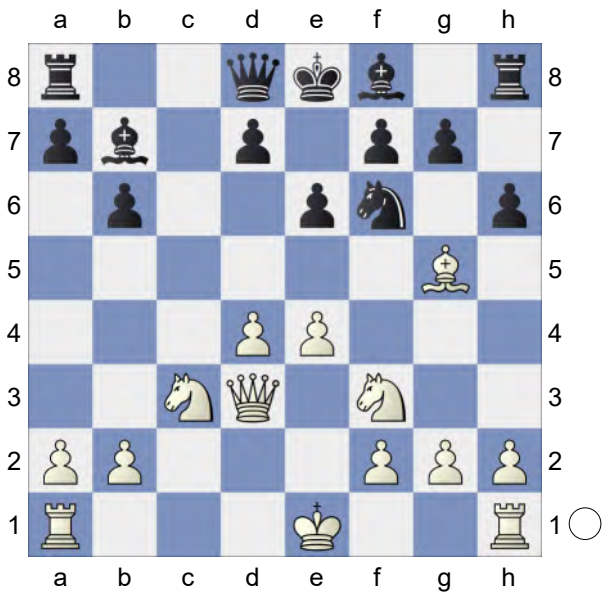
[8...e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Bb1 Ba6 11.Nb5 d5 12.e5 Ne4 13.a4 Rc8 14.Bxe4]

9.Qxd3 e6

[9...Qc8 10.Bg5 *(10.Bf4 Ba6 11.Qd2 Qb7 12.d5 e6* C3 Sicilian-2... b6,2 Sicilians ChessPub Guide 2014*)* 10...d5 11.Bxf6 dxe4 12.Nxe4 gxf6 13.0-0 Bh6 14.Ng3 e6 15.d5 Bxd5 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Rfd1 Qb7 18.Rac1 a6 19.N3h4 Rg8 20.g3 Rg5 21.Qd4 Be4 22.Nd6+ Bxd6 23.Qxd6 Rd5 24.Rxd5 (41) Vlassov,N (2454)-Kogan,A (2568) 84/(85) Moscow 2002]

10.Bg5 h6N

[10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rac1 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Rfe1 f5 15.d5 Nf4 16.Qd2 fxe4 17.Rxe4 Qf6 18.Ne5 Qg5 19.Rxf4 Qxf4 20.Qxf4 Rxf4 0-1 Fantin,L (2215)-Paragua,M (2500) CCAS Open Cap d'Agde 2003 (2)]



This move is still a fairly new idea. Initially it was played a number of times in correspondence chess, but more recently it's been tried over the board too. **11.Bh4 g5!?** A novelty.

[11...Be7]

12.Bg3 Of course this isn't forced, but doesn't White just gain a useful move? The position is equal. **12...Bb4!** This is Black's idea. **13.Nd2** White doesn't have an appealing retreat for the bishop.

[13.d5]

13...Nh5 14.Be5

[14.a3 Bf8 15.d5]

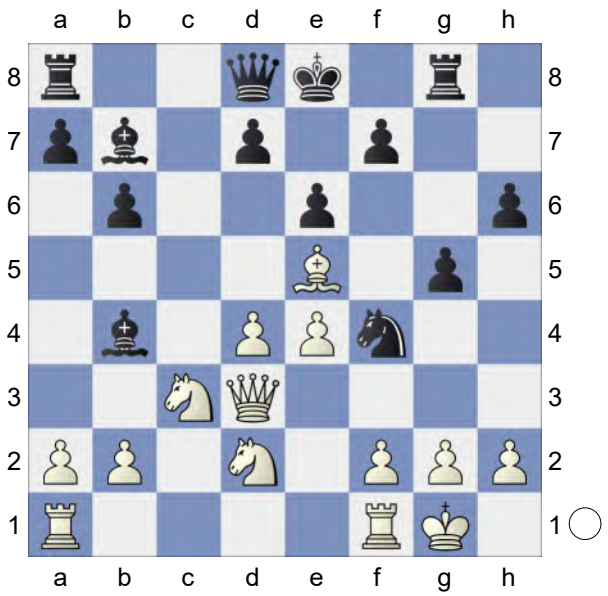
[14.a3 simplifies Nxg3 15.hxg3 Bxc3 16.bxc3 d5 17.e5]

14...Rg8

[14...f6 15.Qf3 White's defence is getting more and more stretched by the attack on both sides, and the pressure eventually tells. fxe5 16.Qxh5+ Ke7 17.Qg6 -0.84/22 *(17.dxe5 Qc7; 17.dxe5=* 0.08/19 *Qc7 18.0-0)* 17...Qg8?∓ 18.Qxg8! Rhxg8 19.dxe5 Rac8]

15.0-0 Nf4!

(Diagram)



This looks okay for Black. Swapping the queens' bishops is normally favourable for Black - his remaining bishop is stronger than White's and he enjoys dark-square control. **16.Qb5** -0.48/20 Too cooperative.

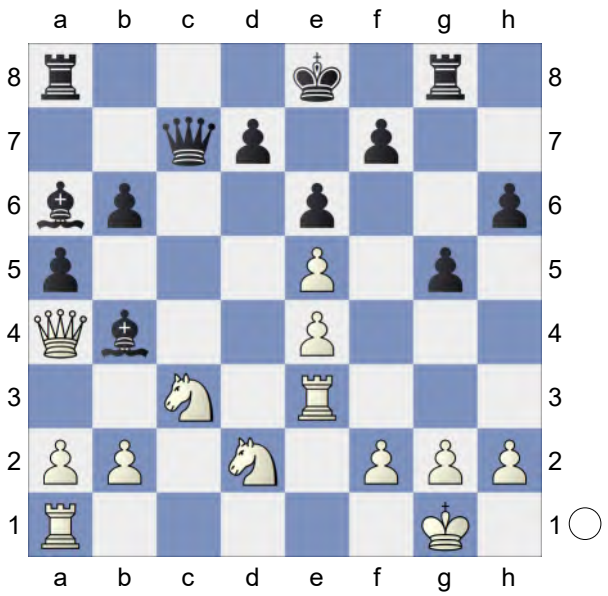
[16.Qf3± 0.47/18]

16...a5!∓ 17.Qa4 Ba6 Repels Nc4 **18.Rfe1 Nd3!** Preventing g4-g5, and planning ...g5 in the future. Black has an edge here and has chances for action on both sides of the board. **19.Re3 Nxe5**

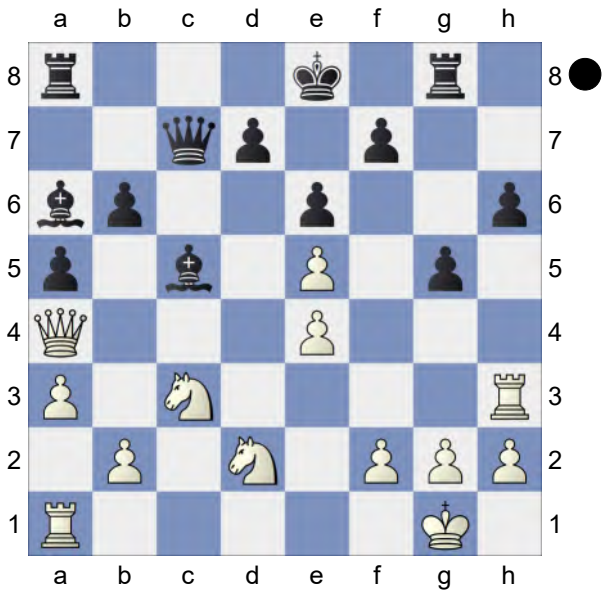
[19...Nxb2 20.Qc2 f6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.e5±]

20.dxe5 Qc7!

(Diagram)

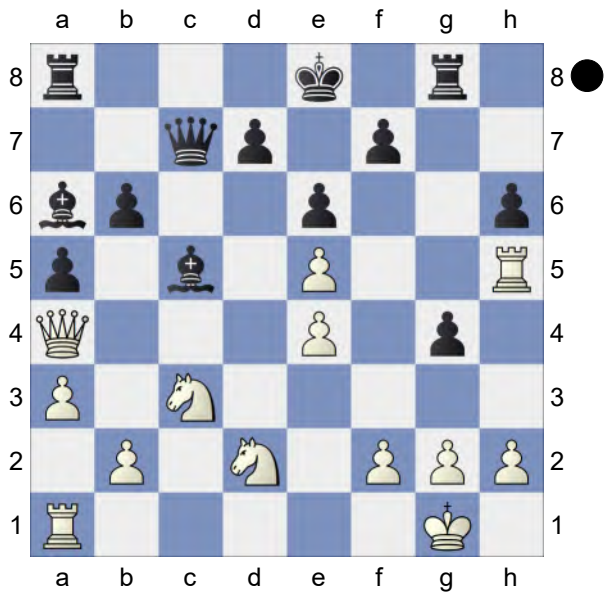


21.a3 Bc5 22.Rh3 -2.19/21
[22.Rg3= -0.17/20]

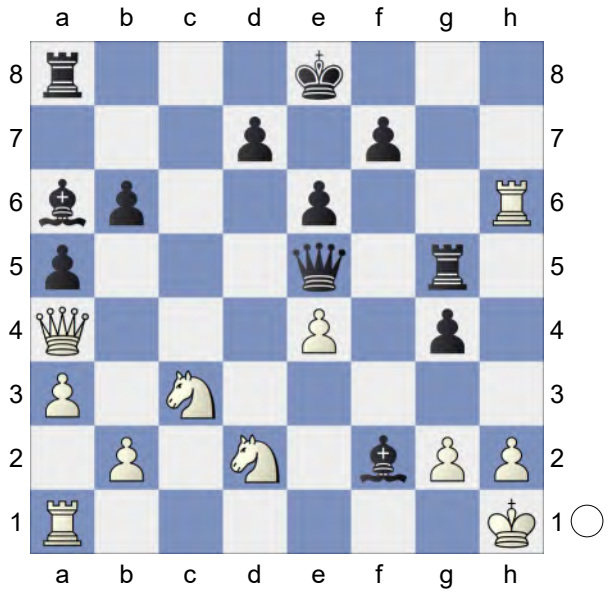


Now White is beyond hope. **22...g4!-+**
[22...Qxe5 23.Nf3 Qc7 24.e5∓
(24.Rxh6 b5∓)]
23.Rh5 -2.71/24
[⌓23.Rg3 -1.97/21]

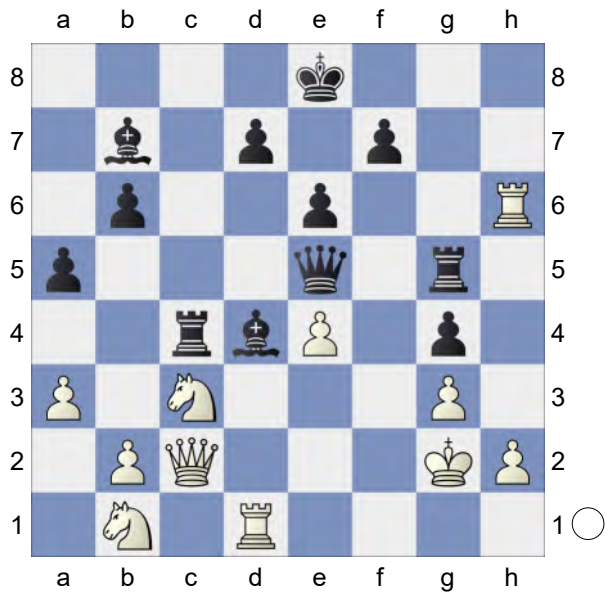
(Diagram)



23...Bxf2+! Decoy, Clearance **24.Kh1**
[24.Kxf2? -8.21/24 24.Kh1 -2.79
Qc5+ 25.Kg3 Qe3+! 26.Kh4 Qf2+]
[24.Kxf2? is the wrong capture. Qc5+
25.Ke1 Qg1+-+]
24...Rg5! 25.Rxh6 Qxe5



Active counter play! **26.g3?** -5.42/22
[26.Qc2 -2.86/22 Qg7 27.Nf1]
26...Rc8 27.Rd1? -8.20/23
[27.Qc2 -3.88/21 Rh5 28.Rxh5 Qxh5
29.Nf1]
**27...Rc7 28.Kg2 Bd4 29.Ndb1 Rc4
30.Qc2 Bb7**

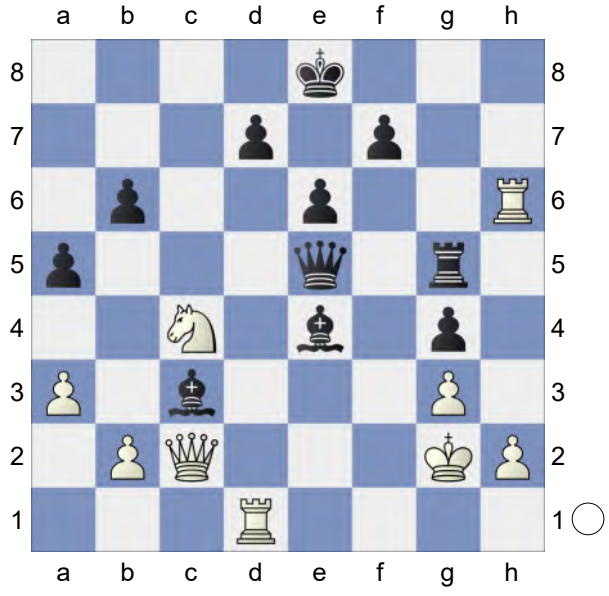


...Bxc3 is the strong threat. **31.Nd2?** -9.96/21

[31.Qd3 -3.85/21 Bc6 32.Qe2 *(32.Qxc4? leads to mate. Bxe4+ 33.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 34.Kf1 Rf5#)*]

31...Bxc3 A strong pair of Bishops.

32.Nxc4 Bxe4+!∓



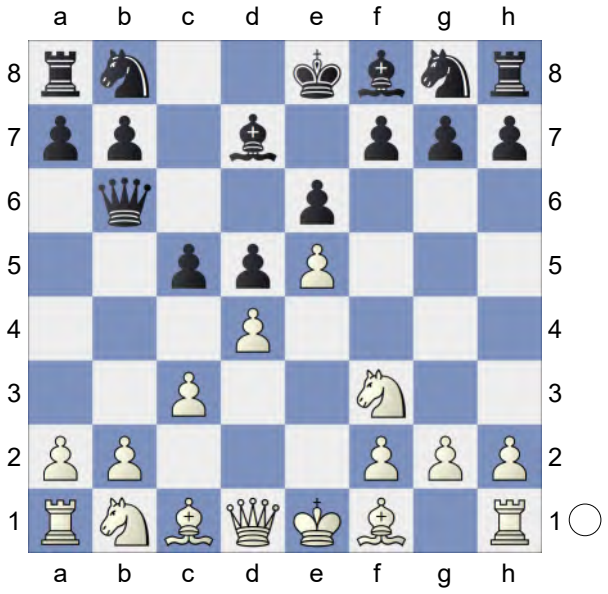
A creative way to get the rook to the b-file - see later!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.32

0-1

188 **C02**
□ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter** **2679**
■ **Pacher,Milan** **2470**
EU-ch 14th Legnica (1) 05.05.2013
[Karolyi,Tibor]

C02: French: Advance Variation
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7



6.Na3 This doesn't allow getting rid of the bishop on b5.

[6.b3 White devotes a tempo to getting rid of the task defending the b-pawn. Such a variation used to be popular in the main line. With no light-squared bishops it turns out to be slow.

A) 6...Bb5 0.43/20 6...cxd4 -0.17 7.c4 -0.03/18 *(7.Bxb5+± 0.43/20 Qxb5 8.Na3)* 7...Bc6∞;

B) 6...cxd4!? Most players play 6... ♘c6, but I think with no light-squared bishop it is easier to play. 7.cxd4 -0.45/21 *(7.Qxd4= -0.08/17 Nc6 8.Qxb6 axb6 9.Bf4)* 7...Bb5 0.37/19 Black has equalised and got a pleasant position. White can't think of exerting pressure. *(7...Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 10.Qd2 Rc8=; 7...Bb4+!∓ -0.45/21 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 10.Qd2 Rc8)* 8.Be2 -0.01/21 *(8.Bd3 Bb4+ 9.Kf1 Bxd3+ 10.Qxd3 Qa6=; 8.Bxb5+± 0.37/19 Qxb5 9.Nc3)* 8...Nc6 *(8...Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Nc6=)* 9.Be3 Bb4+ 10.Nbd2 -0.42/22 *(10.Kf1= -0.04/21)* 10...Bxe2 11.Qxe2 a6 *(11...Nge7 12.0-0 Nf5 13.Rfc1 Ba3∓* Black's position is pleasant*)* 12.0-0 Bc3 0.21/21 *(⌓12...Nge7 -0.26/19)* 13.Rac1= Bb2? 1.69/20 *(13...Bb4= 0.29/20)* 14.Rc2 1.24/20 *(14.Nc4+- 1.69/20 dxc4 15.Qxb2)* 14...Ba3± 15.Nb1 0.31/19 *(15.Nc4!±;* Better is *15.Nc4±* 1.35/22 *dxc4 16.d5)* 15...Be7± 16.Rfc1 Nh6 0.76/22 *(16...h5 17.Nc3 Ba3=; 16...h5=* 0.18/19 keeps the balance.*)* 17.h3?! -0.13/21 *(17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qe3±; 17.Bxh6±* 0.76/22 *gxh6 18.Qe3)* 17...Nf5= 18.Rd1 0-0 19.Nc3 Nxe3 20.Qxe3∓ 1-0 (53) Shilin,D (1827)-Ermolaev,A (1968) Kharkov 2002 CBM 086 Extra]

[6.a3 a5 7.b3 Ne7 8.dxc5 Qxc5 9.c4 Qc7 10.Nc3 Bc6 11.Bb2 Nd7 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nb5 Qb6 14.Nbd4 a4 15.Bc4 axb3 16.0-0 Nc5 17.Nxb3 Ba4 18.Nfd2 Nxb3 19.Nxb3 Rc8 20.Bxd5 exd5 0-1 (39) 3.d4 cd4 4.♘d4 e5 5.♘b5/ (2550)-5.00 b5 6.♗b3 ♗c5 7.c3 d6 (2609) USSR 36/ (492) 1983 (8)]

6...cxd4 As the b1-knight canno longer develop to c3, Black can capture on d4 without worryimg.

[6...Nc6 Black can enter the main line as well.

A) 7.Be2 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Kf1 *(9.Bd2? -0.91/22 9.Kf1 0.09 Nxd4)* 9...Bxa3 10.bxa3 Na5 11.g4 Bb5 12.Bxb5+ Qxb5+ 13.Kg2 Nc4 14.Qb3 Qd7 15.Rb1 b6∓ Dvoirys,S-Demianjuk,A Tomsk 2011;

B) 7.Nc2 cxd4 8.cxd4 *(8.Ncxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Ne7=)*

B1) 8...Rc8

B1a) 9.a3 Na5 10.b4 Nb3 11.Rb1 Nxc1 12.Rxc1 a5 *(12...Bb5!?)* 13.b5?! -0.61/22 *(13.Bd3 axb4=; 13.Bd3=* -0.18/22 *)* 13...a4 0.00/22 *(13...Qc7!∓* -0.61/22 *14.Bd3 Bxa3* Pin *)* 14.Rb1 Kupreichik,V-Alekseev,V Minsk 2003 Qa5+∓;

B1b) 9.Be2 Nb4 10.Ne3 Bb5 2) French Advance Variation-French Advance Variation: 6.N 1... e6 Against Everything 2024;

B1c) 9.Bd3 Nb4 Black exchanges many minor pieces. 10.Nxb4 Bxb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 Bb5 13.0-0 Ne7 14.Bxb5+ Qxb5 15.Qg5 Nf5 16.g4 h6 17.Qd2 Ne7= Popov,M-Das,S Pardubice 2015;

B2) 8...Nb4 Black reduces the number of pieces. 9.Bd2 *(9.Ne3 Bb5)* 9...Nxc2+ 10.Qxc2 Bb5 0.61/20 *(10...Rc8 11.Qd3 Bb4=; 10...Rc8=* 0.20/20 deserves consideration. *11.Qd3 Rc7)* 11.Qb3 0.21/22 *(11.Bxb5+!? Qxb5 12.a4 Qd7!* White is somewhat ahead in development.*; 11.Bxb5+±* 0.61/20 is superior. *Qxb5 12.a4)* 11...Bxf1= 12.Qxb6 axb6 13.Rxf1 Ne7 14.Ke2 1/2 Arribas Robaina,M-Delgado Crespo,M Havana 1998;

B3) 8...Nge7

B3a) 9.Bd3 Nf5 10.0-0 a5 11.Kh1 Rc8 12.Rb1 h6 *(12...Nb4 13.Nxb4 axb4 14.a4±)* 13.Bd2 Be7 *(13...Nb4 14.Nxb4 Bxb4=)* 14.b4 axb4 15.Nxb4 Nxb4 16.Bxb4 Bxb4 17.a3 Qa7 18.Rxb4 Ne7 19.Qb3 Rc7 20.Rb1 0-0= Efimenko,Z-Lupulescu,C Germany 2014;

B3b) 9.Be2

B3b1) 9...a5 10.0-0 Ng6 The long time German number one wants to keep the position complicated. 11.Rb1 *(11.g3 Be7 12.h4±)* 11...Be7 12.Bg5 -0.13/22 *(12.g3±* 0.40/18 *)* 12...0-0 *(12...Bxg5 13.Nxg5 h6 14.Nf3 Nf4=)* 13.Bxe7 Ngxe7 14.Ne3 Nf5 *(14...f6=)* 15.Nxf5 exf5 16.Qd2 h6 17.Rfc1 Rfc8 18.h3 Nd8 19.Rxc8 Rxc8= Leito,P-Huebner,R Puhajarve 2013;

B3b2) 9...Nb4 10.Nxb4 Qxb4+ 11.Qd2 *(11.Bd2 Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qxa2 13.Rxb7 Nc6! 14.0-0 Rb8 15.Rxb8+ Nxb8=)* 11...Nc6 12.0-0 Qxd2 13.Bxd2 Be7 14.Bc3 f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Rfe1 Bd6 17.Bf1 0-0-0 18.g3 Rhe8= Ernst,T-Couso,L Sweden 2012]

7.cxd4 Bxa3N 0.43/19 Giving up the

bishop makes the position more exciting, but its downside is stronger than the good side.

[7...Bb4+! Developing fast and exchanges pieces. 8.Bd2

A) 8...Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nc6 10.Be2 *(10.Nc2 Qxb2=)* 10...Nge7 11.Rb1 Nb4=;

B) 8...Nc6 9.Nc2 *(9.Bc3 f6=)* 9...Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qxb2= 11.Bd3 Nge7 Black is a pawn up, White at most can equalise, but no more.]

[7...Bb4+= -0.01/19 8.Bd2 Ne7]

[7...Ne7 8.Be2 Nbc6 9.0-0 Rc8 10.b3 Nb4 11.Bb2 Ng6 12.g3 Be7 13.h4 0-0 14.h5 Nh8 15.Qd2 f6 16.Rfe1 Nf7 17.Bd1 fxe5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Bd6 20.Re3 e5 21.dxe5 Bc5 22.Rf3 0-1 (30) Baker,B-Lakdawala,C 34: (rapid) San Diego 2011]

8.bxa3± Qa5+ White is slightly better.

9.Bd2

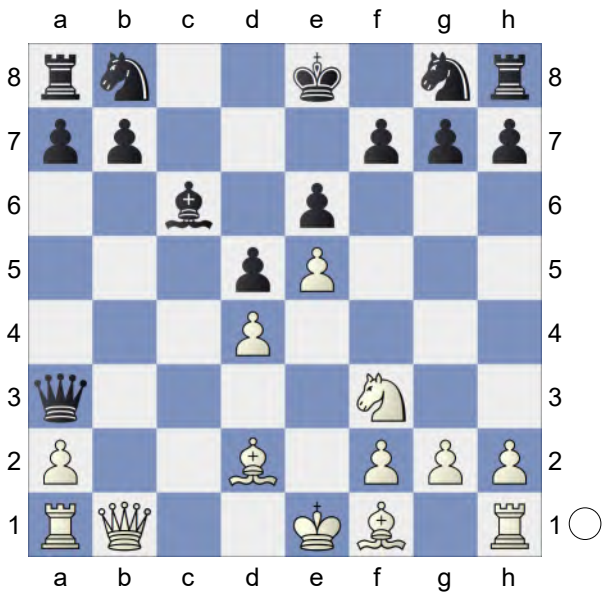
[9.Qd2 Qxd2+ 10.Bxd2 Ne7 11.Bd3 Ba4 It is hard to judge this queenless middlegame, I prefer White as the two bishops have a more important role than the double pawn on the edge of the board.]

9...Qxa3 10.Qb1 White has somewhat better chances as the extra pawn doesn't fully compensate for the pawn.

10...Bc6 Black ignores development.

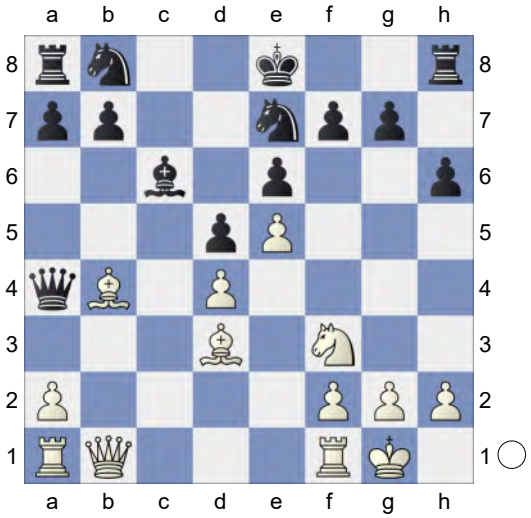
[10...Nc6 11.Bd3 Nge7 *(11...b6* 1.14/21 11…Na5 0.54 *12.0-0! Nge7 13.Rc1!⩱)* 12.0-0 Nf5 White is somewhat better.]

(Diagram)



11.Bb4 0.17/21

[11.Bd3! h6 12.0-0 Ne7? 2.73/24 *(*Black should play *12...a5±* 0.69/18 *)* 13.Bb4 1.13/22 *(13.Rc1+-* 2.73/24 and White stays clearly on top.*)* 13...Qa4±



14.Rc1! White's compensation gives an advantage.]

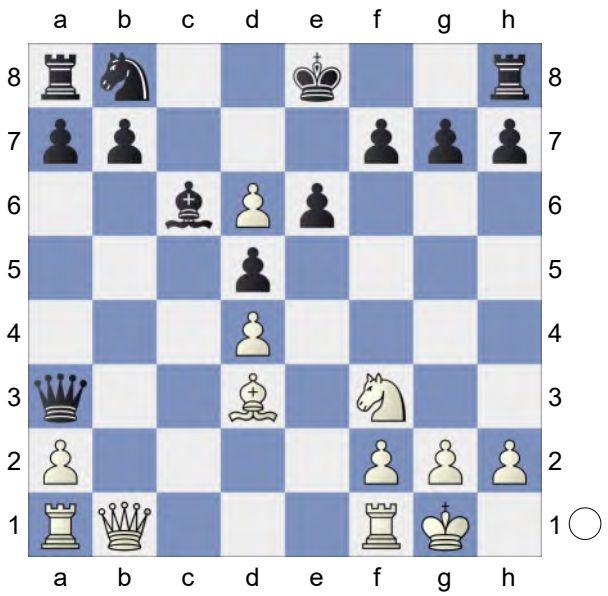
[11.h4± 0.75/20]

11...Qa4= 12.Bd6 Ne7 Black avoids a repetition.

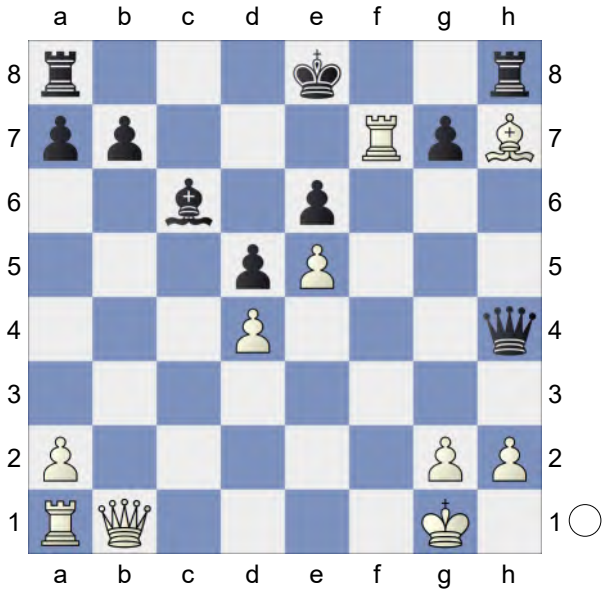
[12...Qa5+]

13.Bd3 Nc8 14.0-0 Nxd6 15.exd6 Qa3

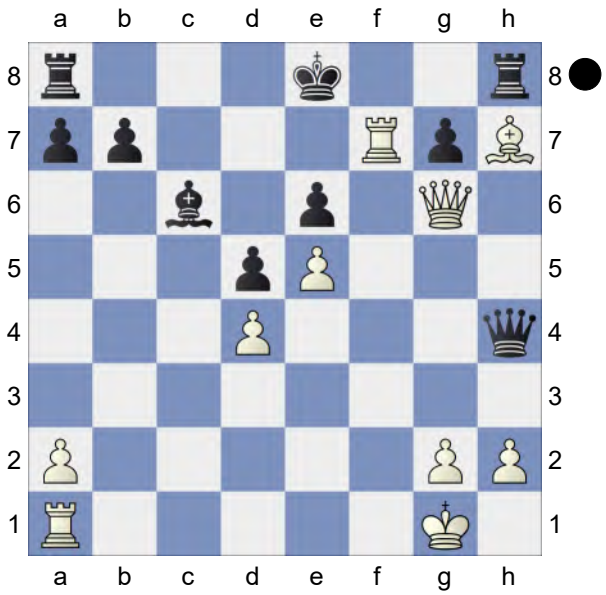
(Diagram)



16.Ne5? -0.97/20
[16.Bxh7 Qxd6 17.Bd3 Nd7
With the knights on the board Black's advantage would be smaller.]
[16.Bxh7∓ -0.31/21 Qxd6 17.Bd3]
16...Qxd6∓ 17.Bxh7 Nd7 18.f4 -1.38/21
[White should try 18.Re1 -0.95/21]
18...Nxe5 19.fxe5 Qe7-+ Threatens to win with ...Qh4. **20.Rxf7 Qh4**
[20...Qxf7? is the wrong capture. 21.Bg6+-]

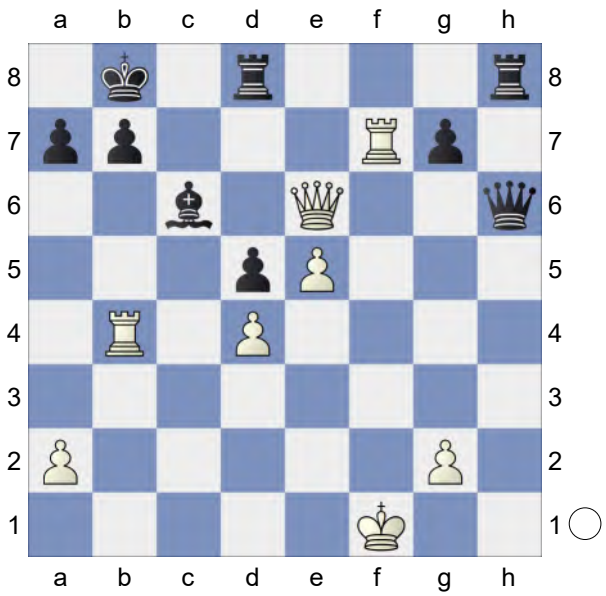


21.Qg6 -2.88/23
[21.Bg6∓ -1.41/22 Qxh2+ *(21...Qxd4+ 22.Rf2+ Ke7 23.Qc1-+)* 22.Kf2]

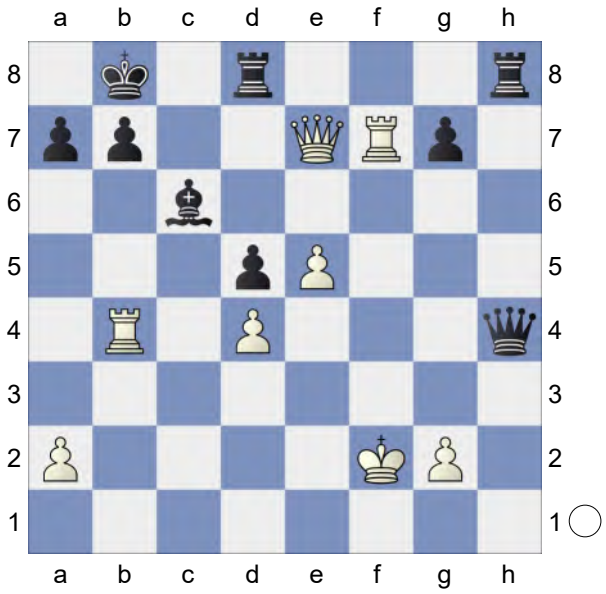


White does not recover from this.
21...0-0-0! 22.Qxe6+ Kb8 23.Rb1? -5.08/21
[23.Rd1 -2.62/21]
23...Qxh7 Black is clearly winning.
24.Rb4 -14.87/21
[⌓24.Qf5 -4.36/21]
24...Qxh2+ 25.Kf1 Qh6 -4.29/20
[⌓25...Qg3 -17.33/24 (-> ...Rh1+) 26.Qh3 Rxh3 27.gxh3 Qd3+ *(27...Qxh3+? 28.Kf2-+)* 28.Ke1 Qc3+ *(28...Qxh3? 29.Rb3-+)* 29.Kf1 Qxb4]

(Diagram)



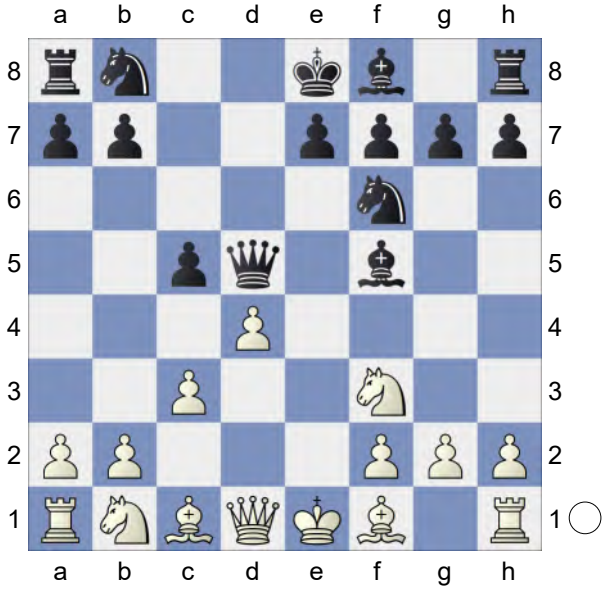
26.Qe7 -7.50/22
[⌓26.Qxh6 -4.29/20 gxh6 *(26...Rxh6? 27.Rxg7 Rh1+ 28.Ke2-+)* 27.Rb2]
26...Qh1+ 27.Kf2 Threatening mate with Rxb7+. **27...Qh4+**



Weighted Error Value: White=1.26/ Black=0.53
0-1

189 **B22**
□ **Tiviakov,Sergei** **2652**
■ **Ruiz Sanchez,Orlen** **2420**
Panama op 3rd (5) 03.11.2013
[Mastrovasilis,Athanasios]

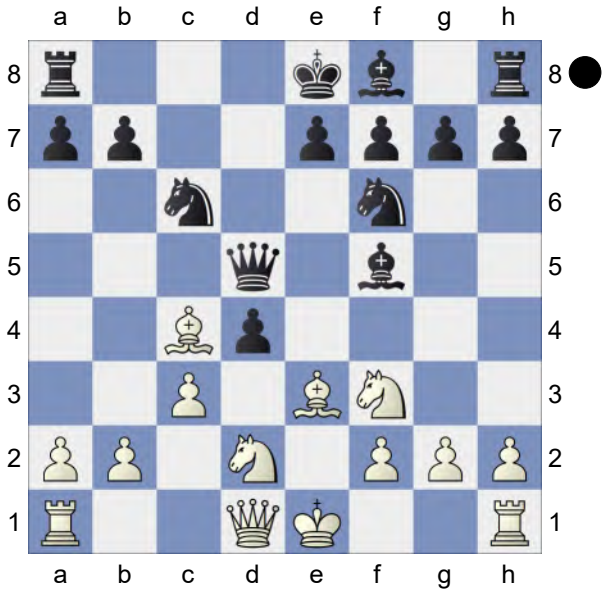
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5



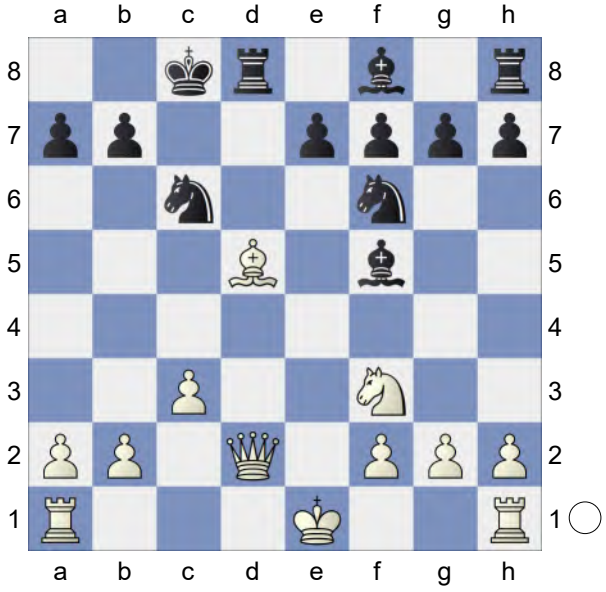
6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nbd2 Smerdon, David: '?!' Smerdon, David: 'A rare move, and a bad one. Computers initially seem to like it, with mine claiming it to be White's best move here, but that's just because the engines don't appreciate at first how powerful the minor pieces will be against the white queen.' **7...cxd4** Smerdon, David: '!' **8.Bc4**

[8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.cxd4 Ng4 10.Be2?! -0.46/21 *(10.Qb3= -0.01/19 Qxb3 11.Nxb3)* 10...Qxg2∓ Ynojosa, F (2374)-Negi, P (2661)/Erts-La Massana AND 2012.]

[8.Bxd4 is in my opinion White's best option here, but it's really a bail-out. Nxd4 9.cxd4 a6 *(9...e6* 0.35/20 9...Rc8 -0.08 *10.Qa4+±)* 10.Bc4 Qa5! 11.0-0 And now Qb3 would win. e6= and Black is absolutely fine.]



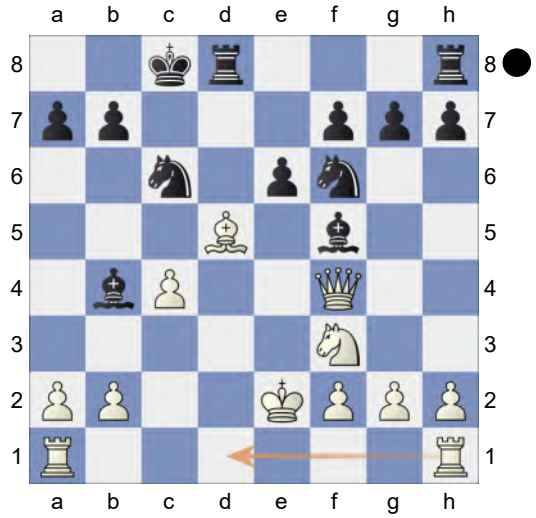
Smerdon, David: '?' Smerdon, David: '"+0.27", says Houdini 3, but in fact White is in big trouble.'. The position is equal. **8...dxe3!** Smerdon, David: '!!'. Discovered Attack **9.Bxd5 exd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0-0**



* Smerdon, David: 'I can only imagine Tivvy sunk into a deep think here. White should probably struggle on with the queen and just write off the d5

bishop, but it's no fun. Instead, Tiviakov collapses.' **11.Bxc6N** -1.56/21 Smerdon, David: '?'

[11.c4 -1.10/23 11.Rd1 -0.44 e6 ...Bb4 would now be deadly. 12.Qf4 -1.27/26 *(12.0-0-0∓ -0.63/19 exd5 13.Qg5)* 12...Bb4+!∓ 13.Ke2 *(13.Kf1? -2.17/20* 13.Ke2 -1.28 *Bd3+-+)*



aiming for Rhd1! 13...Bd6! 14.Qg5 Bxc6 is the strong threat. *(14.Qc1* Hoping for Rd1! *exd5* is no help.) 14...h6 15.Qxg7 -2.06/21 *(15.Qc1* -1.63/24 was called for. *exd5 16.Rd1 dxc4 17.Qxc4)* 15...Nh5-+ 16.Qxf7 Nf4+-+]

[11.Be6+ Bxe6 12.Qe2 Bf5 13.Rd1 (White has to try and swap off as many pieces as possible, to make the queen's power felt.). Against Bd3 Rxd1+ 14.Qxd1 e6∓]

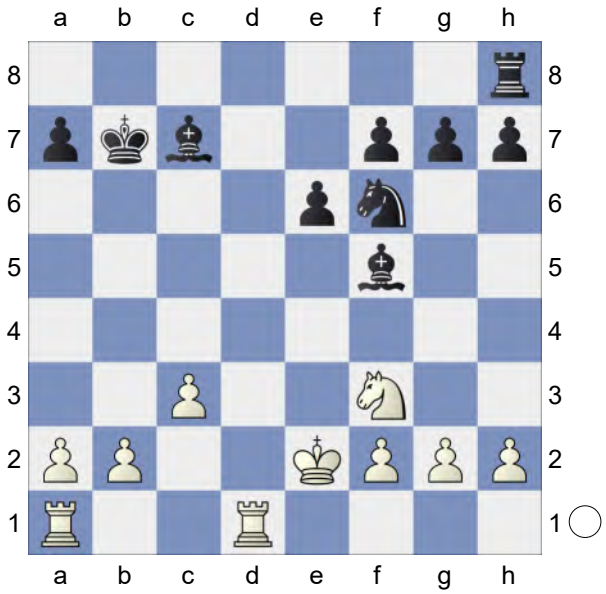
[11.c4 e6 12.0-0 exd5∓ 13.Qf4 Bd3 14.cxd5 Rxd5 15.Rfd1 Bd6 16.Qa4 Rd8 17.Rac1 Bc7 18.h3 h6 19.a3 Kb8 20.Re1 Ne4 21.Red1 f5 22.Ne1 Bb5 23.Qb3 Nd2 24.Rxd2 Rxd2 25.Qxb5 Nd4 26.Qc5 Ne2+ 27.Kh1 Nxc1 0-1 Orsolic,M (2176)-Jones,P (2176) LSS SA-2008-0-00031]

[Better is 11.Qe2∓ -0.59/23 Rxd5 12.Rd1]

11...Rxd2∓ 12.Bxb7+ Kxb7 13.Kxd2 [13.Nxd2 e5∓]

13...e6 Smerdon, David: 'Another opening success for ...Bf5. I can't believe the number of 2.c3 players who still seem to be unaware of the theory in this variation. Until white players catch on, I highly recommend busting out ...Bf5 when you get the chance!'

14.Ke2 Bd6 Prevents Ne5 **15.Rhd1 Bc7**



16.Nd4 Be4

[Much less strong is 16...Bxh2 17.Nxf5 exf5 18.g3=]

17.g3 Bg6 A strong pair of Bishops.

18.c4? -3.34/22

[18.Nb5 -1.68/18]

18...h5 -1.96/19

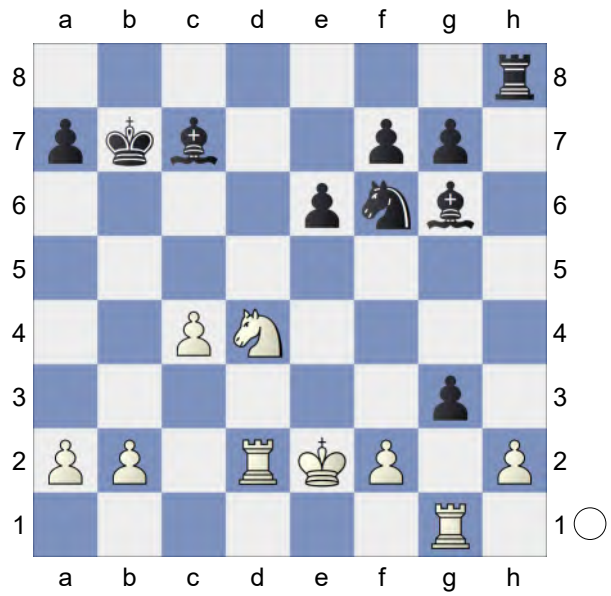
[⌓18...Bh5+ -3.34/22 19.f3 e5]

19.Rd2? -3.61/21

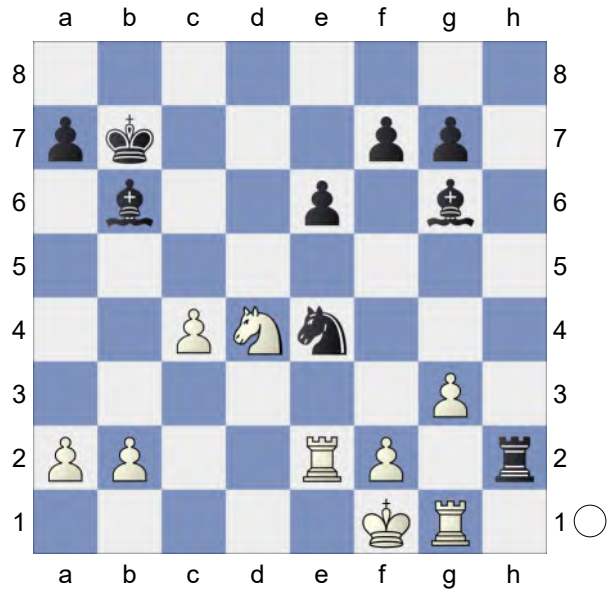
[⌓19.h4 -1.96/19]

19...h4!-+ 20.Rg1 hxg3

(Diagram)



21.hxg3 Rh2 -2.24/21
[⌓21...Ne4 -4.16/21 22.Rd3 Rh2 23.Rb3+ Ka8 *(23...Bb6? 24.Ke3-+)*]
22.Kf1? -4.86/24
[22.Nf3 -2.24/21 Rh5 23.Rd4]
22...Ne4 23.Re2 Bb6



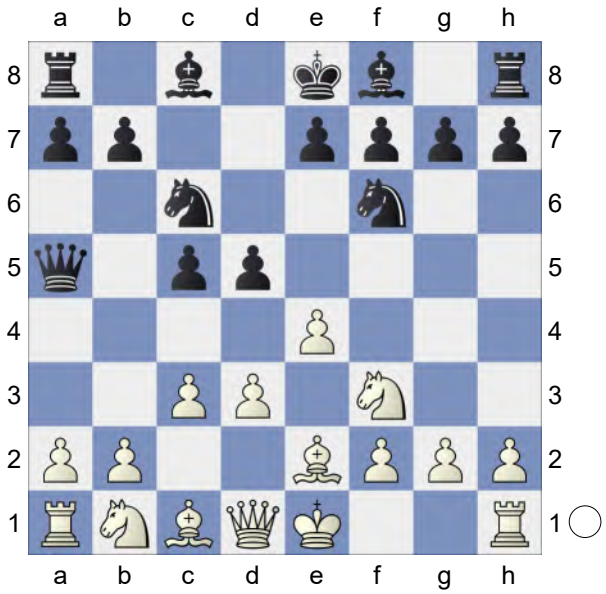
0-1 (23) Tiviakov,S (2652)-Ruiz Sanchez, O (2420) Panama City PAN 2013 [Smerdon, David]. Black took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.61/ Black=0.24 (precise)
0-1

190 **B22**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2742**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir1** **2676**
Aimchess Rapid Div 1 W (1.4) 10.07.23
[Kitty Kat]

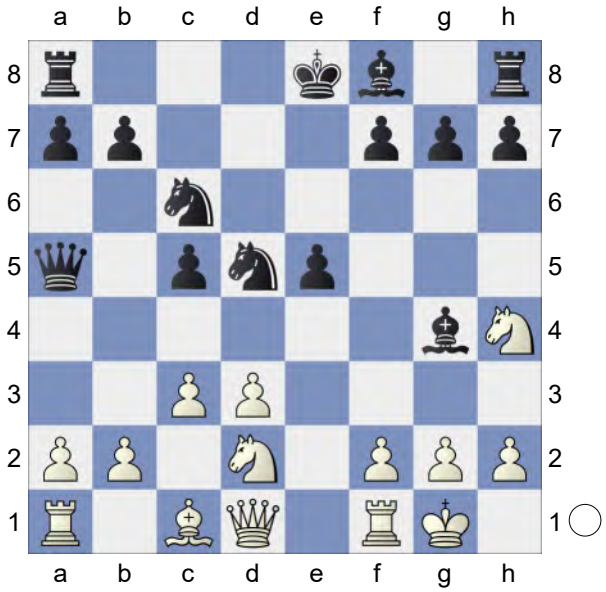
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Qa5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Be2N
[4.d4 cxd4 5.b4 Qc7 6.b5 Ne5 7.Nxe5 Qxe5 8.Qxd4 Qc7 9.a4 e5 10.Qc4 Qxc4 11.Bxc4 Nf6 12.f3 d6 13.Be3 Be6 14.Nd2 d5 Makropoulos,G-Ljubojevic,L Athens 32/(203) 1981]
[4.Na3 d6 *(4...Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.d4 d6 7.Nc4 Qd8 8.Be2 b5 9.Ne3 Nc7 10.a4 bxa4 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Re1 g6 13.exd6 exd6 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.Nc4 Bg7 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Nb7 Qe7 18.Bg5 Bf6 19.Bc4* 0-1 (20) Gantner,L (2044)-Loiret,S (2264) Syre Memorial op 31st 2008 (3)*)* 5.Nc4 Qc7 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf6 8.d5 Nb8 9.Be3 e5 10.Rc1 Qd8 11.Qa4+ Bd7 12.Qb4 Bc8 13.Nb6 axb6 14.Bxb6 Nc6 15.dxc6 d5 16.Qb5 bxc6 17.Rxc6 Qd7 18.Nxe5 Ba6 1-0 (19) Afonasieva,A (2315)-Morales Garcia,S (2355) USSR 46/(574) 1988 (4) 19.Nxd7]
4...Nf6 5.d3 d5

(Diagram)

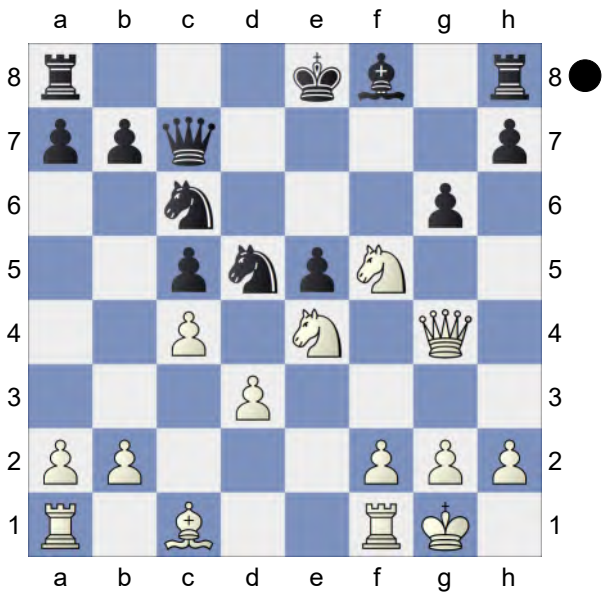


6.Nbd2 e5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0
The position is equal. **8...Bf5 9.Nh4 Be6 10.Bg4 Bxg4**

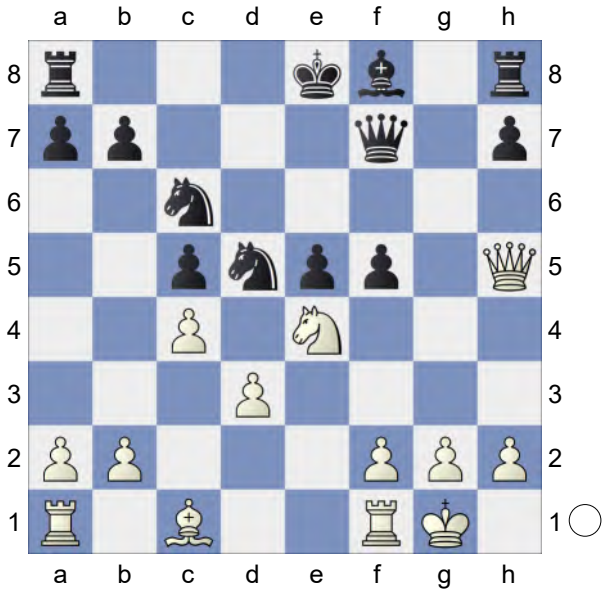


11.Qxg4 Qc7 12.Ne4 g6 0.39/20
[12...Qd7!= 0.02/19 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7]
13.c4 f5! 14.Nxf5

(Diagram)

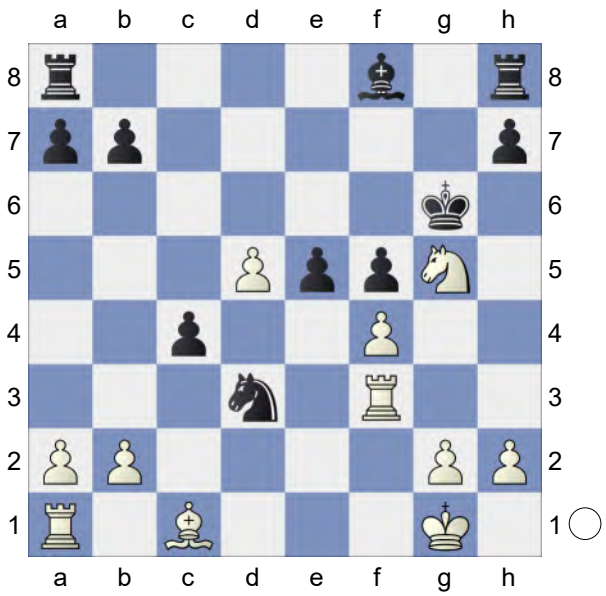


Deflection **14...gxf5 15.Qh5+ Qf7**

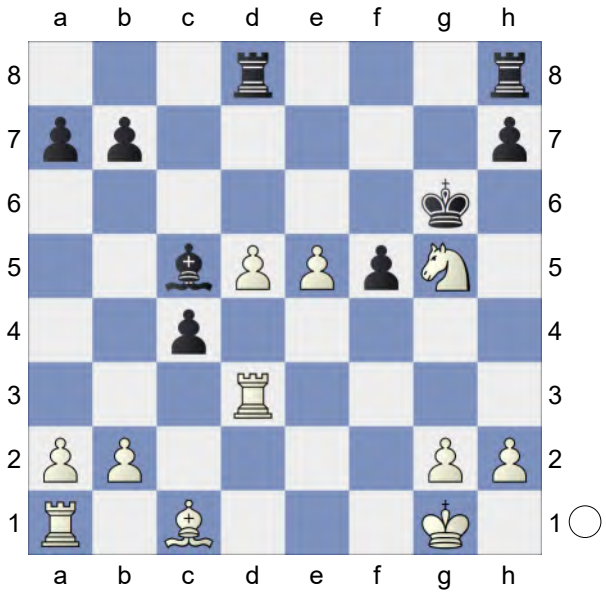


16.Qxf7+ Kxf7 17.cxd5 Nb4 18.Ng5+ Kg6 19.f4G White is fighting back
19...Nxd3 20.Rf3!
[20.fxe5 Nxc1 21.Raxc1 *(21.Ne6 Ne2+ 22.Kh1 Nd4∓)* 21...Kxg5∓]
20...c4

(Diagram)



21.fxe5 -0.01/20
[21.Ne6± 0.46/18]
21...Rd8 0.59/20
[21...Nxc1= -0.01/20 22.Rxc1 Kxg5 23.Rxc4 Re8 24.Rg3+ Kh5 25.Rh3+ Kg6 26.Rg3+ Kf7 27.Rc7+ Re7]
22.Rxd3± Bc5+ 1.11/20
[22...cxd3± 0.47/20 23.d6 *(23.Ne6 Bg7∓)* 23...Rc8]



23.Be3 0.30/20
[23.Re3? Kxg5 24.Kf1 Bxe3 25.Bxe3+ f4-+]

[White should try 23.Kf1!± 1.11/20 cxd3 24.Ne6]

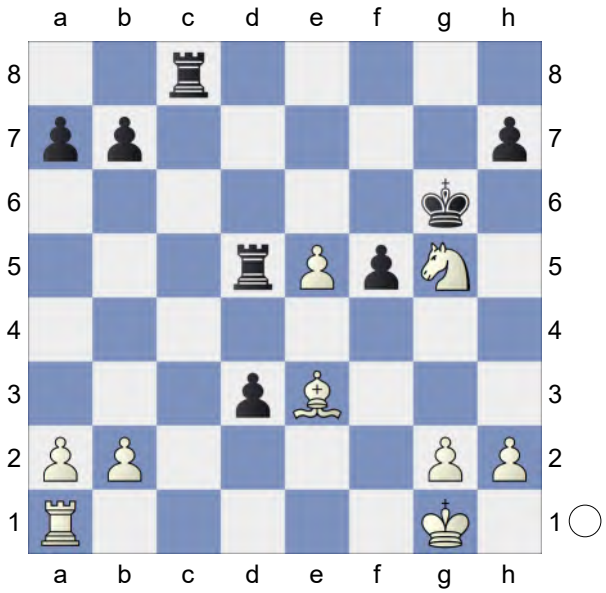
23...cxd3= 24.Bxc5 Rxd5 1.66/24

[24...Kxg5± 0.31/22 25.d6 *(25.Bxa7? Rxd5 26.Be3+ Kg6-+; 25.Be7+ Kf4±)* 25...Kf4]

25.Be3+- Strongly threatening Nh3.

[25.Bxa7 Kxg5 26.Be3+ f4-+]

25...Rc8



26.Rd1 0.80/21

[26.Nh3+- 1.66/21 is more deadly. Rxe5 27.Bd2 *(27.Bxa7? d2-+)*]

26...Rc2 1.77/21

[26...Rxe5± 0.80/21 27.Bd2 *(27.Bxa7?* is the wrong capture. *Rc1-+; 27.Rxd3 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 Kxg5=)* 27...Rb5]

27.Ne6 0.47/24

[27.h4+- 1.77/21]

27...Rxe5± 28.Nf4+

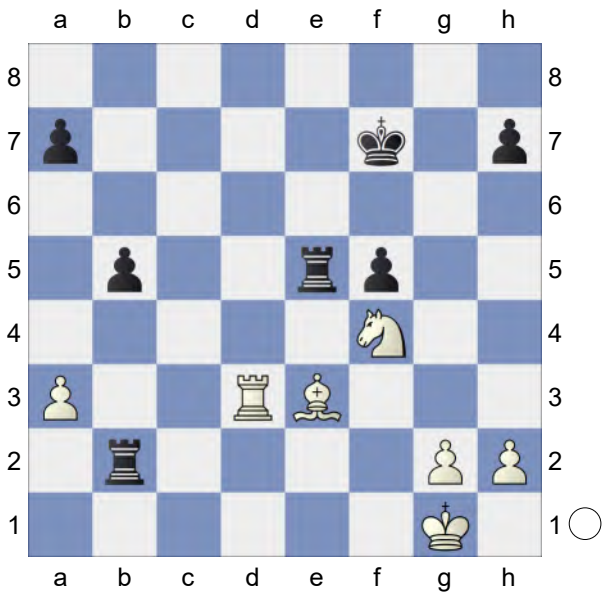
[28.Bxa7? too greedy. Rxe6 29.Kf1 d2-+ *(29...Rxb2? 30.Bd4-+)*]

28...Kf7! 29.Rxd3 Rd2 is the strong threat. **29...Rxb2 30.a3!**

[30.Bxa7? Re1#]

30...b5

(Diagram)



31.h3

[31.Bxa7? Re1#]

31...a5 0.89/20

[31...Re4!± 0.52/21 might be stronger.]

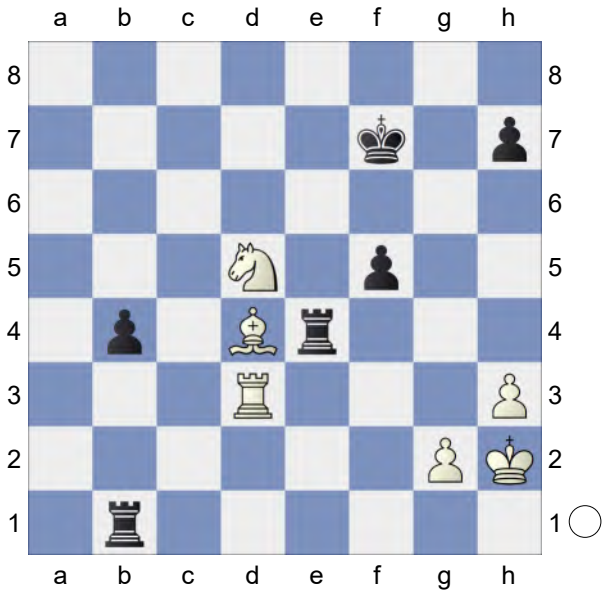
32.Bd4 Rb1+ 33.Kh2 -0.01/21

[Better is 33.Kf2± 0.91/22 Ree1 34.Ne2]

33...Re4= 34.Nd5 b4 0.40/20

[34...Ree1= -0.01/20 35.Nc3 Rh1+ 36.Kg3 Rb3]

35.axb4 axb4



36.Bc5 Ke6 1.14/19

[36...Rc4= 0.06/22 37.Bxb4 Rcxb4]

37.Bxb4 0.06/24

[37.Nc7+± 1.14/19 Ke5 38.Rd5+ Kf4 39.Bf8]

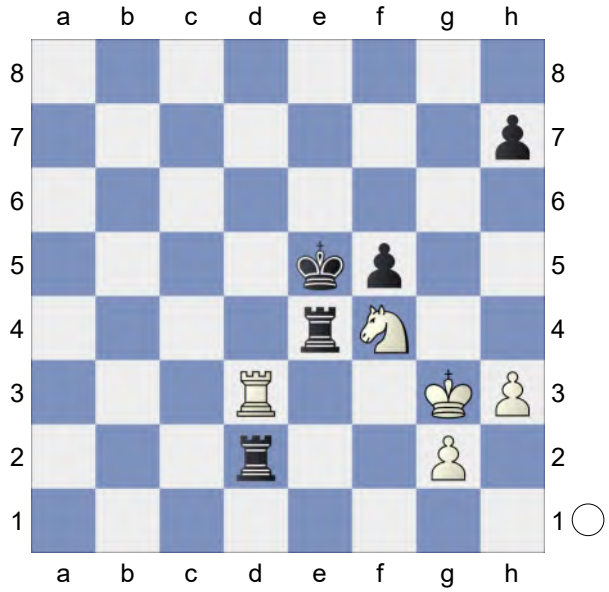
37...Rb2? 3.27/22

[37...Rbxb4= 0.06/24 and Black has nothing to worry. 38.Nxb4 Rxb4]

38.Bd2+- Rc2 39.Nf4+ Ke5 40.Kg3? 0.65/24

[40.Rd5++- 3.66/21 Kf6 41.Kg3]

40...Rxd2!



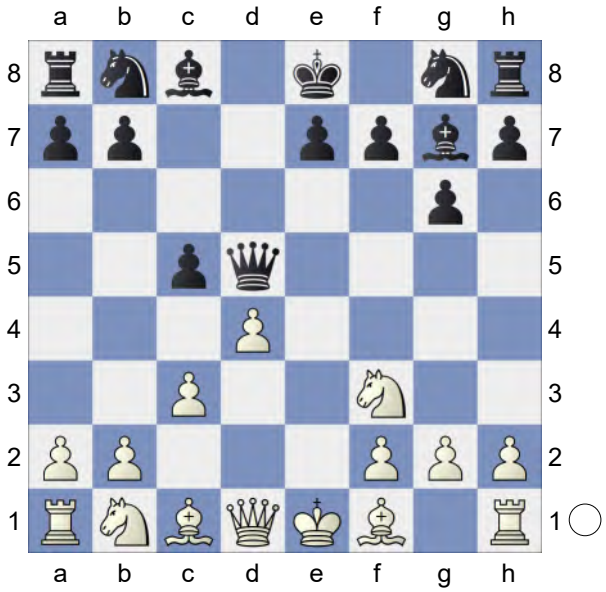
Remove Defender.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.38

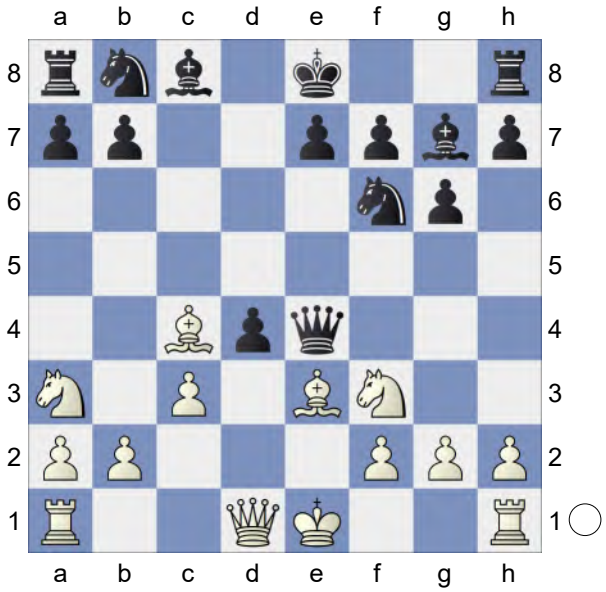
½-½

191 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2789**
Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Apr Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

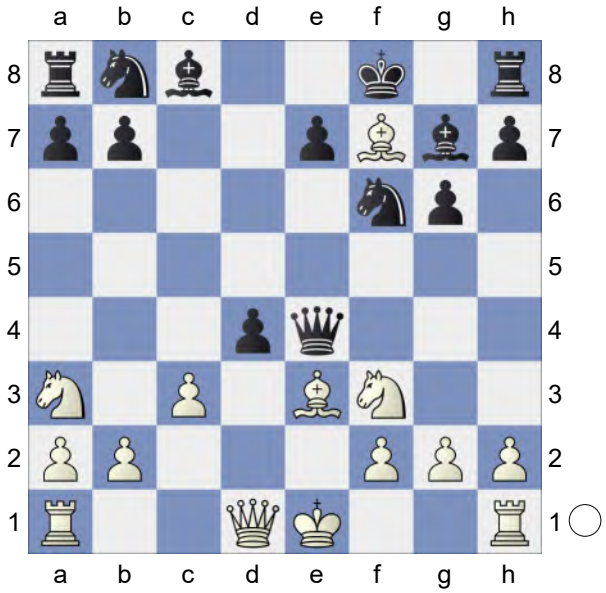
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Inf 68/(125) **1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7**



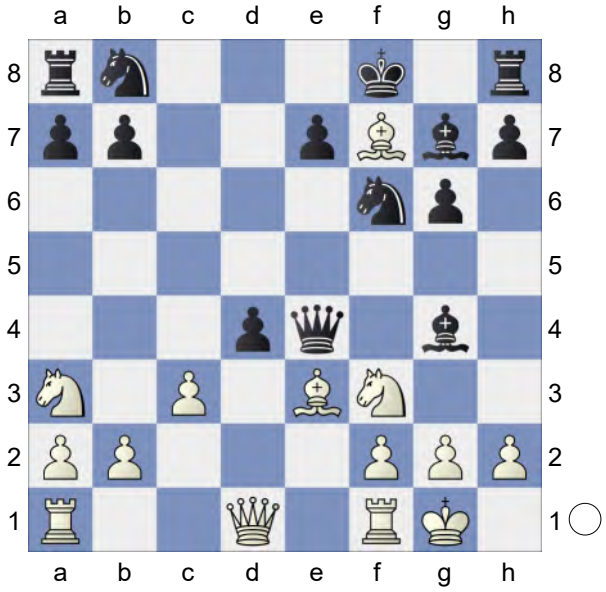
6.Na3 Nf6 7.Bc4
[7.Nb5 simplifies Na6 8.Be2 cxd4 9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Nfxd4 0-0 11.0-0]
7...Qe4+ 8.Be3 Bxf7+! would now be deadly. **8...cxd4N** 1.35/20
[Black should try 8...0-0± 0.43/19 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Bxd4 *(10.Nxd4 Nc6 11.Re1 Qh4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qf3 Ng4 14.Bf4 Qf6 15.Rad1 h5 16.Bc7 Bf5 17.h3 Nh6 18.Qe3 Rfe8 19.Bf4 g5 20.Bxg5 Qg6 21.Qg3 e5 22.Bh4 Kh7 23.Bb3 a5 24.Ba4 Qe6* 1-0 (55) Pavasovic,D (2596)-Movsesian,S (2647) CRO-chT Rabat 2003 (1) *)* 10...Nc6 11.Re1 Qf5 12.Be5 Qh5 *(12...Rd8 13.Qb3 Ng4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Rad1 Qc5 16.Qc2 Bf5 17.Qe2 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.Rxd8 Nxd8 20.h3 Nf6 21.b4 Qc7 22.Nb5 Qf4 23.Nxa7 Ne4 24.Nb5 Bd7 25.Bd3* Palkovi,J (2460)-Horvath,C (2530) Magyarorszag (ch) 68/(125) 1996 *)* 13.h3 a6 14.Nc2 b5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Bd5 Rd8 17.Ne5 Qxd1 18.Raxd1 Rxd5 19.Rxd5 Nxe5 20.Rdxe5 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Kf8 22.f4 Bb7 23.g4 f6 0-1 (48) Caderon,M (1979)-Vidal,L (2298) Sautron op 18th 2018 (7.13)]



9.Bxf7+!± Decoy **9...Kf8**

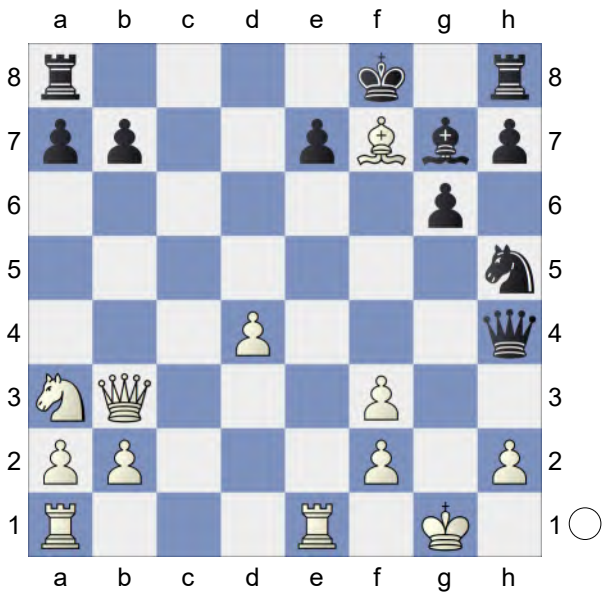


White is better. **10.0-0! Bg4**
[10...Kxf7? 11.Ng5+ *(11.Qxd4? Qxd4 12.Ng5+ Kg8-+)* 11...Kf8 12.Nxe4+-]
[10...dxe3 11.Qd8+ Kxf7 12.Ng5#]

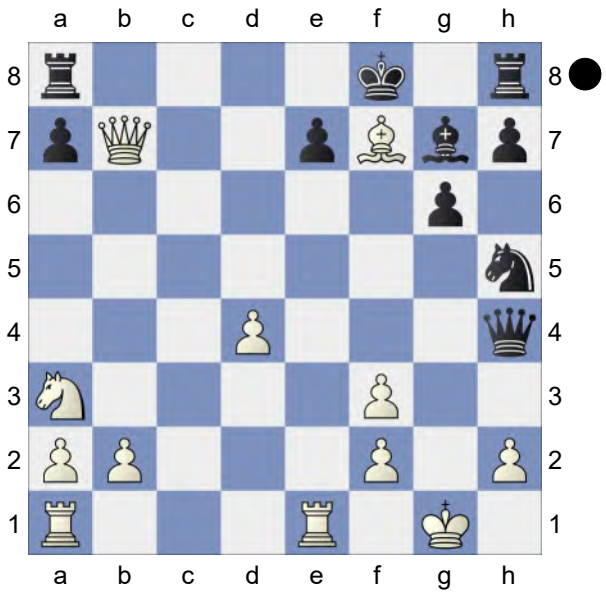


11.Bxd4 Nc6 12.Re1 0.71/22
[⌓12.Bxf6 1.14/21 exf6 13.Bd5]
12...Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qh4 14.Qb3 0.01/21
[14.Bc4± 0.43/20]
14...Nxd4 0.51/23
[14...Ng4= 0.01/21 15.Bxg7+ *(15.fxg4 Qxg4+ 16.Kh1 Qf3+ 17.Kg1 Qg4+ 18.Kh1 Qf3+ 19.Kg1 Qg4+=)* 15...Kxg7 16.fxg4 Raf8 *(16...Qxg4+ 17.Kf1=)*]
15.cxd4± Nh5

(Diagram)

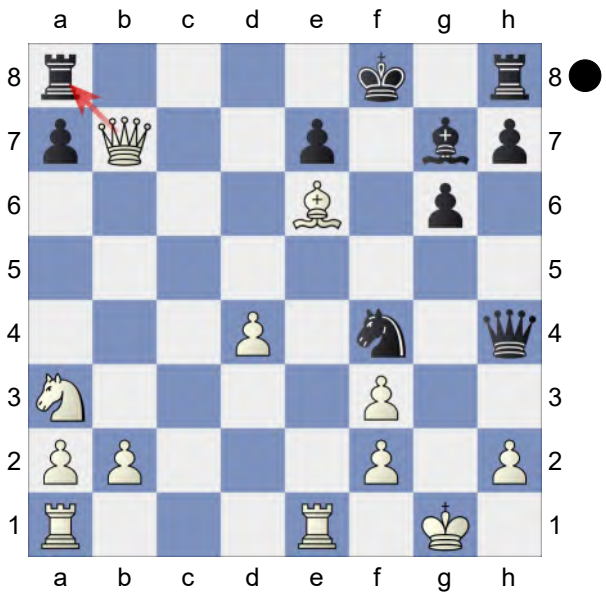


16.Qxb7? -2.14/20
[16.Re4± 0.60/22 keeps the upper hand. Nf4 17.Kh1]



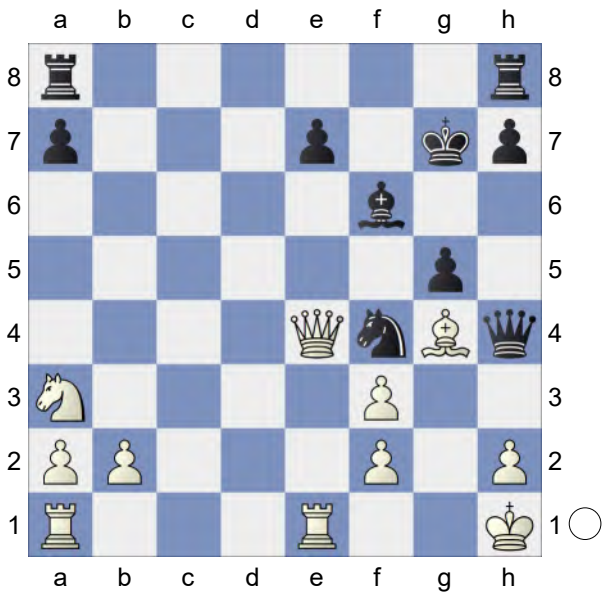
16...Nf4!-+ 17.Be6
[17.Qxa8+? Kxf7-+]
[17.Kh1 Kxf7]

(Diagram)



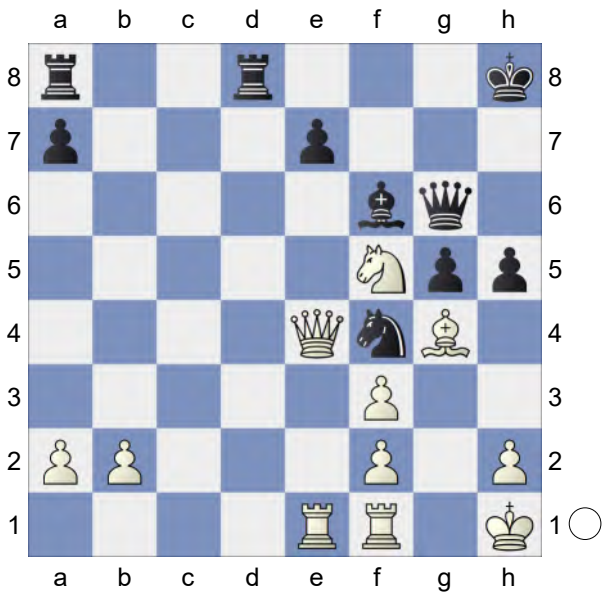
17...Bxd4! 18.Kh1
[18.Qxa8+? Kg7-+]
18...Kg7 -0.57/20
[18...Rd8-+ -1.61/21 19.Nc4 Nd3 *(19...Qxf2? 20.Bh3-+; 19...Bxf2? 20.Re4-+; 19...Kg7? 20.Re4-+)*]
19.Bg4? -2.38/21
[Better is 19.Re4!∓ -0.57/20 Rad8 *(19...Bxf2 20.Qc7=)* 20.Qc7 *(20.Bg4 h5∓)*]
19...Bf6 Black has strong compensation.
[19...Bxf2 20.Qxe7+ *(20.Rxe7+? Kh6-+)* 20...Kh6 21.Qxh4+ Bxh4 22.Red1=]
20.Qe4 g5→ 0.09/19
[20...h5!-+ -2.09/22 21.Qxf4 hxg4 22.fxg4 Bxb2]

(Diagram)



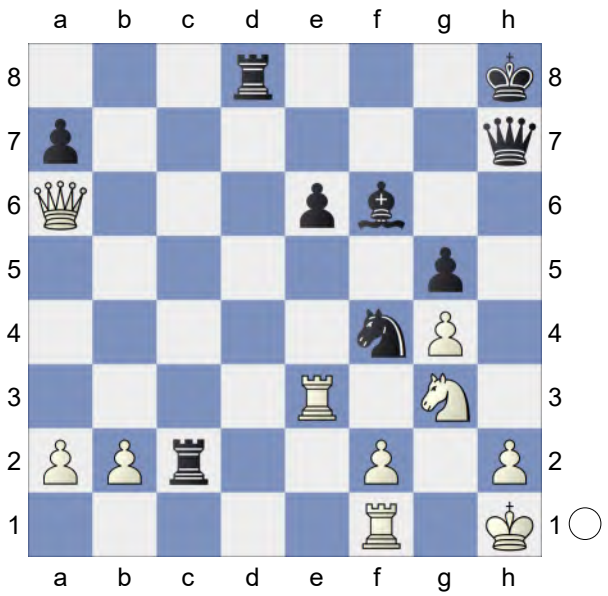
Black is up to no good. **21.Nc4** -0.84/20
[21.Qe3= 0.09/19 remains equal.]
21...Rhd8 0.64/19
[21...Qxf2∓ -0.84/20 22.Rg1 Rad8 *(22...Bxb2? 23.Nxb2 Qe2 24.Qxe2+-)*]
22.Ne3 -1.09/22
[22.Kg1± 0.64/19 stays ahead.]
22...Kh8? 1.07/22
[22...Qxf2∓ -1.09/22 stays on course. Threatens to win with ...Rd2! 23.Rf1 Qxb2]
23.Rf1± Hoping for Nf5. **23...Qh6**
24.Nf5 -0.42/22
[24.Rad1± 1.08/19]
24...Qg6∓ And now ...h5 would win.
25.Rae1? -2.41/21 White is on the road to losing.
[25.Ne3∓ -0.71/21 was worth a try.]
25...h5-+
[25...Bxb2 26.Nxe7 *(26.Qxe7 h5∓)* 26...Qxe4 27.Rxe4= *(27.fxe4 a5±)*]

(Diagram)



26.Qc6 hxg4 27.fxg4 Rac8
[27...Bxb2 28.Qxg6 Nxg6 29.Nxe7]
28.Qa6 Qh7
[28...Bxb2 29.Qxg6 Nxg6 30.Nxe7 Nxe7 31.Rxe7-+]
29.Re3 Prevents Qh3. **29...e6**
[29...Bxb2 30.Rxe7 Qh3 31.Qh6+ Qxh6 32.Nxh6-+]
30.Ng3? -8.40/23
[30.b4 -3.64/18]
30...Rc2 -4.11/21
[⌓30...Qh3 -8.40/23 31.Rg1 Rc1 *(31...Qxg4? 32.Ne2-+)*]

(Diagram)



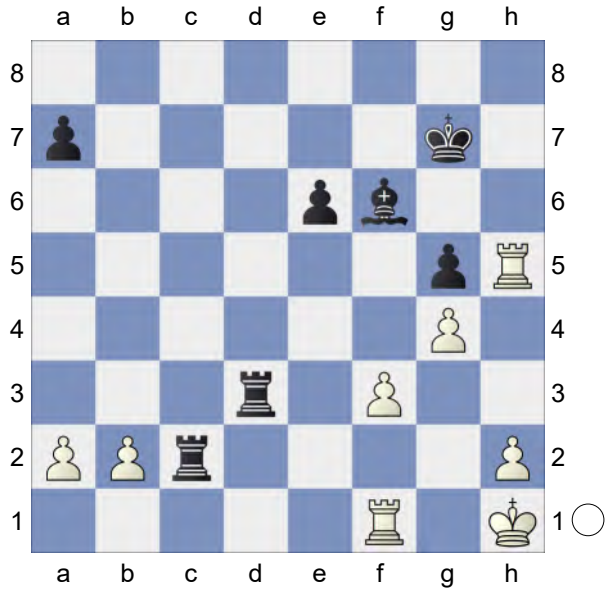
31.Nh5 -12.41/23
[⌓31.Rxe6 -4.11/21 Nxe6 32.Qxe6]
31...Nxh5? -2.93/22
[31...Rxf2 -12.41/23 (-> ...Qb7+!) 32.Kg1 Bd4 *(32...Rxb2? 33.Qb7-+; 32...Rxf1+? 33.Kxf1 Nxh5 34.gxh5-+)* 33.Rxf2 Bxe3 Pin 34.Nxf4 Bxf2+ 35.Kxf2 Qxh2+ *(35...gxf4? 36.Kf3-+)* 36.Ng2 Rf8+ 37.Ke3 Qe5+ *(37...Qxg2? 38.Qe2-+; 37...Qg1+ 38.Kd2 Rd8+ 39.Qd3 Qxg2+ 40.Kc3 Rxd3+ 41.Kxd3 Qxg4 42.Kd2 Qf3 43.Kc2 g4 44.Kd2 g3 45.b3 g2 46.Kc2 g1Q 47.Kb2 Qd4+ 48.Ka3 Qf8+ 49.b4 Qfxb4#)* 38.Kd2 Rf2+ Skewer, Double Attack *(38...Qxb2+ 39.Kd3 Rd8+ 40.Ke3 Qxg2 41.Qe2 Qg3+ 42.Qf3)* 39.Kd3 Qe2+ Skewer, Double Attack *(39...Rxg2 40.Qc8+ Kg7 41.Qb7+ Kf6 42.Qf3+ Qf4 43.Qxg2=)* 40.Kc3 Qxa6 41.Ne1 Qc6+ *(41...Qxa2* is a self mate. *42.Nd3 Rf3 43.b3 Qe2 44.Kb4 Qxd3 45.Ka4 a6 46.Kb4 Qb5+ 47.Ka3 Qxb3#)* 42.Kd3 Qd5+ *(42...Rxb2 43.Nf3 Qxf3+ 44.Kd4 Rd2+ 45.Kc4 Qd5+* Skewer *46.Kc3 a5 47.a4 Qd3#)*

43.Kc3 Qc5+ *(43...Qxa2 44.Nd3 Rf3 45.b3 Qe2 46.Kb4 Qxd3 47.Ka4 a6 48.Kb4 Qb5+ 49.Ka3 Qxb3#)* 44.Kb3 Rf4 45.Ng2 Rb4+ 46.Ka3 Qa5#]

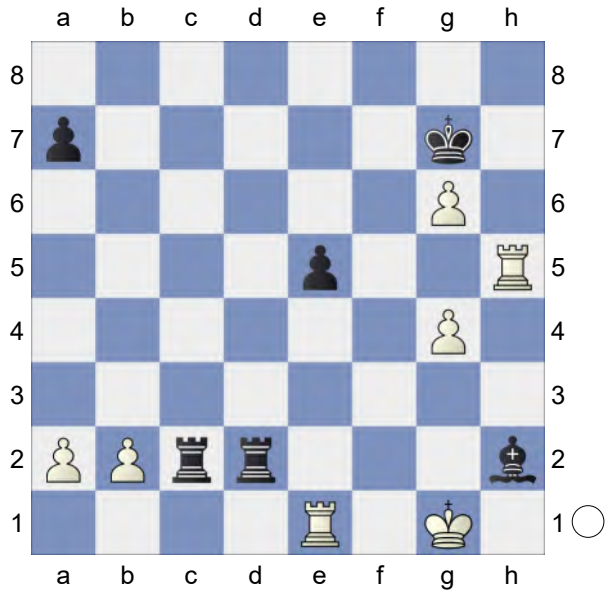
32.Rh3? -#13/20

[32.gxh5-+ -2.93/22 Qxh5 *(32...Qf5? 33.Qxe6 Qxe6 34.Rxe6-+)* 33.Qxe6]

32...Qe4+ 33.f3 Qd3 34.Qxd3 Rxd3 35.Rxh5+ Kg7



36.f4 Rdd2 37.fxg5 Be5 38.Re1 Bf4 39.g6 e5 40.Kg1 Bxh2+

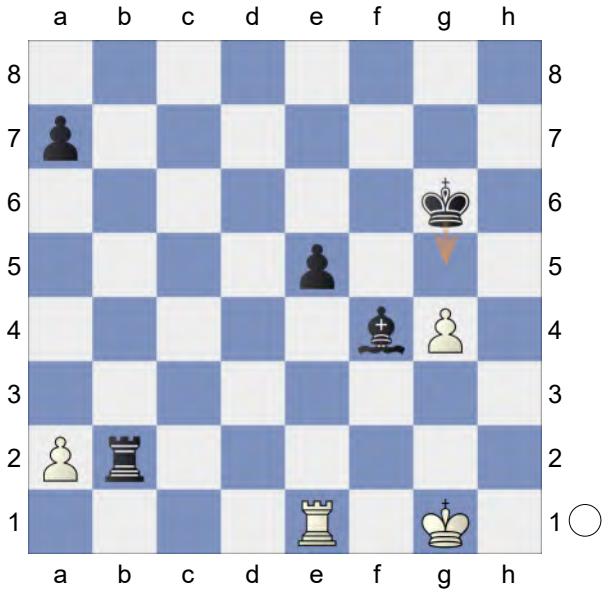


41.Kh1 Bf4 ...Bg3! is the strong threat.

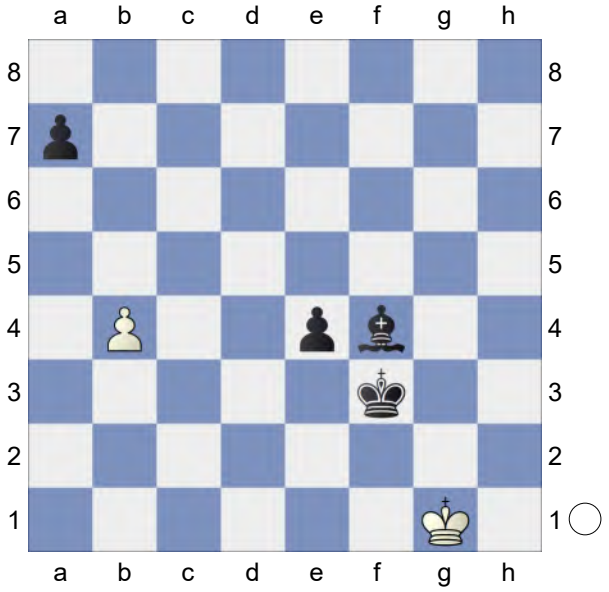
42.Rh7+ Kxg6 43.Rh3 Rh2+ -#19/26

[43...Kg5-+ -17.59/26 44.Rb1 Kxg4 *(44...Rxb2? 45.Re1-+)*]

44.Rxh2 Rxh2+ KRB-KR **45.Kg1 Rxb2**



46.Re4 Kg5 47.Ra4 Kxg4 48.a3 Kf3 49.Rb4 Rxb4 50.axb4 e4



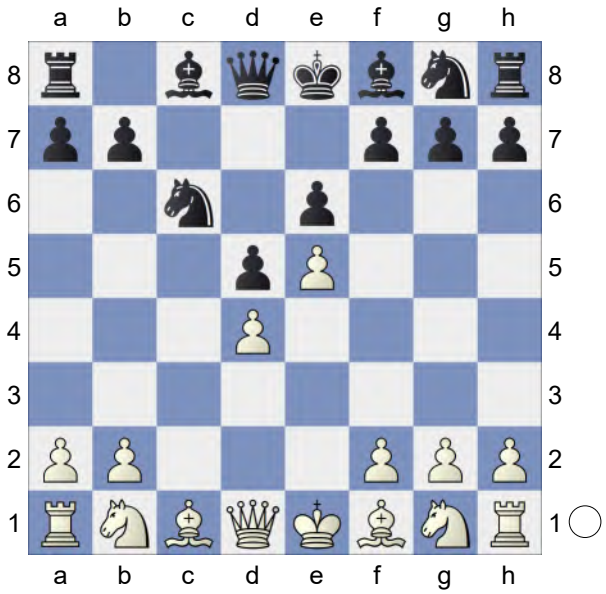
Weighted Error Value: White=1.37/ Black=0.75

0-1

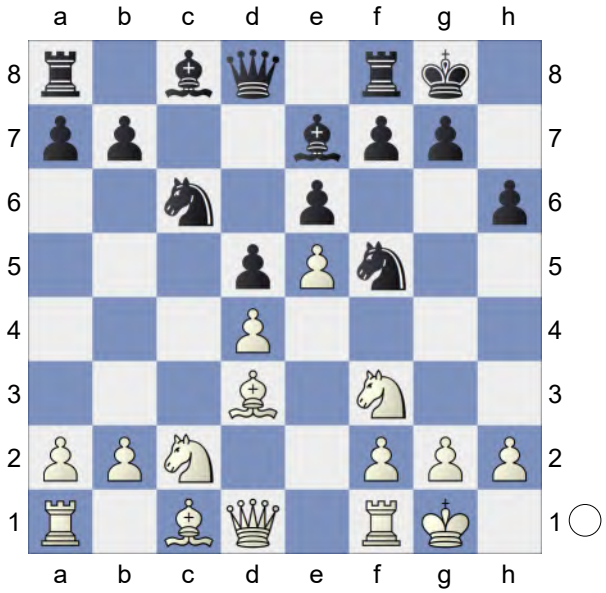
192 **C02**
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2780**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2786**
Chess.com Speed Chess blitz (2.23)
[Kitty Kat]

C02: French: Advance Variation
1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
[3...d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Be3 c4 7.b3 cxb3 8.axb3 Ne7 9.Na3 Nbc6 10.Nb5 Bb8 11.Bd3 Bf5 12.c4 0-0 13.Ra4 Qd7 14.Nc3 Bc7 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Nh4 Qd7 17.0-0 Rad8 18.Re1 1-0 (52) Deepan,C (2543)-Sharma,D (2303) Delhi Open New Delhi IND 2019 (3.10)]
4.cxd4 d5 5.e5N
[5.exd5 exd5 6.Nf3 Nf6 *(6...Nc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bb5 Bd6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be2* ½-½ Turkov,V-Kopylov,I Loginov Memorial 2002*)* 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Qb3 Kh8 12.Kh1 Rc8 13.Rac1 a6 14.Bb1 b5 15.Qc2 g6 16.Qd2 Be7 17.Ne5 Ng8 18.Bxe7 Ngxe7 19.f4 Bf5 0-1 (57) Tartakower,S-Maroczy,G Carlsbad 1907]
5...Nc6

(Diagram)

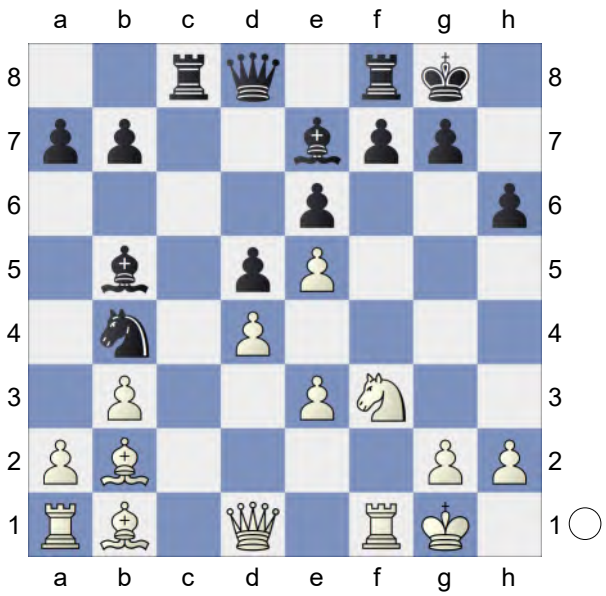


6.Nf3 Nge7 7.Na3 Nf5 8.Nc2 Be7 9.Bd3 h6 10.0-0 0-0

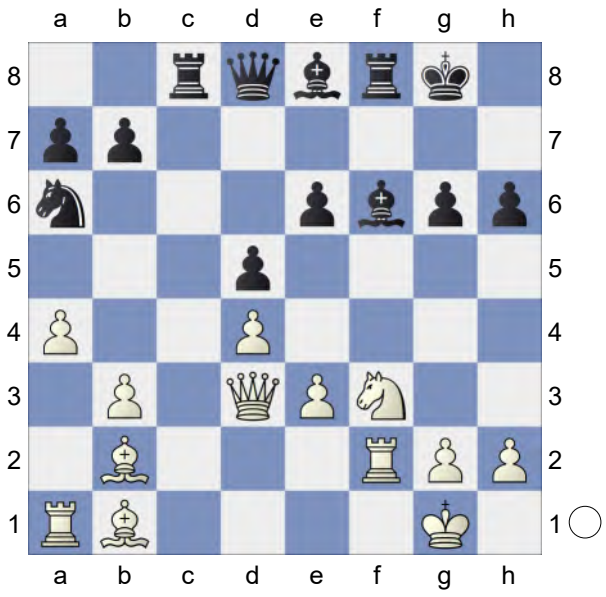


11.b3 Bd7 The position is equal.
12.Bb2 0.07/18
[12.g4± 0.50/17 feels stronger. Nh4 13.Nxh4 Bxh4 14.f4]
12...Rc8 13.Ne3 -0.08/19
[13.g4± 0.33/18 Nh4 14.Nxh4]
13...Nxe3= 14.fxe3 Nb4 15.Bb1 Bb5

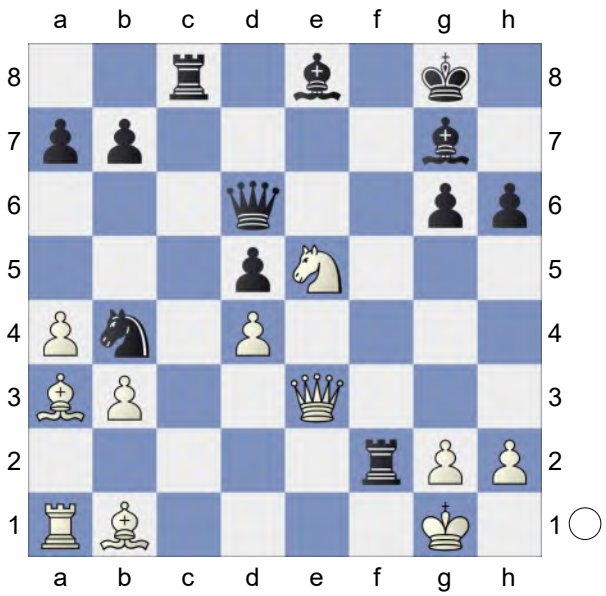
(Diagram)



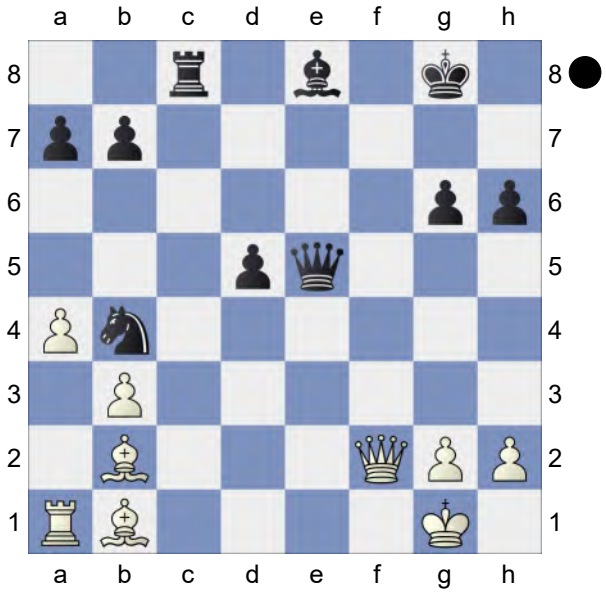
16.Rf2 f5 0.41/19
[16...Ba6= -0.06/18]
17.exf6± Bxf6 18.a3 Na6 19.a4 Be8 20.Qd3 g6



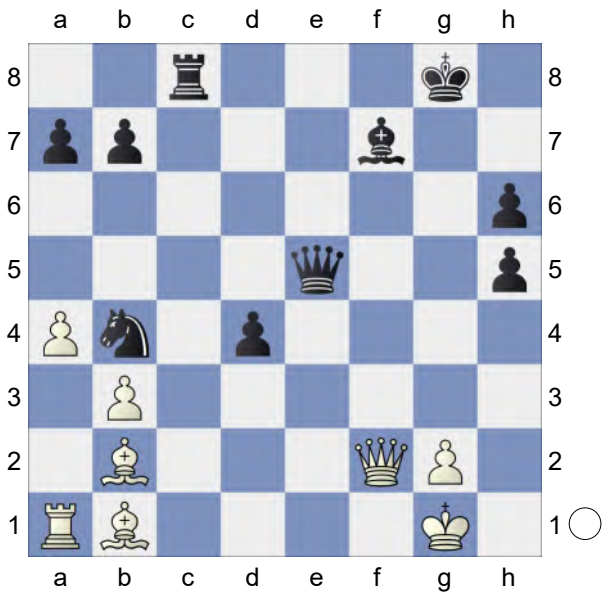
21.e4 Bg7 22.Qe3 Nb4 23.exd5 exd5 24.Ba3 -0.25/20
[24.a5± 0.31/18]
24...Qd6 0.40/21
[24...a5= -0.25/20]
25.Ne5 -0.34/22
[Better is 25.a5± 0.40/21 b6 26.a6]
25...Rxf2∓
(Diagram)



26.Qxf2 Bxe5 27.dxe5 Qxe5 28.Bb2



White is weak on the light squares
28...d4! 29.h4
[29.h3 Rd8]
29...Bf7 -0.14/23
[29...Rd8∓ -1.06/22 30.h5 Qxh5 *(30...gxh5 31.Bf5=)*]
30.h5= Deflection **30...gxh5?** 3.84/22
[30...Qe3= -0.20/21 and Black has nothing to worry. 31.hxg6 Qxf2+ 32.Kxf2 Bxb3 33.Bxd4 Nc2 34.Bxc2 Rxc2+ 35.Ke3 Rc6]



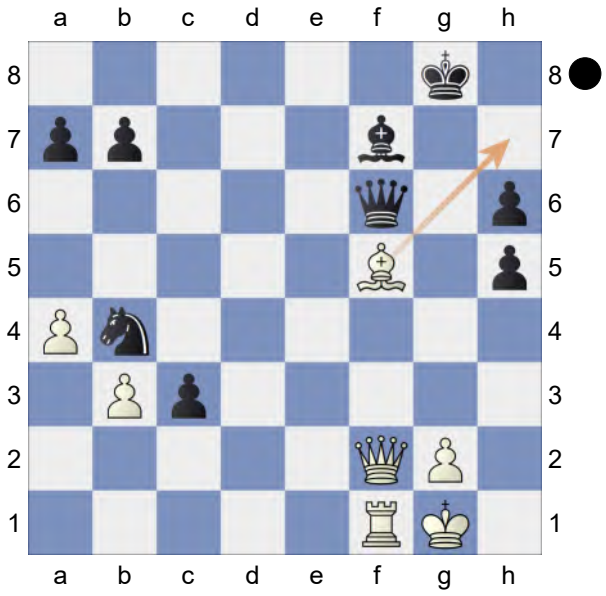
31.Bf5? 0.35/21

[White must play 31.Bh7+!+- 3.84/22 Kf8 *(31...Kxh7? perishes. 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qd7+-)* 32.Bxd4]

31...Rc3? 2.51/23 **32.Bxc3+-** **dxc3** **33.Re1→** 0.88/22 White goes for the king.

[33.Rf1+- 1.85/23 and White stays clearly on top. Bxb3 34.Re1 *(34.Qxa7 Bd5+-)*]

33...Qf6 **34.Rf1**

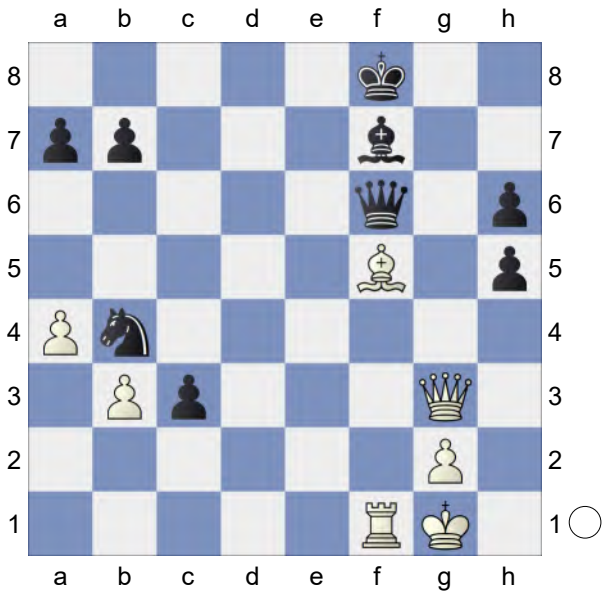


Intending Bh7+! and mate. White has strong compensation. **34...Kg7** 4.30/20

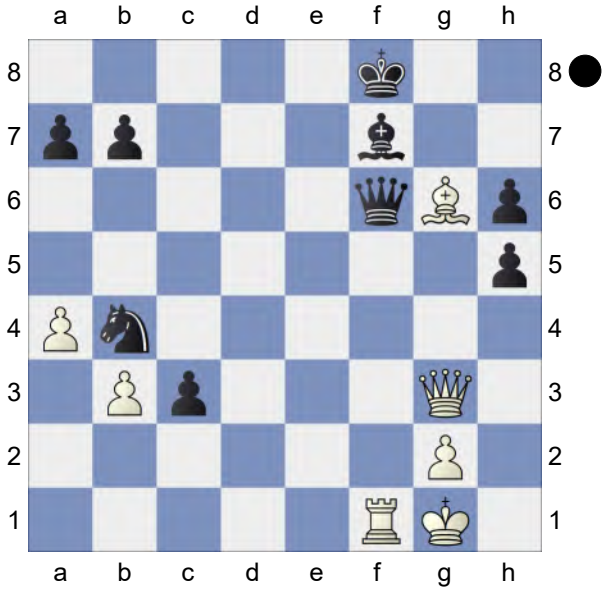
[34...Qb6!± 0.65/21]

35.Qg3+ **Kf8** 10.78/23

[⌓35...Kh8 4.48/22 36.Be4 Discovered Attack Qg7]



36.Bg6

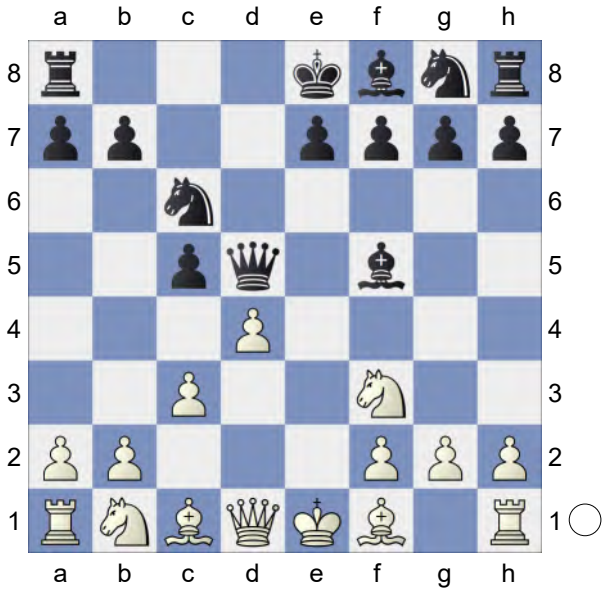


Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.76

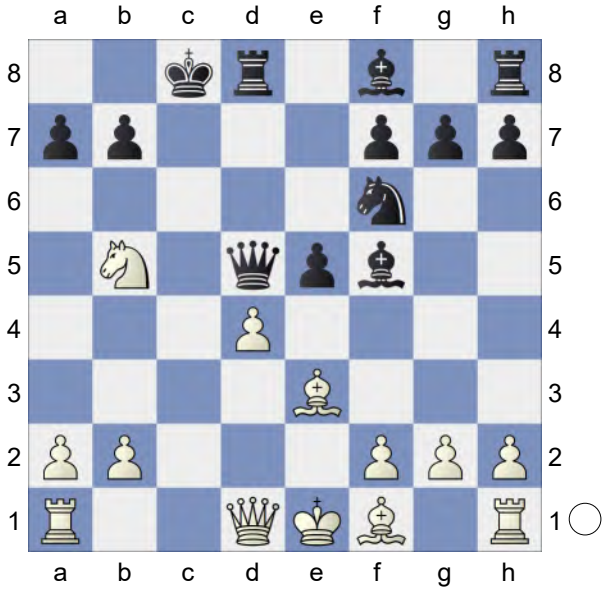
1-0

193 **B22**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2762**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2721**
Saint Louis Blitz (3) 15.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5



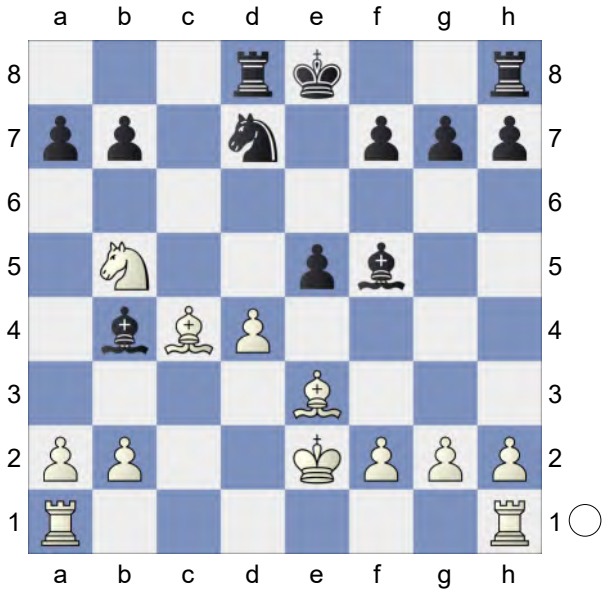
6.Be3 Nf6 7.Na3 cxd4 8.Nb5 0-0-0
Prevents Nc7. The position is equal.
9.Nfxd4 Nxd4 1.05/23
[9...Ng4!= 0.12/19 keeps the balance. 10.Bd2 Qe4+ 11.Qe2 e5 12.Nxf5 Qxf5 13.f3 Nf6 14.g4 Qd7 15.h4 Nd5 16.g5 f5 17.gxf6 gxf6 18.Bh3 f5 19.Qd3 Nde7 20.Qxd7+ Rxd7 21.0-0-0 a6 22.Na3 b5 23.Nc2 Kb7 24.Ne3 Bh6 0-1 (46) Gledura,B (2644)-Jones,G (2669) Chess.com RCC Wk13 Swiss 2022 (6)]
10.cxd4N
[10.Nxa7+ Kb8 11.Bxd4 Qe4+ 12.Be2 Rxd4 *(12...Qxg2? 13.Bf3+-)* 13.cxd4 Kxa7∓]
[10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Nxd4 Be4 12.f3 Bd5 13.c4 e5 14.Nb5 Bb4+ 15.Kf2 Be6 16.Nxa7+ Kb8 17.Nb5 Nd7 18.Be2 f5 19.Rhd1 f4 20.Ba7+ Kc8 21.c5 Nb8 22.Nd6+ Kc7 23.Bb6+ Kc6 24.Bb5# 1-0 Van Foreest,J (2678)-Maurizzi,M (2433) Online Olym Div Top-B rapid 2020 (8.1)]
10...e5



White must now prevent ...Bb4+.
11.Qc1+
[11.Nxa7+? Kb8 12.Bd3 Bb4+ *(12...Qxg2 13.Bxf5 Qxh1+ 14.Ke2∓; 12...exd4? 13.Bf4+ Bd6 14.Bxd6+ Rxd6 15.Nb5-+; 12...Kxa7? 13.Qa4+ Kb8 14.Bxf5-+)* 13.Kf1 Bxd3+ *(13...exd4? 14.Bf4+ Kxa7 15.Qa4+ Ba5 16.Bxf5-+; 13...Kxa7 14.Bxf5 exd4 15.Qa4+ Kb8 16.Bf4+ Bd6 17.Bxd6+ Rxd6 18.Bd3∓)* 14.Qxd3 exd4 *(14...Kxa7? 15.dxe5+ Kb8 16.Qxd5-+)* 15.Bf4+ Kxa7-+]
11...Kd7 Strongly threatening ...Bb4+.
12.Qc7+ Ke8 13.Bc4
[13.Nxa7? Bb4+ *(13...exd4 14.Bc4=)* 14.Kd1 exd4-+]
[13.Qxe5+ Qxe5 14.dxe5 Bb4+ 15.Ke2 Ng4±]
13...Bb4+ 14.Ke2 Qd7 15.Qxd7+
[15.dxe5? Bd3+ 16.Kd1 *(16.Bxd3*

Qxd3+ 17.Kf3 Qf5+ 18.Ke2 Qg4+ 19.f3 Qxg2+ 20.Bf2 Rd2+ 21.Ke3 Nd5+ 22.Ke4 Qg6#) 16...Bxc4+-+]

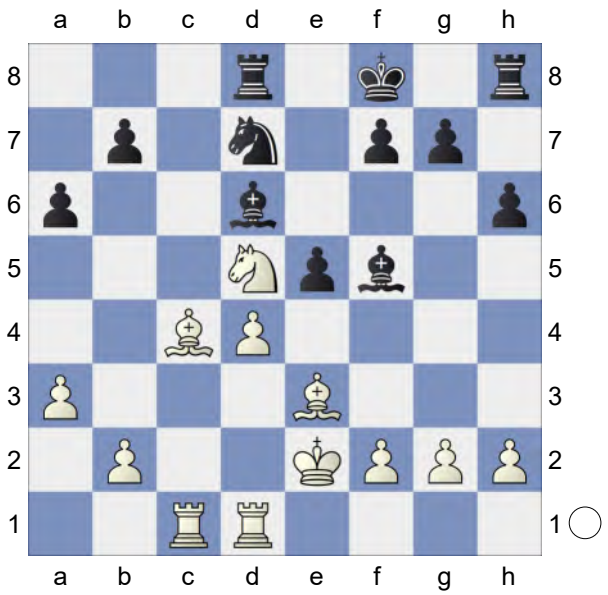
15...Nxd7



16.a3 Be7 17.Rhd1 a6 18.Nc7+ Kf8 19.Nd5 0.59/18

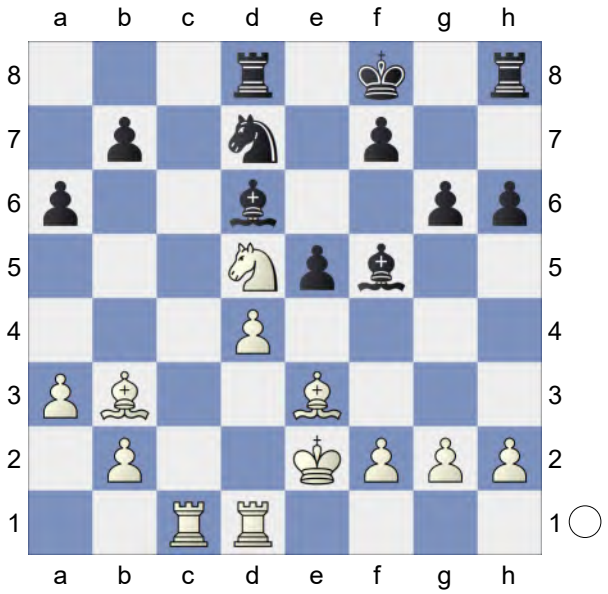
[19.Bd5± 0.96/20]

19...Bd6± 20.Rac1 h6



21.Bb3 g6

(Diagram)



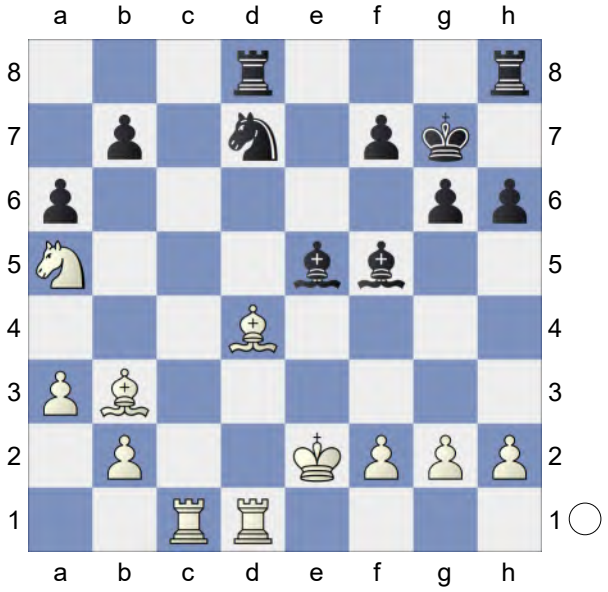
22.Nb6! Deflection **22...Kg7**

[22...Nxb6? 23.dxe5 Be7 *(23...Bg4+? 24.f3+-)* 24.Bxb6 Rxd1 25.Kxd1+- *(25.Rxd1 Kg7+-)*]

23.Nc4 Bb8 24.Na5 exd4 1.41/21

[24...Ba7!± 0.66/19]

25.Bxd4+± Be5

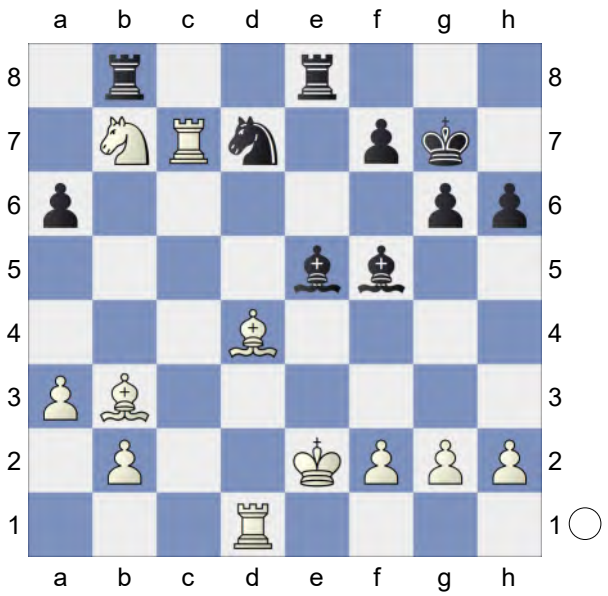


26.Nxb7 Rb8 27.Rc7 Threatens to win with Rxd7!

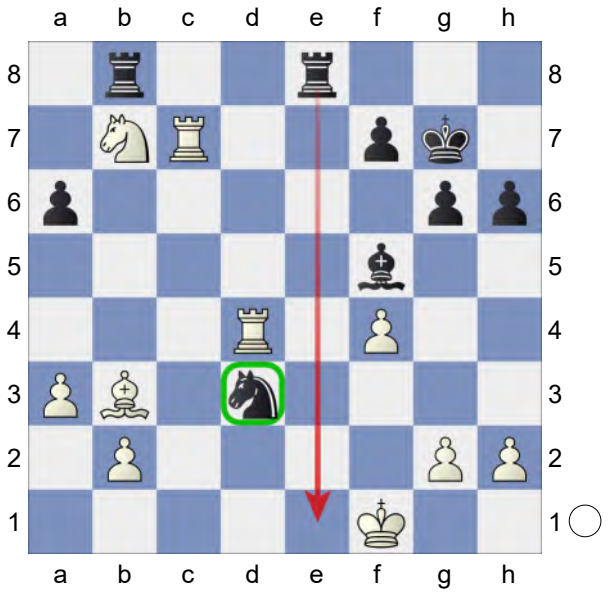
[27.Bxe5+ Nxe5 28.Bd5 Rhe8∓]

[27.Bxe5+ simplifies Nxe5 28.Bd5 Bg4+ 29.f3]

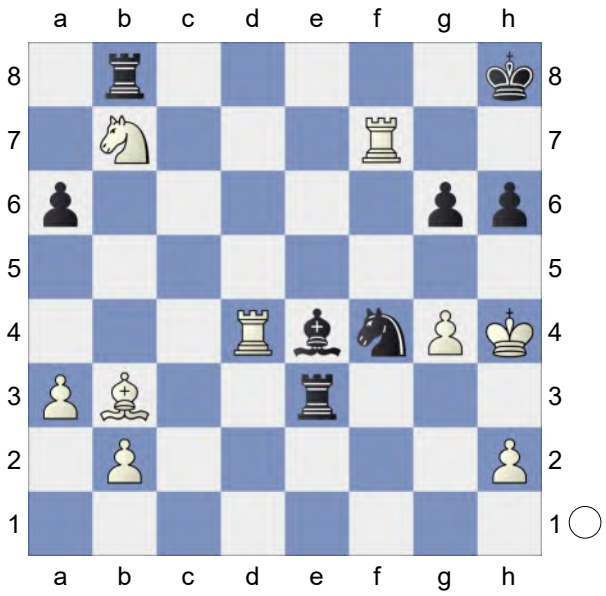
27...Rhe8



28.Kf1! Nd6 is the strong threat.
28...Bxd4 29.Rxd4 Ne5 aiming for ... Nf3! **30.f4?** -2.00/24 This move loses the game for White.
[30.Nd6± 1.33/20 stays on course. Rf8 31.Nxf5+ gxf5 32.Rc3]
30...Nd3-+



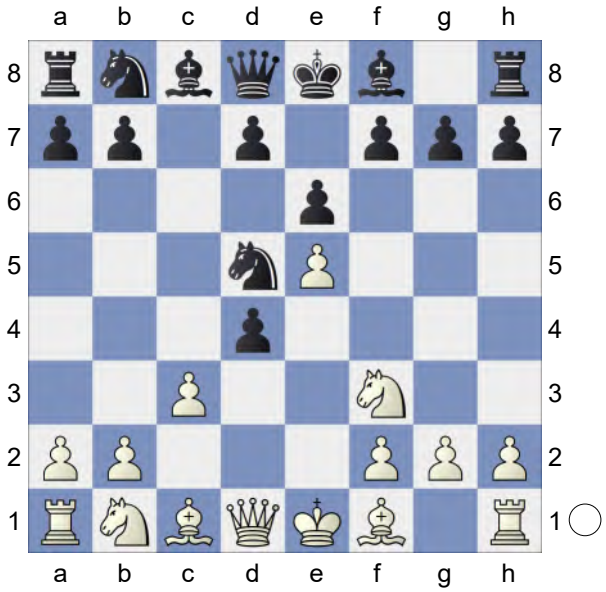
31.Rxf7+ Kh8 32.g4 Re1+ Black has strong compensation.
[32...Bxg4 33.h4 Bf3 *(33...Nxb2 34.Nd6=)* 34.Rxd3]
33.Kg2 Be4+
[33...Bxg4? 34.Rxd3 Re2+ 35.Kg3+-]
34.Kg3? -#7/16
[34.Rxe4-+ -2.30/21 Rxe4 35.Rd7 Ne1+ *(35...Nxf4+ 36.Kf3∓* Deflection; *35...Nxb2 36.Nd6∓; 35...Rxf4? 36.Rxd3 Rxb7 37.Kg3-+)* 36.Kg1 *(36.Kf2? Rbe8-+)*]
34...Re3+
[34...Rxb7 35.Rd8#]
35.Kh4 Nxf4 -13.07/5
[Not 35...Rxb7 36.Rd8#]
[35...Bxb7 36.Rdd7 g5+ *(36...Nxb2 37.Rh7#)* 37.fxg5 hxg5+ 38.Kxg5-+]
[⌓35...Nf2 -#6/14 36.Rh7+ Decoy Kxh7 37.Rd7+ Kh8 38.Rh7+ Decoy Kxh7 39.Bg8+ Rxg8 40.g5 Rh3#]



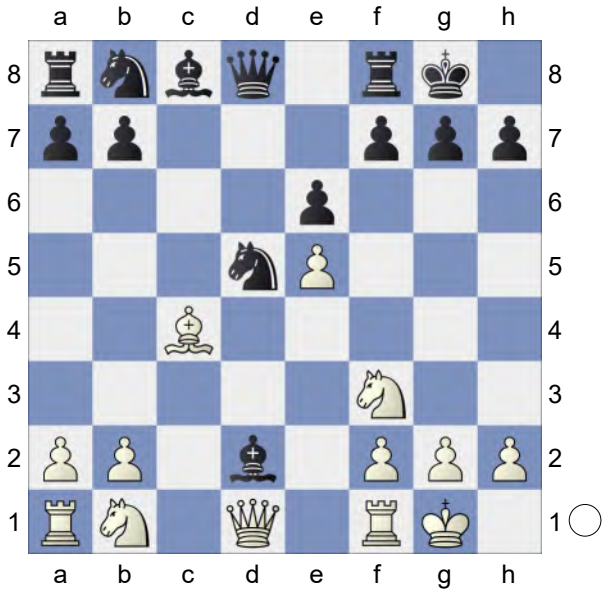
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

194 **B22**
□ **Bortnyk,Olexandr** **2608**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2762**
Titled Tuesday intern op 20th Feb Early ..
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 e6

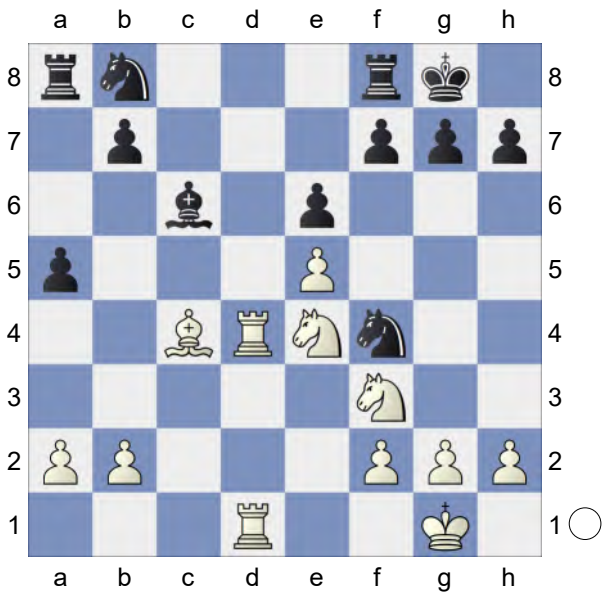


6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 dxe5
[7...Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bd2 Nc6 10.Nc3 Nb6 11.Bb3 dxe5 12.dxe5 Na5 13.Bc2 Nac4 14.Bc1 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Bd7 16.Be4 Na5 17.Be3 Rfd8 18.b3 Rac8 19.Rac1 Ba3 20.Rc2 Bb4 21.Bg5 Re8 22.Rdc1 ½-½ (25) Alekseev,E (2678)-Grischuk,A (2777) RUS-chT 21st 2014 (4.1)]
8.dxe5 Bb4+ 9.Bd2
[9.Nbd2 Nb6 10.Be2 Bd7 11.0-0 Bc6 12.a3 Be7 13.Qc2 N8d7 14.Ne4 Rc8 15.Qb1 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Bg5 Be7 18.Rd1 Nd5 19.Bd2 Qb6 20.b4 Ba4 21.Rc1 0-0 22.Bc4 Qd8 23.Qe4 Bc6 1-0 (41) Myers,D (2184)-Faktor (1496) 400 Linz 2015 (4)]
9...0-0 10.0-0N
[10.Bxb4 Nxb4 11.Nc3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nc2+ 13.Qxc2 Qxc4 14.Ng5 Qh4 15.Nce4 Nc6 16.g3 Qh6 17.f4 Qg6 18.0-0 f6 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Nf3 Nb4 21.Qc4 a5 22.Rae1 b5 23.Qb3 Nd5 24.Nd4 Qf7 1-0 (65) Magrin-Merkulov 8/659 Palma de Mallorca 1969 25.Nd6 Qa7 26.N6xb5 Qb6 27.Rf2 Bd7 28.a4 f5 29.Rd1 Rf7 30.Re2 Rc8 31.Kf1 Kf8 32.Qa3+ Re7 33.Rde1 Bxb5 34.Nxb5 Nb4 35.Qb3 Qc6 36.Nd4 Qh1+ 37.Kf2 Qxh2+ 38.Kf3 Qh5+ 39.Kg2 Qf7 1-0 (65) Magrin-Merkulov EU/FSM/29 corr ICCF 1990]
10...Bxd2

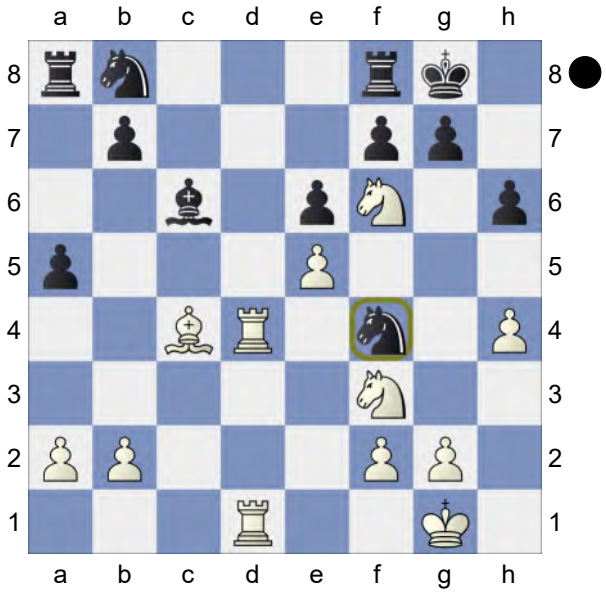


11.Nbxd2 White is slightly better.
11...Nf4 12.Ne4 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1
[13.Raxd1!? b6 14.Nd4=]
13...Bd7 Black is weak on the dark squares **14.Rd4 Bc6 15.Rad1** -0.20/20
[15.b4± 0.32/18]
15...a5 0.19/17
[⌓15...Ng6 -0.20/20]

(Diagram)

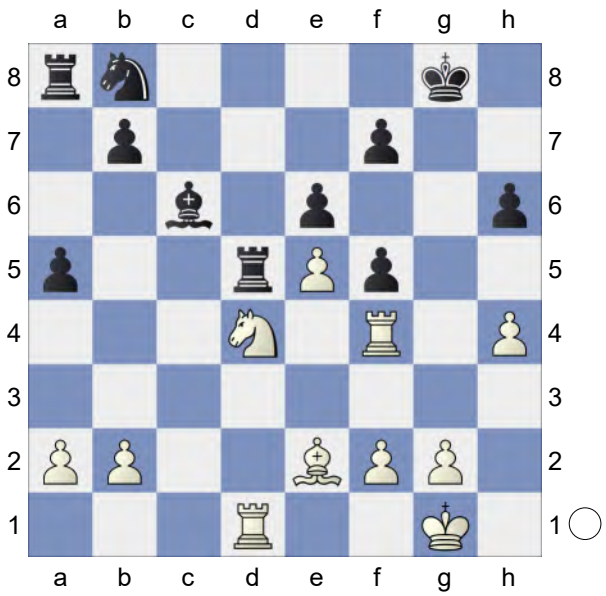


16.h4= h6 17.Nf6+

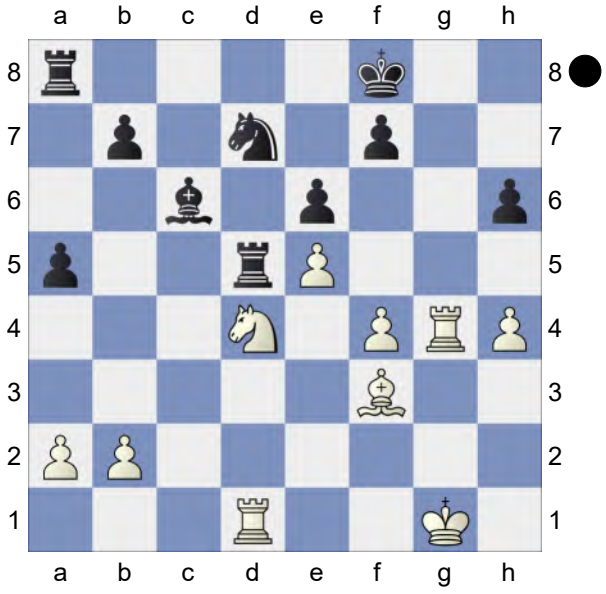


Discovered Attack **17...gxf6 18.Rxf4 f5 19.Nd4 Rd8 20.Be2** 0.01/23
[20.Re1± 0.44/19 is more appropriate.]
20...Rd5

(Diagram)

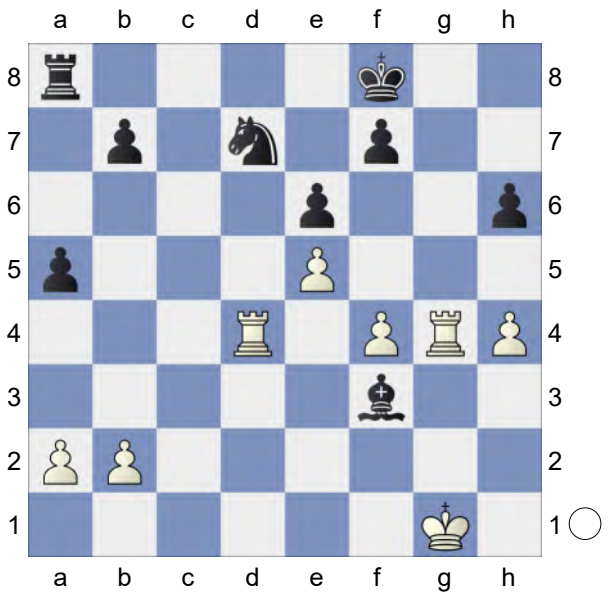


21.g4 fxg4 22.Rxg4+ Kf8 23.f4 Nd7 24.Bf3? -3.21/21
[24.Kf2= 0.27/22 and White has nothing to worry. Nb6 25.Bf3]

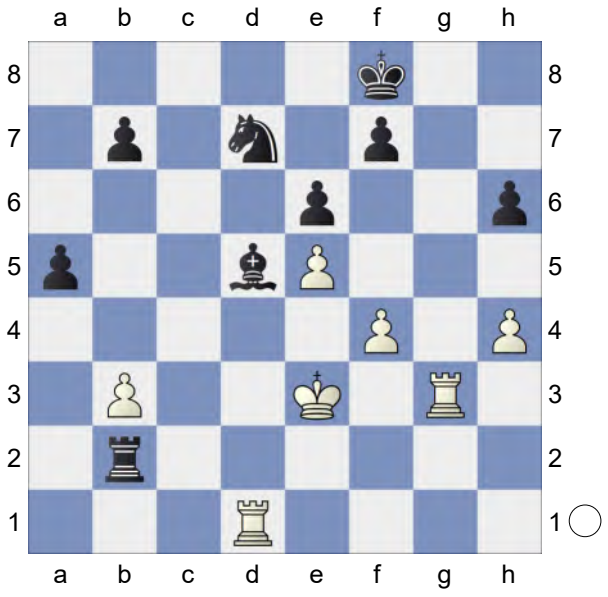


This move loses the game for White. **24...Rxd4!-+** Discovered Attack, Remove Defender **25.Rxd4** Bxc6 would now be deadly. **25...Bxf3**

(Diagram)

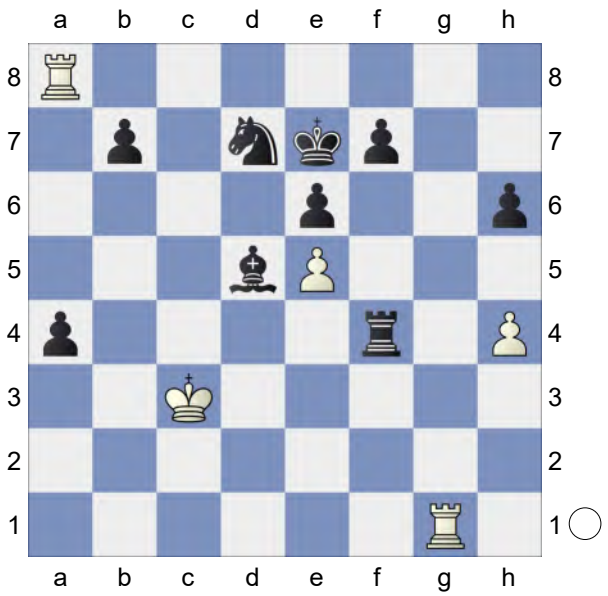


26.Rg3 Bd5 27.b3 Rc8 28.Kf2
-5.48/21
[⌓28.Rgd3 -3.64/20]
28...Rc2+ Black is clearly winning.
29.Ke3 Rxa2 30.Rd1 Rb2
[Weaker is 30...Bxb3 31.Rxd7 Bd5 32.Rd8+ Ke7 33.Rgg8=]

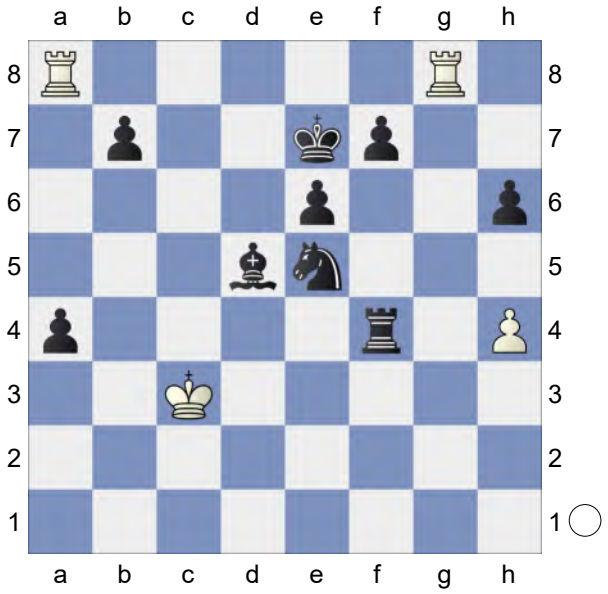


31.Kd4 a4 32.Rdg1 Rxb3 33.Rg8+ Ke7 34.Ra8 Rb4+ 35.Kc3 Rxf4

(Diagram)



36.Rgg8 Nxe5

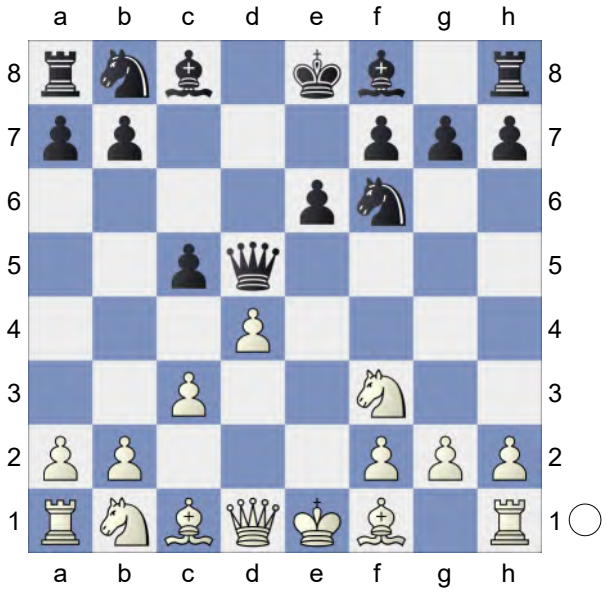


Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

195 **B22**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2762**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2767**
Saint Louis Blitz (4) 15.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6



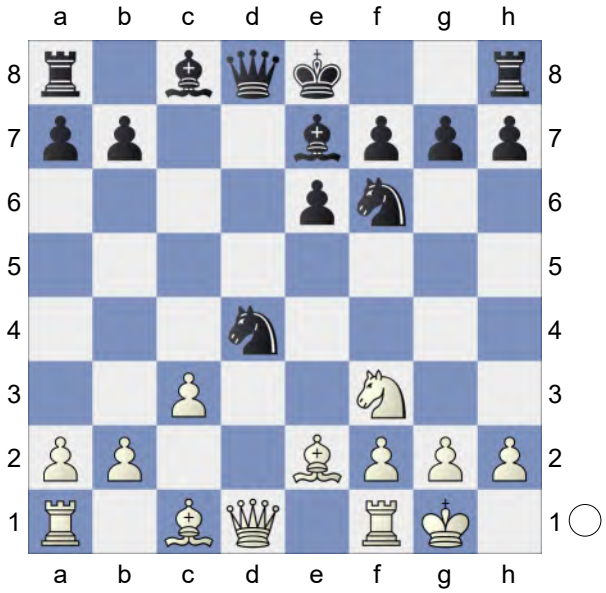
6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Na3N

[8.Be3 cxd4 9.c4 *(9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 Qd6 11.Rc1 Rd8 12.Qd2 Nd5 13.Ne4 Qb4 14.Qc2 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Qa5 16.a3 h6 17.Nfd2 f5 18.Nc4 Qc7 19.Ng3 Bg5 20.Qb3 Kh7 21.Bf3 Bd7 22.Rc3 Na5 23.Nxa5 Qxa5* 0-1 (41) Romanishin,O (2565)-Wolfgang Gerstner − Nukhim, Ú (2610) Chess in Friendship 1993 *)* 9...Qd8 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Bf3 Qxd4 13.Bxd4 Nd7 14.Nc3 a6 15.Rad1 Bf6 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Bxb7 Bxb7 18.Rxd7 Rab8 19.b3 f5 20.Rfd1 Kg7 21.h3 h5 22.R1d6 Kf6 ½-½ (51) Persitz,B (2121)-B6 (1971) World Championship Match, 6th Game 27 (5)]

[8.h3 0-0 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Rd8 11.Nc3 Qa5 12.Qb3 a6 13.Rac1 Qb4 14.Qc2 Qd6 15.a3 h6 16.Rfd1 Nd5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qd2 Bf5 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Bg3 Be4 21.Qe3 Bf6 22.Bf1 Re8 ½-½ (46) Jelen,I (2247)-Galavics,H (2023) FRA-chT Top 16 GP Haute 2005 (4.4)]

[8.c4 Qd8 9.dxc5 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bxc5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Ne4 Be7 15.c5 f5 16.Nd6 Rd8 17.Bb5 Bf6 18.Rd2 Rb8 19.Rad1 Kf8 20.a3 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxc8 Rxd2 0-1 (55) Pascot, J (1892)-Najart,D (2150) Sautron op 14th 2014 (9)]

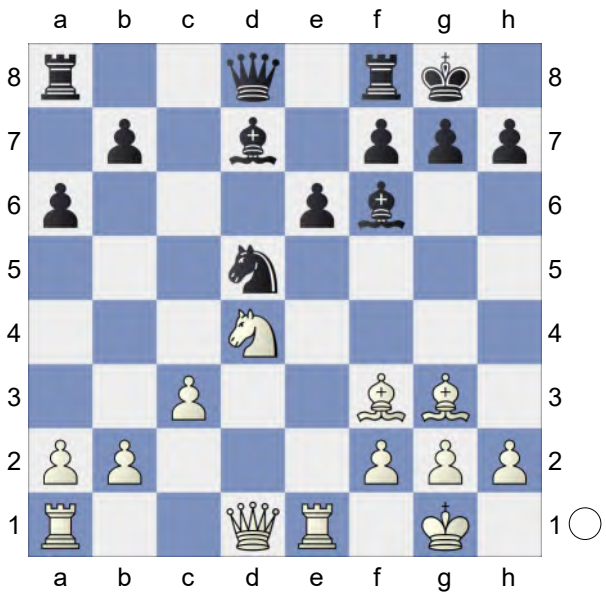
8...cxd4 9.Nb5 Qd8 10.Nbxd4 Nxd4



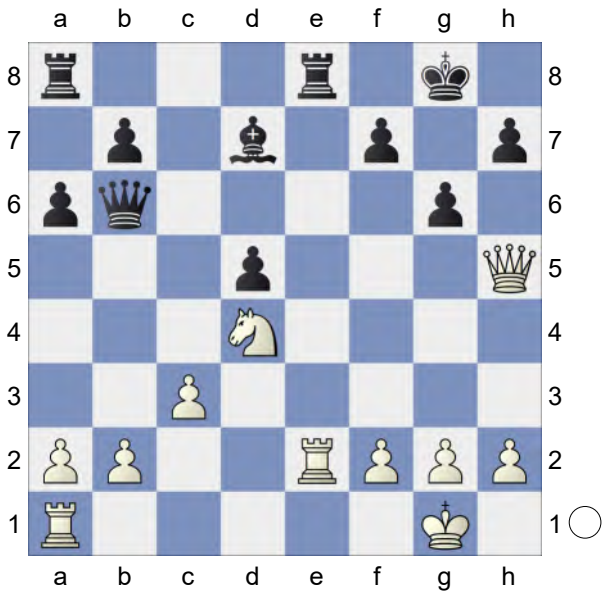
11.Nxd4 0-0 12.Bf4 a6 13.Bf3 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bf6 15.Re1 White is slightly better. **15...Bd7** 0.66/20

[15...Qb6= 0.27/20 is superior.]

(Diagram)

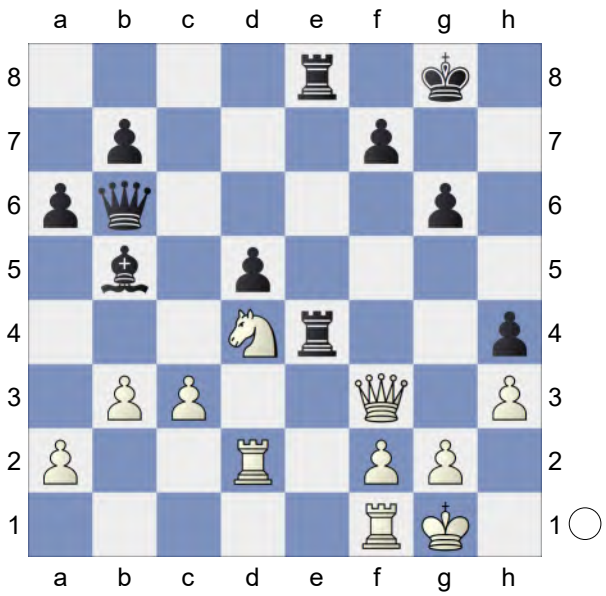


16.Bxd5 exd5 17.Be5 Re8 18.Qh5 Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Qb6 20.Re2 g6

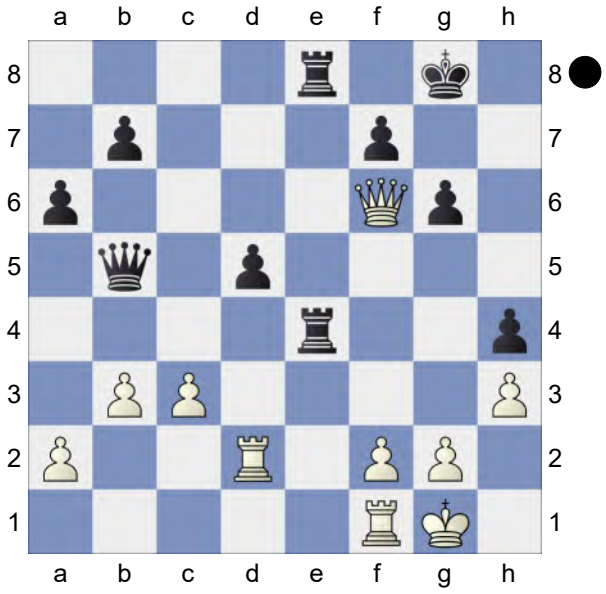


21.Qf3 Re4 22.h3 Dodges Bg4 **22...Rae8 23.Rd2 h5 24.Rf1 h4 25.b3 Bb5**

(Diagram)

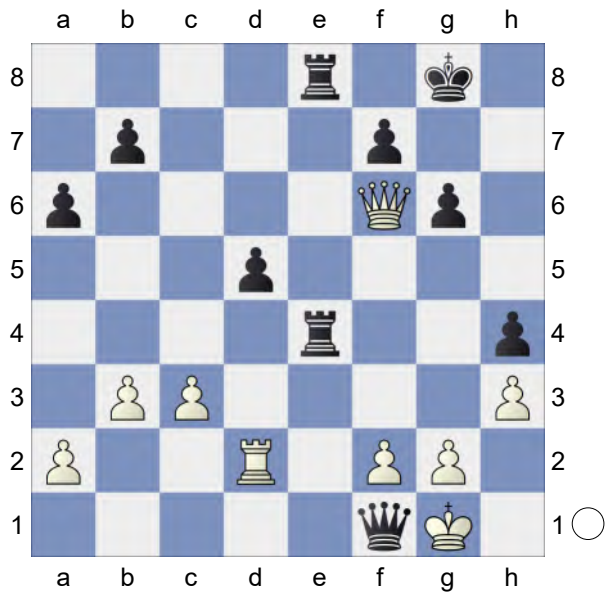


26.Nxb5 Qxb5 27.Qf6? -22.81/27
[27.Qd3= -0.25/22]



Repels Qxf1+ **27...Qxf1+!!**

(Diagram)

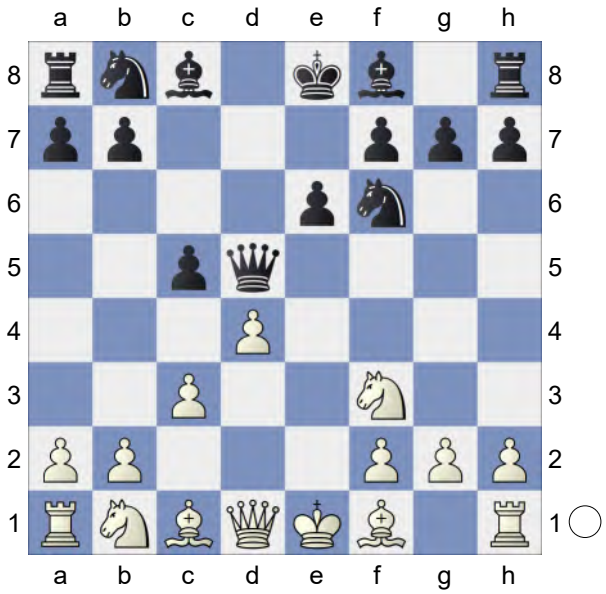


Remove Defender, Back Rank.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.06 (flawless)
0-1

196 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2717**
Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Jul Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship. This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship.Tiviakov: 'This game from the last round of the European Championship was extremely important. Only this victory allowed me to win the tournament alone, without any tie. There were 8 players in the lead before the start of the last round and I was the only one to win (the other 3 games were quick draws). Emil also offered me a draw in the evening before this game. But being White in the last round and also having a big positive score against Emil I saw no single reason to accept it.
' Tiviakov: 'Diese Partie aus der letzten Runde der Europameisterschaft war extrem wichtig. Nur durch diesen Erfolg war es mir möglich, alleiniger, ungeteilter Turniersieger zu werden. Vor dem Start der letzten Runde führten 8 Spieler punktgleich, und ich war der Einzige, der gewann. Emil hatte mir am Vorabend der Partie ebenfalls Remis angeboten. Aber da ich Weiß hatte und dazu ein kräftiges Plusergebnis gegen Emil habe, sah ich keinerlei Grund anzunehmen.' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6**

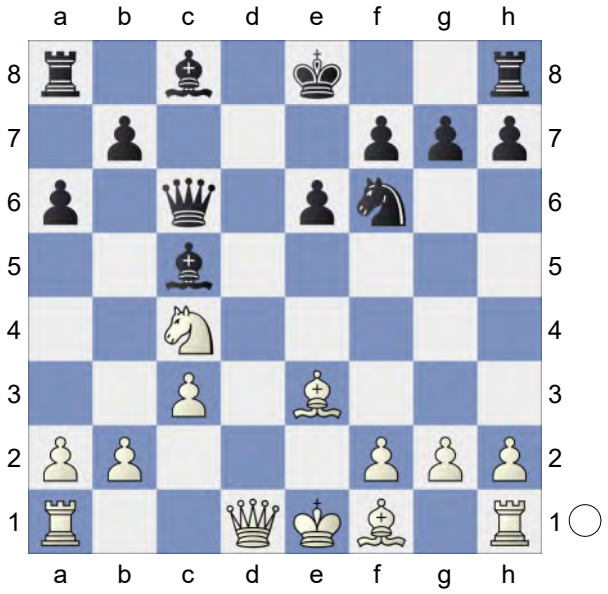
(Diagram)



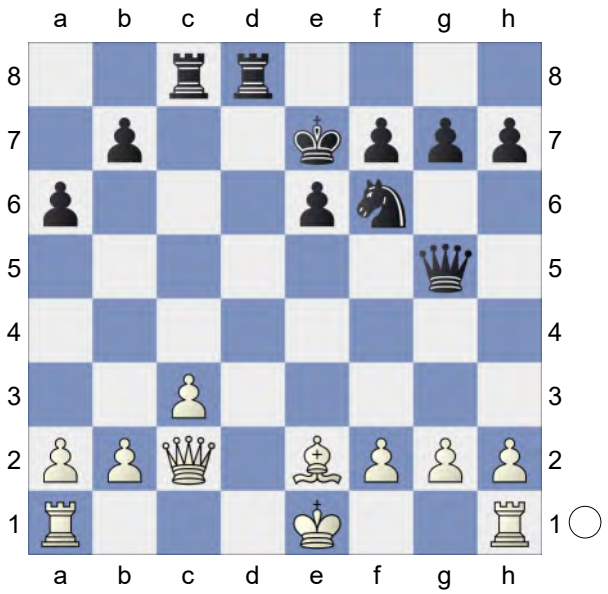
6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6N
[7...Ng4 8.Bc4 Qe4 *(8...Nxe3 9.fxe3 Qd8 10.d5 exd5 11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxd5* 4.Nf3 Nc6 Main Line without .-4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6 *)* 9.Qe2 Nxe3 10.fxe3 cxd4 11.Nb5 Rb8 12.cxd4 4. 2...d5-6. Na3 Nc6 7. Be3 Ng4 #2]
[7...cxd4 8.Nb5 Qd8 9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Bc4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxd5 Bxd4 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Bc8 20.Rg3 Bd6 21.Qg4 g6 22.Bxh6 1-0 (59) Tiviakov,S (2635)-Sutovsky,E (2630) IX EICC Plovdiv BUL 2008 (11)]
[7...Be7 8.dxc5 0-0 9.Bc4 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 Bd7 11.Nb5 Rad8 12.b4 Bc8 13.Ke2 a6 14.Na3 Ne4 15.Nb1 Rfe8 16.h3 Kf8 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Rd1 Ke8 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Kd3 Nf6 21.Nbd2 Bc7 22.g4 1-0 (37) Hort,M (2297)-Oksendal,M (1518) JUG-ch Novi Sad 1995 (15)]
8.Nc4 Hoping for Nb6. **8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5** Prevents Nb6. White has an edge. **10.Nxc6**
[10.Nc2 simplifies Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1

Bxe3 12.N4xe3 b5 13.c4]

10...Qxc6



11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.Nd6+ Ke7 13.Nxc8+ Raxc8 14.Be2 Rhd8 15.Qc2 Qg5



16.0-0 Rd2 17.Qb3 Rc7 18.Bf3 b5 0.21/24

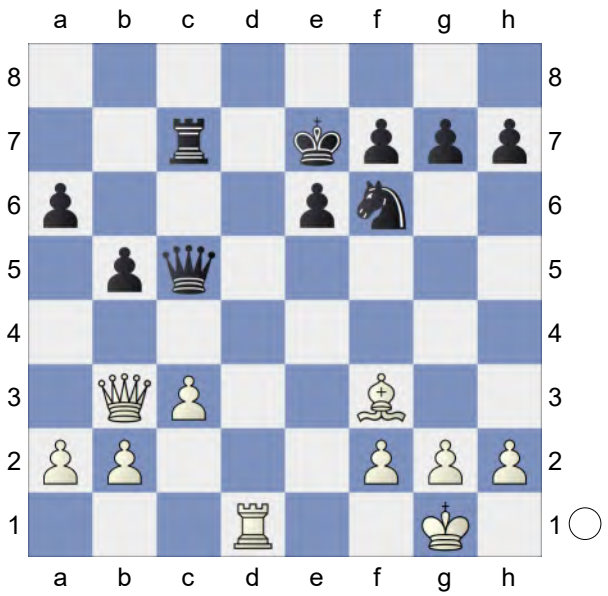
[Better is 18...Qb5∓ -0.36/20 19.Qxb5 axb5]

19.Rad1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1

[20.Bxd1 simplifies Qc5 21.a4 Rd7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Be2]

20...Qc5

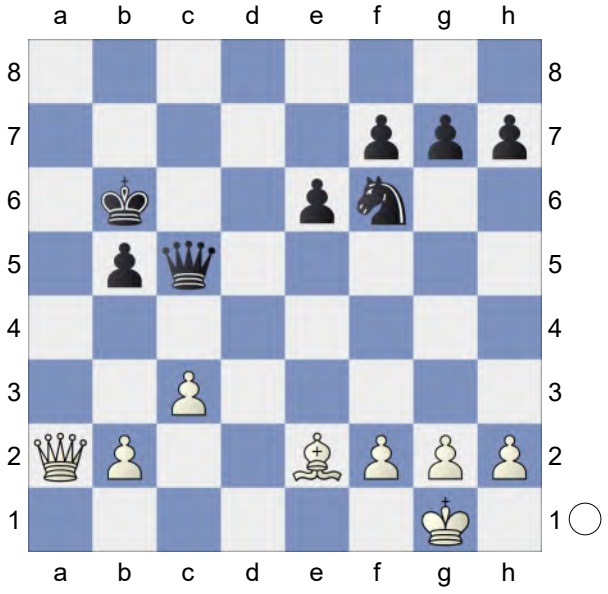
(Diagram)



21.a4 Rd7 0.56/23

[21...Qc4= 0.08/21 is more appropriate. 22.Qa3+ Qc5]

22.Rxd7+± Kxd7 23.axb5 axb5 Endgame. KQB-KQN **24.Be2 Kc6 25.Qa2 Kb6**

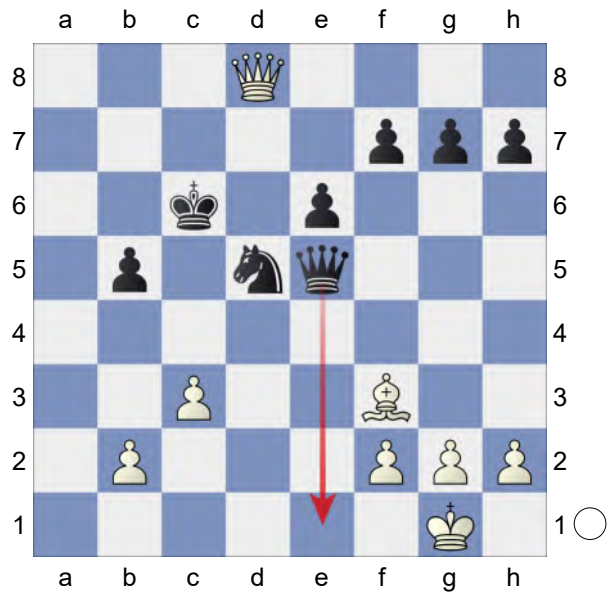


Against Qa6+ **26.Qa8** Repels Ne4 **26...Qe5** Prevents Qb8+. **27.Qd8+ Kc6** 1.45/20

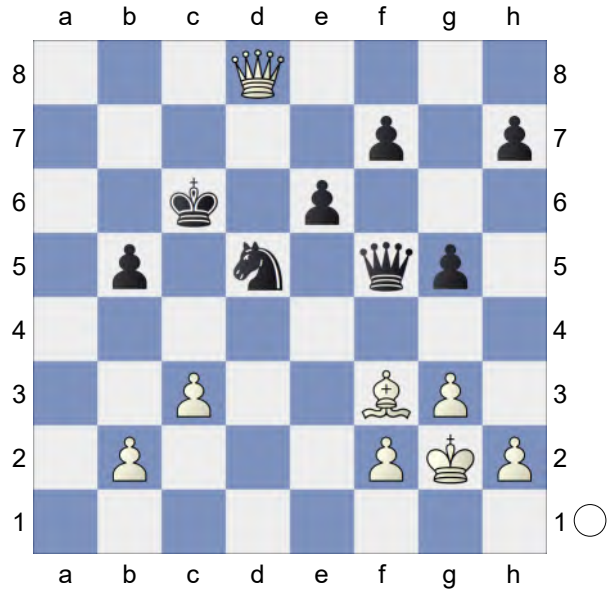
[Black should play 27...Ka6 0.95/21 28.Qd3 h5]

28.Bf3+± Nd5

(Diagram)

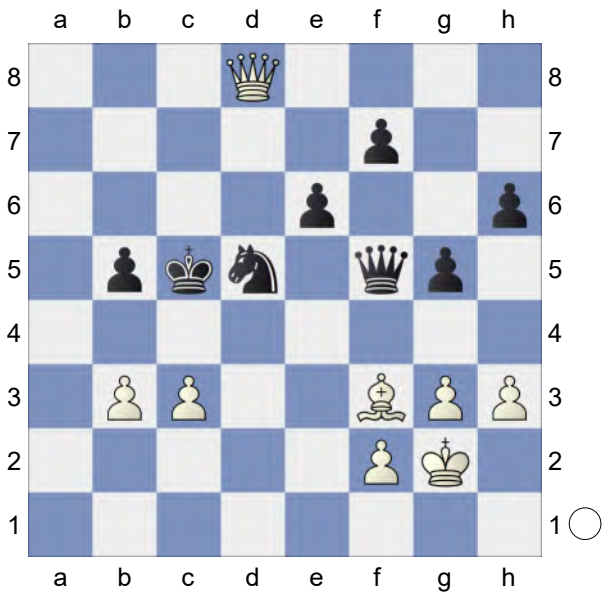


29.g3 Qf5 30.Kg2 g5

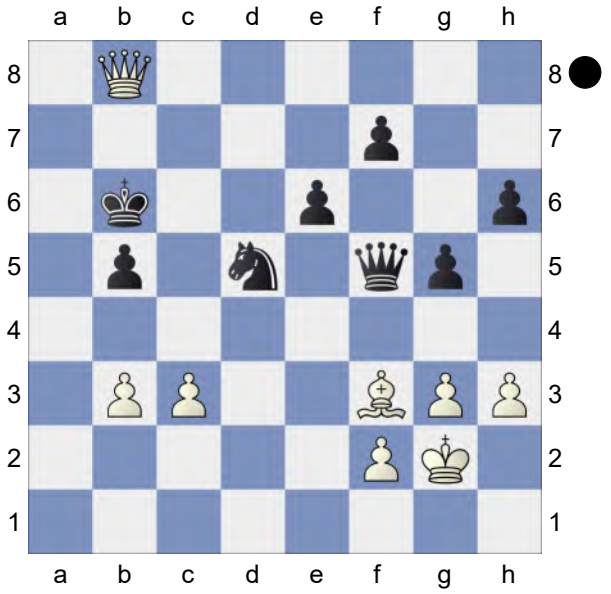


31.h3 White is more active. **31...h6** 1.94/21
[31...Qc2± 1.41/20 32.Qxg5 Qxb2]
32.b3 Kc5 5.55/23
[32...Qc2 1.72/21 is more resistant. 33.Qe8+ Kd6 34.Qf8+ *(34.Qxb5 Qxc3 35.Qb8+ Kd7±; 34.Qxf7 Qxb3 35.Qf8+ Kd7±)* 34...Ke5 35.Qb8+ *(35.Qxh6 f6±; 35.Qxf7 Qxb3 36.Qg7+ Kd6+-)* 35...Kf6]

(Diagram)



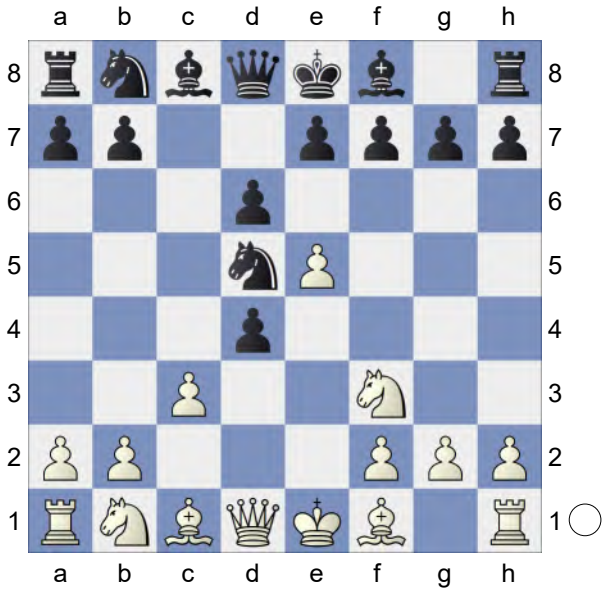
33.Qf8++- Kb6 34.Qb8+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.37
1-0

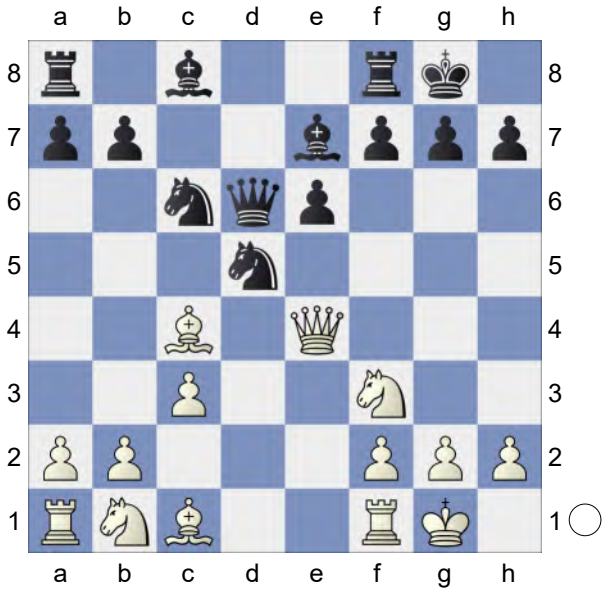
197 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **So,Wesley** **2752**
CCT Final KO rapid (2.14) 15.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
POR-FIN 1977/78 **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 cxd4**

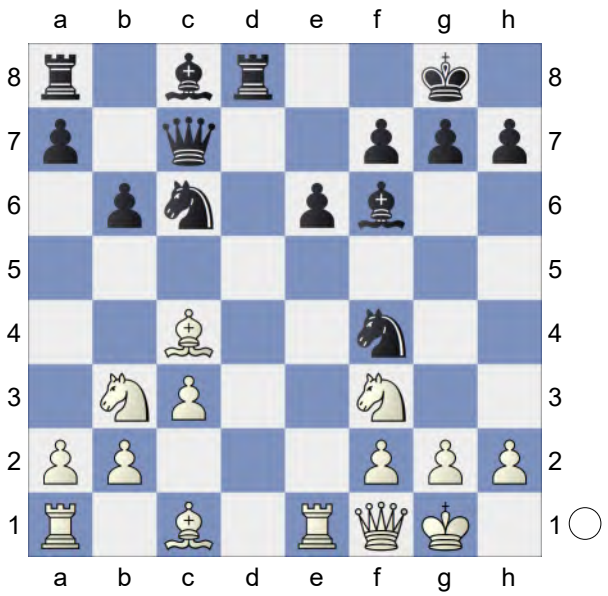


6.Qxd4 e6 7.Bc4
[7.exd6 Nc6 8.Bb5 Qxd6 9.0-0 a6 10.Bxc6+ Qxc6 11.c4 Nf6 12.Nc3 b6 13.Ne5 Qc7 14.Bf4 Bc5 15.Qd2 Nh5 16.Rad1 0-0 17.Ne4 Nxf4 18.Qxf4 Be7 19.Rd3 Ra7 20.Rb3 f6 21.Nd3 Rd8 0-1 (35) Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2596)-Delaplace,T (2500) 55/(576) Aruba 1992 (1)]
[7.Nbd2 Nc6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Nc4 dxe5 11.Ncxe5 Be7 12.0-0 Bf6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Qe4 0-0 15.Be3 Rb8 16.Bc5 Rxb2 17.Bxf8 Nxc3 18.Qxc6 Qxf8 19.Qc4 Qb4 20.Qc8+ Qf8 21.Qc4 g6 0-1 (37) Geshnizjani,R (2141)-Gloeckler,C (2318) World-chT Rapid 2023 (11)]

7...Nc6 8.Qe4 Be7N
[8...Nb6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Na3 0-0 13.Bd3 f5 14.Qe2 e5 15.Nc4 Nxc4 16.Bxc4+ Kh8 17.Ng5 Qg6 18.h4 f4 19.Qd2 Bf5 20.Qd5 h6 21.Nf7+ Kh7 22.0-0-0 e4 23.Rdg1 0-1 (31) Soares Nobre,R-Kaunonen,K CCOL9 prel1-03 1977]
9.0-0 0-0 10.exd6 Qxd6

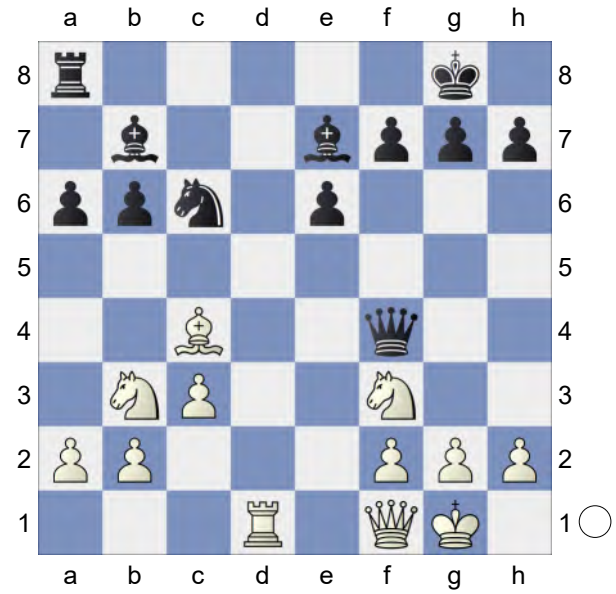


11.Re1 Rd8 12.Nbd2 b6 13.Qe2 Nf4 14.Qf1 Qc7 15.Nb3 Bf6

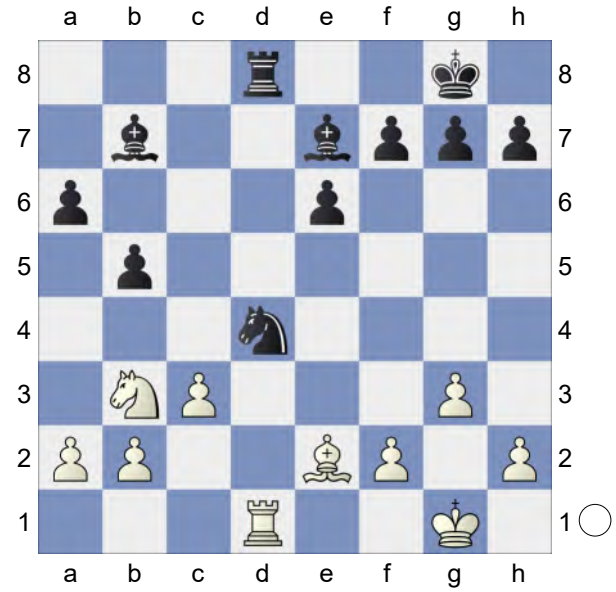


16.Be3 a6 17.Rad1 Bb7 18.Rxd8+

Bxd8 19.Rd1 Be7 20.Bxf4 Qxf4

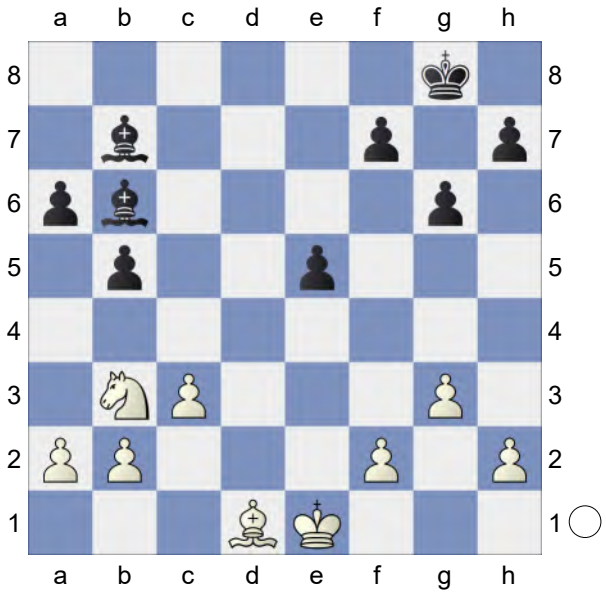


21.Qe2 b5 22.Bd3 Rd8 23.g3 Qg4 24.Nfd4 Qxe2 25.Bxe2 Nxd4

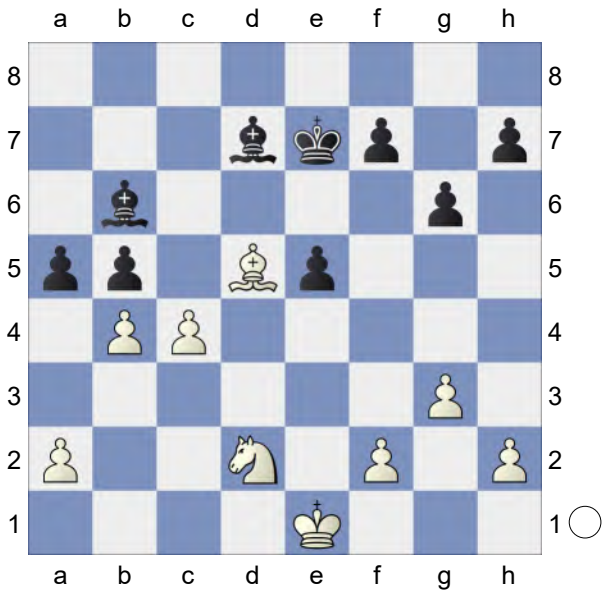


26.Nxd4 Bc5 27.Kf1 g6 28.Ke1 e5 29.Nb3 Rxd1+ 30.Bxd1∓ Endgame. KBB-KBN **30...Bb6**

(Diagram)

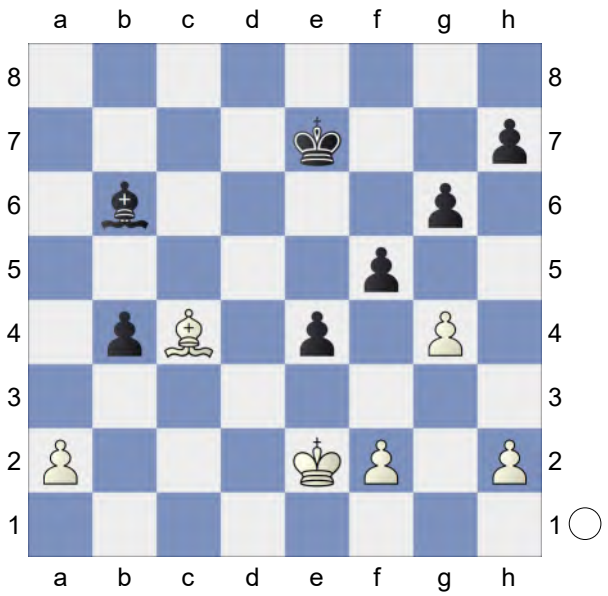


31.Nd2 Bc6 32.Bf3 Bd7 33.Bd5 Kf8 34.b4 Ke7 35.c4 a5 0.32/23
[35...bxc4∓ -0.63/22 36.Bxc4 a5]

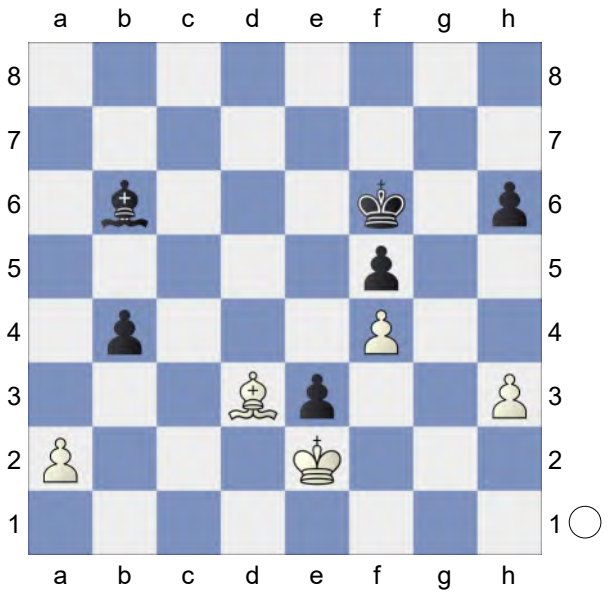


36.cxb5 -0.62/24
[36.c5± 0.32/23 Bc7 37.a3]
36...Bxb5 37.Nc4 -1.02/26
[37.bxa5∓ -0.59/21 Bxa5 38.Kd1]
37...Bxc4∓ 38.Bxc4 axb4 KB-KB **39.g4 e4 40.Ke2 f5**

(Diagram)

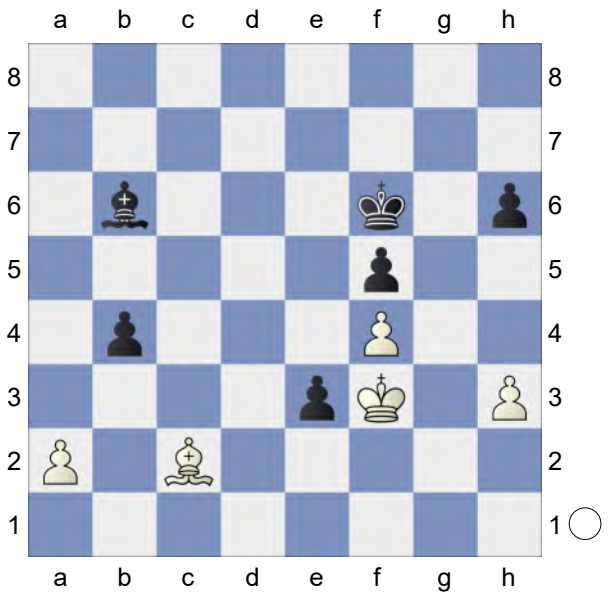


41.gxf5 gxf5 42.f3 e3 -0.01/33
[Better is 42...Kd6∓ -1.43/24]
43.f4= The position is equal. **43...h6**
44.Bd3 Ke6 45.h3 Kf6



46.Kf3 Bc5 47.Bc2 Bb6 48.Bd3 Bc5 49.Bc2 Bb6

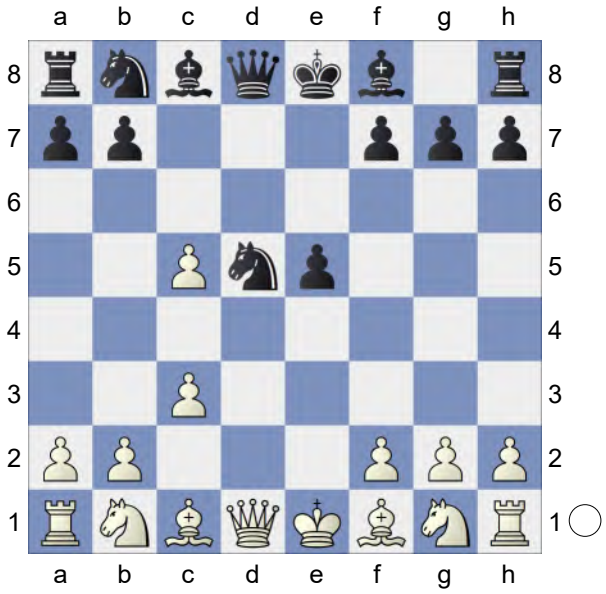
(Diagram)



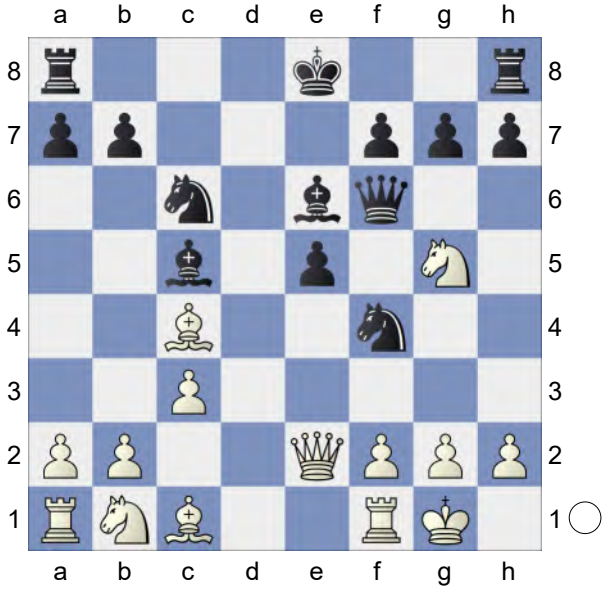
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

198 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2832**
Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.d4 Nxd5
[4...cxd4 5.Qa4+ *(5.cxd4 Nxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Bb4 9.Bd2 0-0 10.0-0 Ba5 11.a3 a6 12.Re1 Bc7 13.Bc2 Nf4 14.Be3 b5 15.Qd2 Nd5 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Ne4 Bb7 19.Rad1 Rc8* 0-1 (31) Von Herman,B (1911)-Dolzhikova,K (2321) GER-ch Blitz (Women) 2023 (14)*)* 5...Nbd7 6.Qxd4 Qb6 7.Qc4 Qa5 8.Na3 a6 9.Nf3 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Nxd5 11.Bc4 e6 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Nc2 f6 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.0-0-0 Be6 16.Rhe1 0-0-0 17.Nfd4 Bf7 18.f3 h5 19.Nf5 1-0 (53) Tiviakov,S (2669)-Van der Wiel,J (2511) ch Hilversum NED 2006 (6)]
5.dxc5 e5N 0.59/20
[5...e6= 0.14/16 is more appropriate. 6.b4 *(6.Nf3 Bxc5 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 h6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.a3 b6 12.Nbd2 Bb7 13.Ne4 Be7 14.c4 Nf4 15.Bf1 Rad8 16.Be3 Ng6 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Re1 Nge5 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Ng3 Bf6* White goes for-piece-play #3 I hate the Alapin (2. c3)*)* 6...a5 7.Bc4 axb4 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 *(8...exd5 9.cxb4 Nc6 10.b5 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Bxc5 12.Qxa5 Nxa5 13.Ne2 Nb3* 0-1 Virgillito,C (2215)-Needleman,G (2406) Mar del Plata op 39th 2008 (3) *)* 9.Qxd5 exd5 10.cxb4 Nc6 11.Bd2 Nd4 12.Kd1 Nb3 White goes for-piece-play #2 I hate the Alapin (2. c3)]

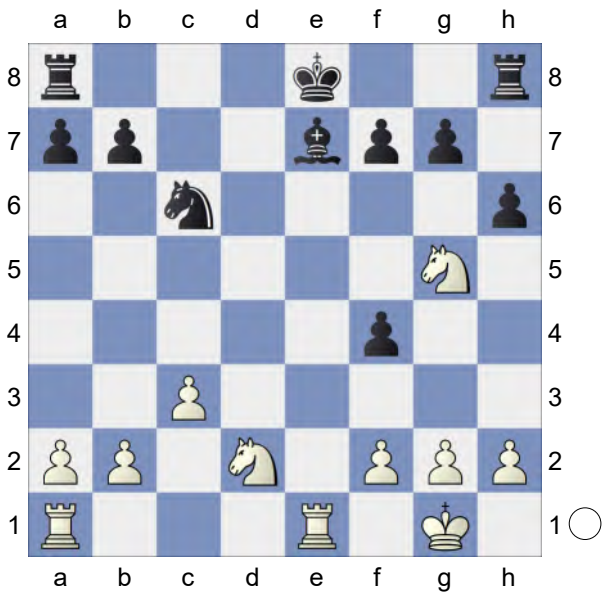


6.Nf3± Nc6 7.Bc4 Be6 8.Qe2 The position is equal. White is slightly better. **8...Bxc5 9.0-0 Qf6 10.Ng5**
[10.b4 simplifies Bb6 *(10...Be7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Qe4)* 11.a4 Bc7 12.Qe4]
10...Nf4

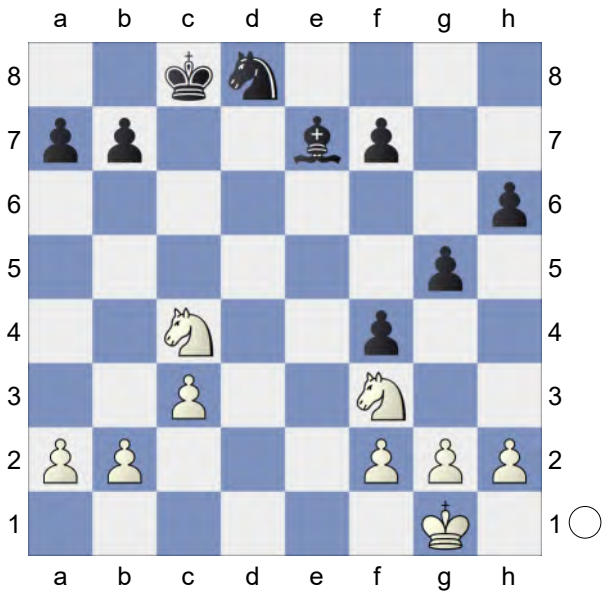


11.Bxf4 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 Qxf4 13.Qxf4 exf4 14.Re1+ Be7 15.Nd2 h6

(Diagram)

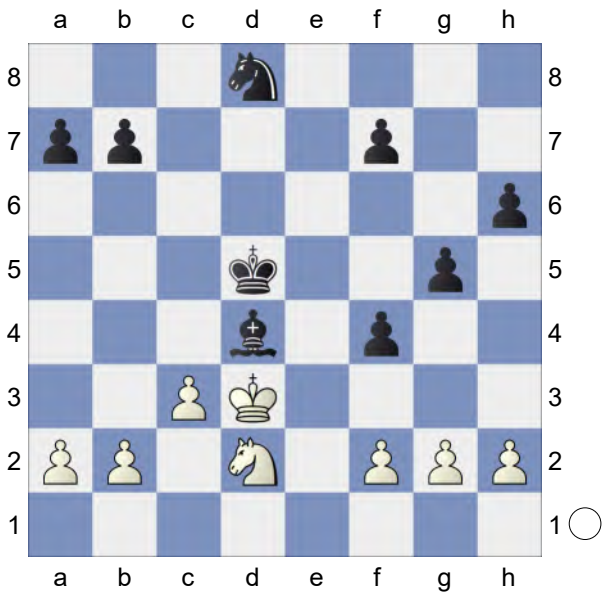


16.Ngf3 0-0-0 17.Rad1 g5 18.Nc4 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Nxd8=



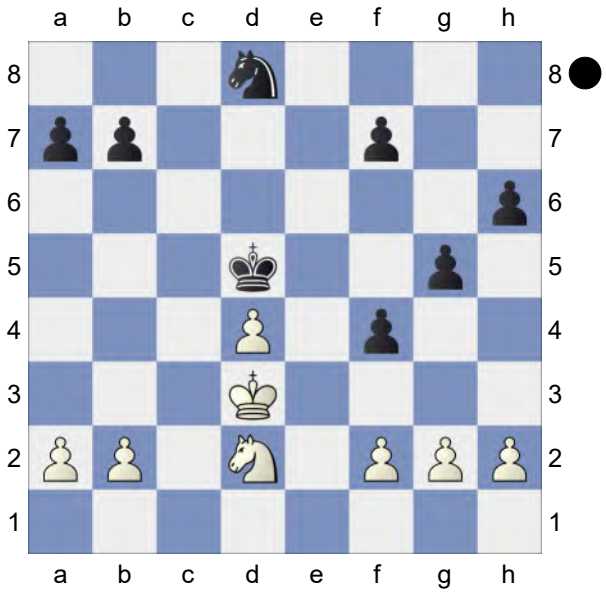
Endgame. KBN-KNN **21.Kf1 Kd7 22.Ke2 Ke6 23.Kd3 Kd5 24.Nd4 Bc5** With the idea ...Bxd4. **25.Nd2 Bxd4**

(Diagram)



26.cxd4 -1.80/22 KN-KN. Loses the game.

[26.c4+= 0.03/23 and White stays safe. Kd6 27.Kxd4]



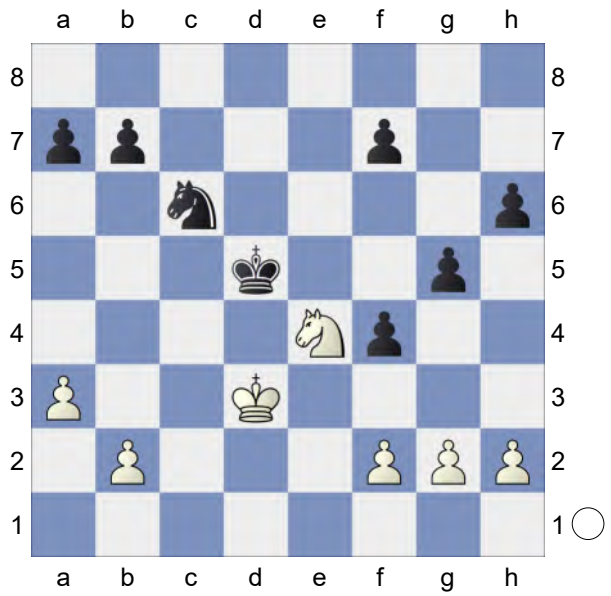
KN-KN. This costs White the game.

26...Nc6-+ 27.a3 Nxd4 28.Ne4 -1.79/21

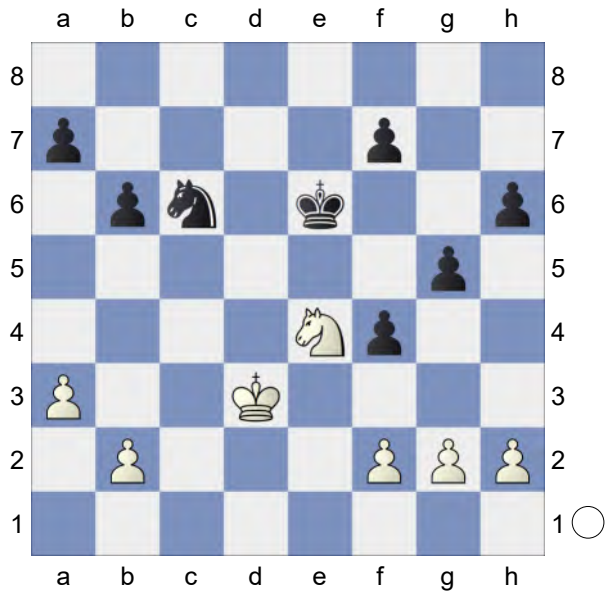
[28.g3∓ -1.42/21]

28...Nc6

(Diagram)

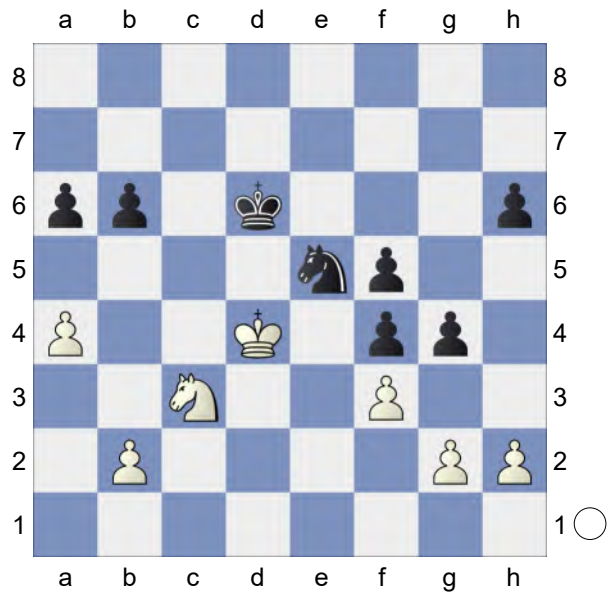


Hoping for ...Ne5+. **29.Nf6+ Ke6**
30.Ne4 b6

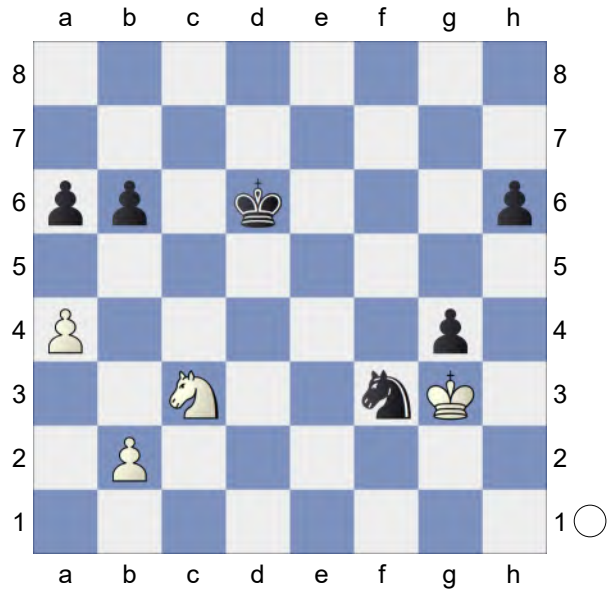


Dodges Nc5+ Prevents Nc5+. **31.f3** -2.07/24
[⌓31.h3 -1.70/22]
31...f5 32.Nc3 Kd6 33.Kc4 -2.29/23
[⌓33.Ne2 -1.61/23]
33...a6 Threatens to win with ...b5+.
34.a4 -2.60/25
[⌓34.Ne2 -1.78/22]
34...Ne5+ 35.Kd4 g4

(Diagram)

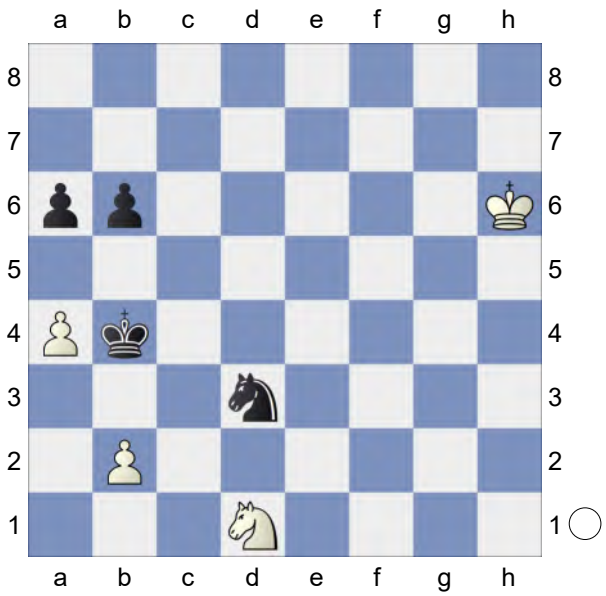


36.fxg4 fxg4 37.Ke4? -3.78/24
[37.g3 -1.88/22 is a better defense. might work better.]
37...f3 38.gxf3 Nxf3 39.Kf4 Nxh2
Threatens to win with ...Kc5. **40.Kg3 Nf3**



41.Kxg4 Ne5+ 42.Kh5 Nd3 43.Nd1? -6.80/28
[43.b3 -3.79/24]
43...Kc5 44.Kxh6 Kb4

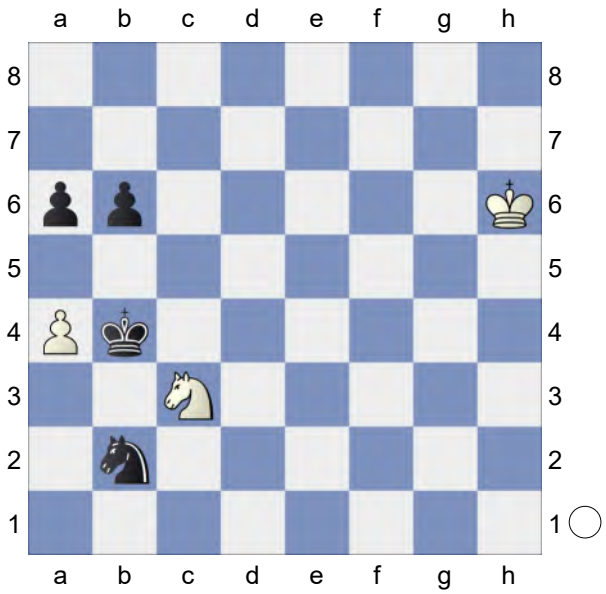
(Diagram)



Strongly threatening ...Kb3! **45.Nc3** -10.41/27

[⌓45.Kg5 -4.91/23]

45...Nxb2



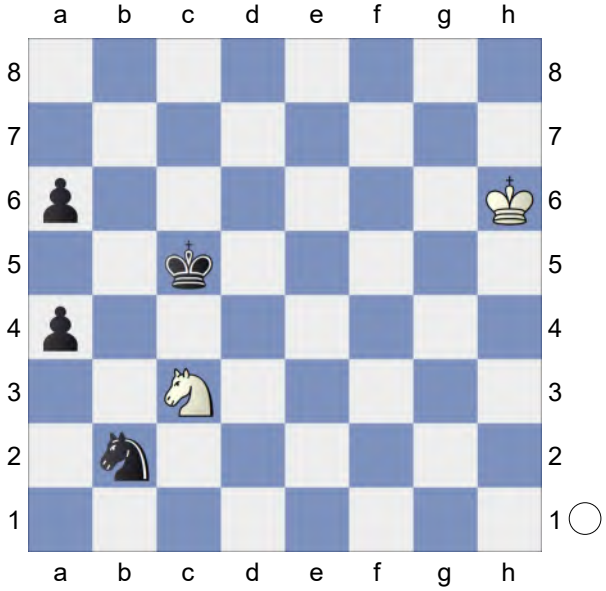
46.Nd5+ Kc5 47.a5 bxa5 -15.02/23

[⌓47...Kxd5 -#16/23 48.axb6 Kc6

A) 49.Kg7 a5 *(49...Kxb6 gets mated. 50.Kf6 a5 51.Ke5 Kc5 52.Kf4 a4 53.Kg3 a3 54.Kh3 a2 55.Kg4 a1Q 56.Kf4 Nc4 57.Kg5 Qf1 58.Kh6 Ne5 59.Kg5 Qf3 60.Kh6 Qf6+ 61.Kh5 Qg6+ 62.Kh4 Qg4#)* 50.Kh8 Kxb6 51.Kh7 a4 52.Kh6 a3 53.Kh5 a2 54.Kg6 a1Q *(54...a1B? 55.Kg5-+)* 55.Kf7 Nc4 56.Kg6 Qf1 57.Kh6 Qf4+ 58.Kh5 Kc6 59.Kg6 Ne5+ 60.Kh5 Qg4+ 61.Kh6 Qg6#;

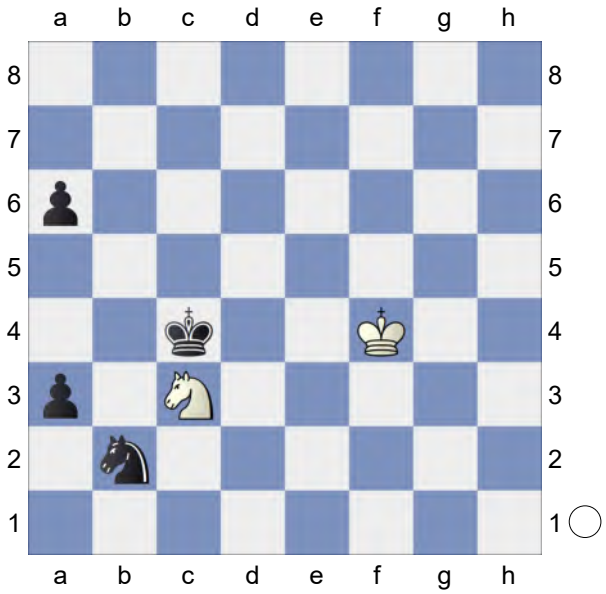
B) 49.Kh5 Kxb6 50.Kg6 a5 51.Kh6 a4 52.Kh7 a3 53.Kh6 a2 54.Kh7 a1Q *(54...a1B? 55.Kg6-+)* 55.Kg6 Qf1 56.Kg7 Nd3 57.Kg6 Ne5+ 58.Kg5 Qf3 59.Kh6 Qf6+ 60.Kh5 Qg6+ 61.Kh4 Qg4#]

48.Nc3 a4

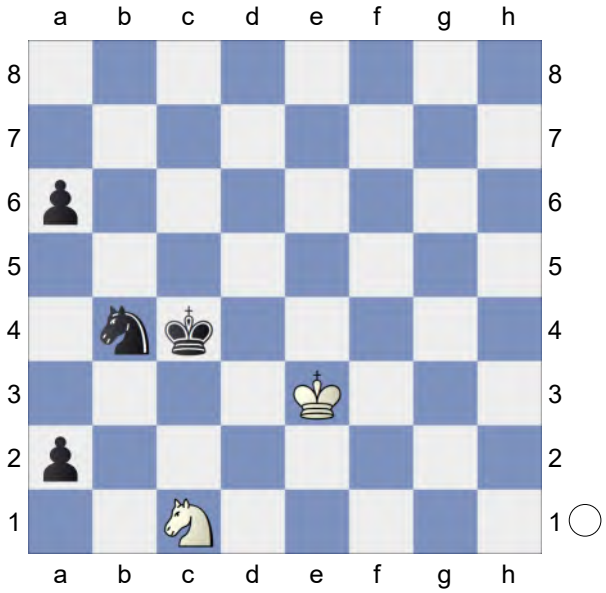


White must now prevent ...a3. **49.Kg5 a3 50.Kf4 Kc4**

(Diagram)



51.Na2 Nd3+ Black mates. **52.Ke3 Nb4 53.Nc1 a2**

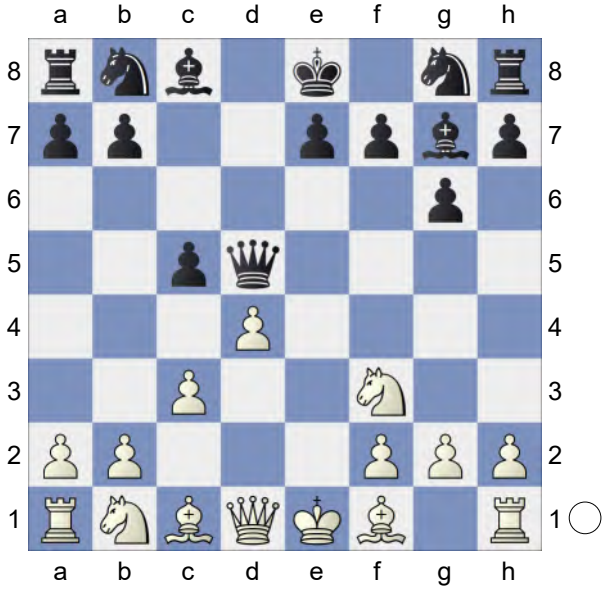


Weighted Error Value: White=0.89/ Black=0.22 (precise)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.88/ Black=0.23 (precise)
0-1

199 **B06**
□ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2641**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2780**
FIDE Grand Swiss (2) 26.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7



6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Na6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qxd4

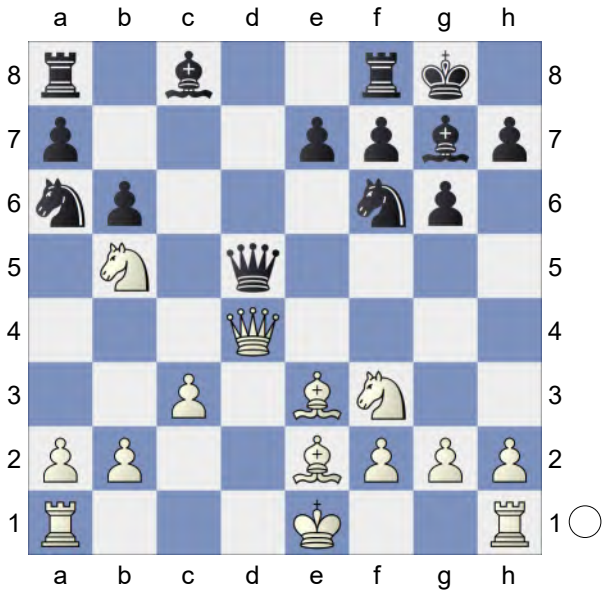
[9.Bxd4 0-0 10.Be2 Bg4 11.a4 e5 12.Bxa7 e4 13.Qxd5 Nxd5 14.Nfd4 Bd7 15.Bc4 Nf4 16.g3 Rfc8 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7 18.gxf4 Kg8 19.Nb3 Nc7 20.0-0 Nxb5 21.axb5 Bxb5 22.Rfe1 Bd3 23.Bd4 Bh6 ½-½ (50) Carlsen,M (2862)-Giri,A (2764) Skilling op KO rapid 2020 (1.24)]

9...0-0 10.Be2N

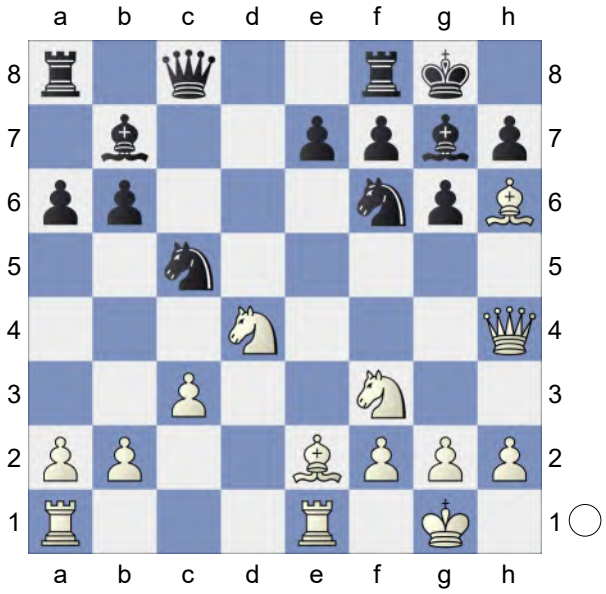
[10.Bc4 Qc6 11.0-0 Ng4 Meeting Alapin-Meeting Alapin #8]

10...b6

(Diagram)

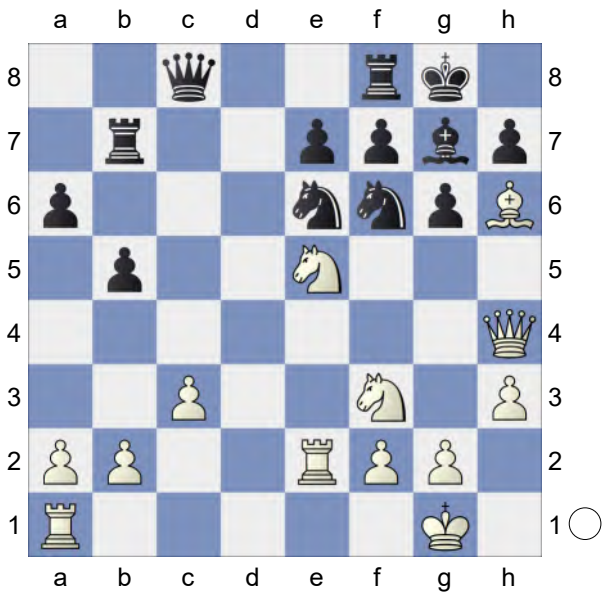


11.0-0 Bb7 12.Qh4 Qc6 13.Nbd4 Qc8 14.Bh6 Nc5 15.Rfe1 a6

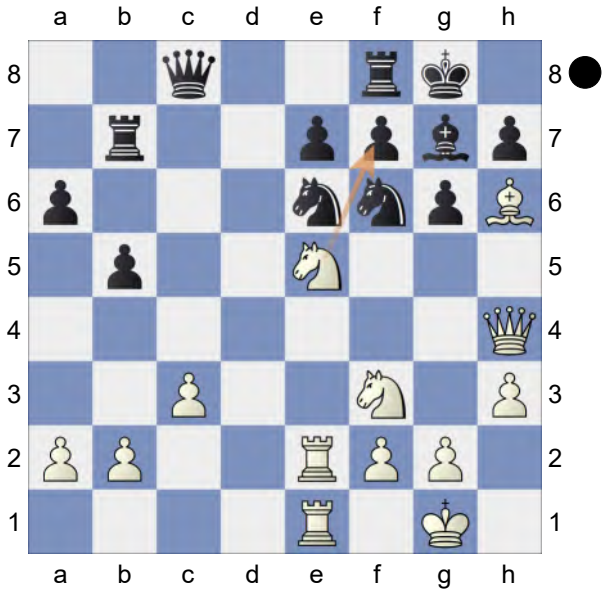


16.Ne5 b5 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Ndxf3 Ne6 19.h3 Rb8 20.Re2 Rb7

(Diagram)

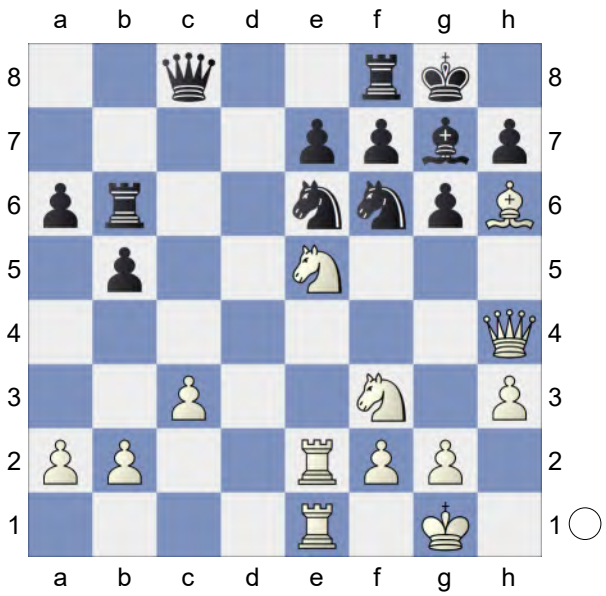


21.Rae1



Black must now prevent Nxf7! **21...Rb6 22.Re3 Rd6 23.R3e2 Rb6 24.Re3** 0.01/18 White is much more active.
[Better is 24.b3± 0.86/18]
24...Rd6= 25.R3e2 Rb6

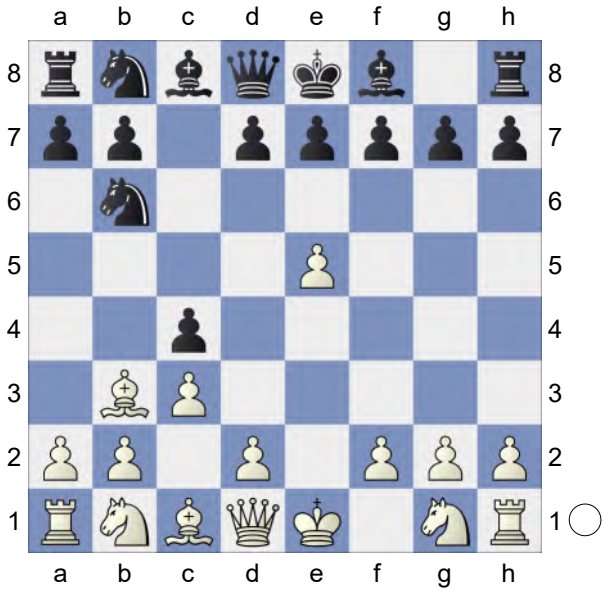
(Diagram)



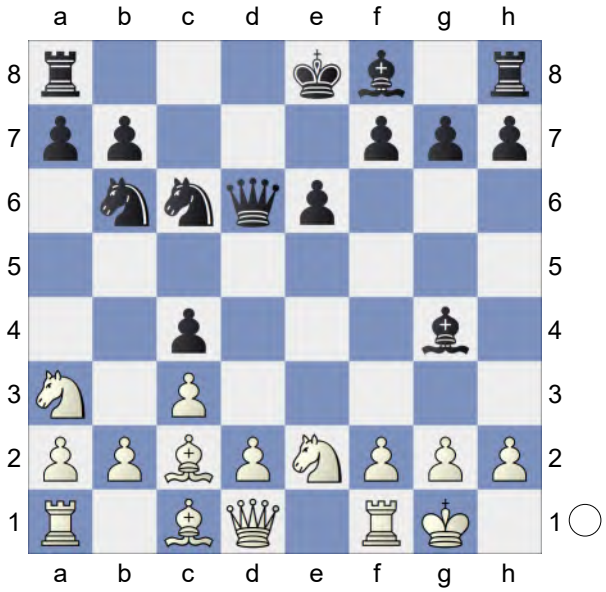
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

200 **B22**
□ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**
■ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2753**
London Clash of Claims m blitz (32)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 c4

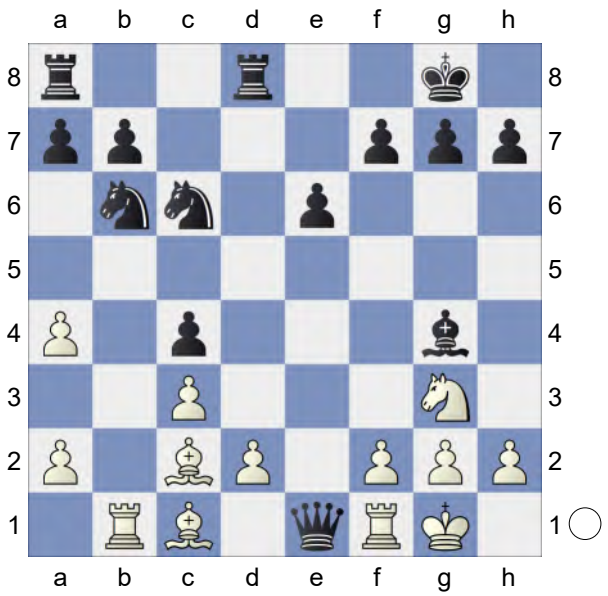


6.Bc2 d6
[6...Nc6 7.Nf3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 e5 10.Re1 Be7 11.b3 0-0 12.bxc4 Nxc4 13.Qe2 b5 14.d3 Nb6 15.Nxe5 Bf6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.d4 Bb7 18.Be4 Nd5 19.Qf3 Rfe8 20.Bd2 Qd6 21.Bxd5 0-1 (47) Reader Question (1510)-Zotin,V (2220) (zt) 148/54 Toshkent 2021 (3)]
7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Ne2N The position is equal.
[8.b3 Nc6 9.Ne2 g6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Na3 Ne5 12.Nxc4 Nexc4 13.bxc4 Nxc4 14.d4 0-0 15.Bf4 Qc6 16.Qc1 Bd7 17.Bh6 Rac8 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Rb1 f6 20.Bd3 b5 21.Re1 e5 22.dxe5 fxe5 0-1 (56) Schuchardt,G (2196)-Gueth,D (2370) corr 34.DFM/V6 2002]
[8.Na3 g6 *(8...Nc6 9.Nf3 Qe6+ 10.Kf1 Bd7 11.b3 Ne5 12.Nxe5 cxb3 13.axb3 Qxe5 14.Qe2 Qxe2+ 15.Kxe2 e5 16.Be4 0-0-0 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.bxc4 a6 19.Rb1 b5 20.Ra1 bxc4 21.Rxa6 f5 22.Bc6 Kc7 23.Bxd7* ½-½ (47) Grandelius,N (2669)-Saric,I (2665) 23rd European Teams 2021 (8.13)*)* 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Bg7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.d4 Qc7 16.Re1 b5 17.Bg5 e6 18.Be4 Bb7 19.Qd3 f5 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.h4 a5 22.c4 bxc4 ½-½ (30) Giri,A (2764)-Gelfand,B (2676) Legends of Chess Prelim rapid 2020 (5.1)]
8...Nc6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Na3 e6

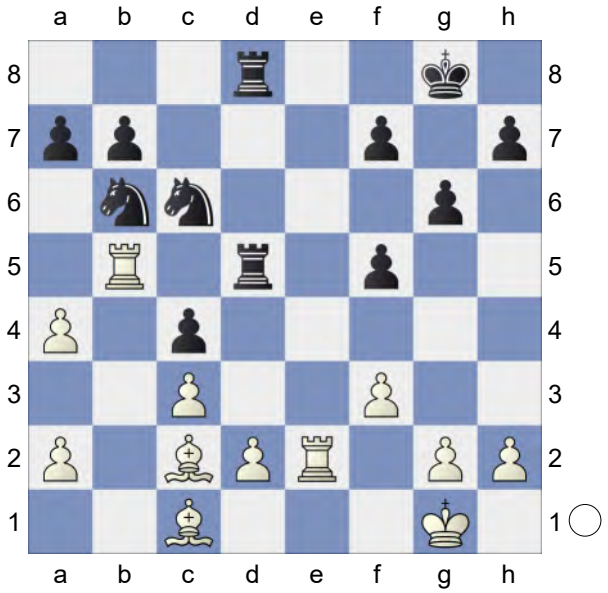


11.Qe1 Qe5 12.Ng3 aiming for h3.
12...Bxa3 13.bxa3 Hoping for Qxe5.
13...0-0 0.37/22
[13...0-0-0= -0.08/23]
14.a4
[14.Qxe5!? Nxe5 15.f3=]
14...Rfd8 15.Rb1 Qxe1

(Diagram)

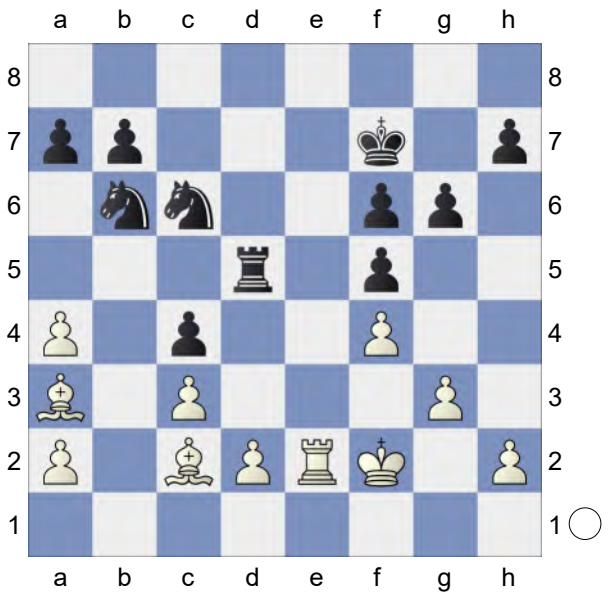


16.Rxe1 g6 17.f3 Bf5 18.Nxf5 exf5 19.Re2 Rd5 20.Rb5 Rad8

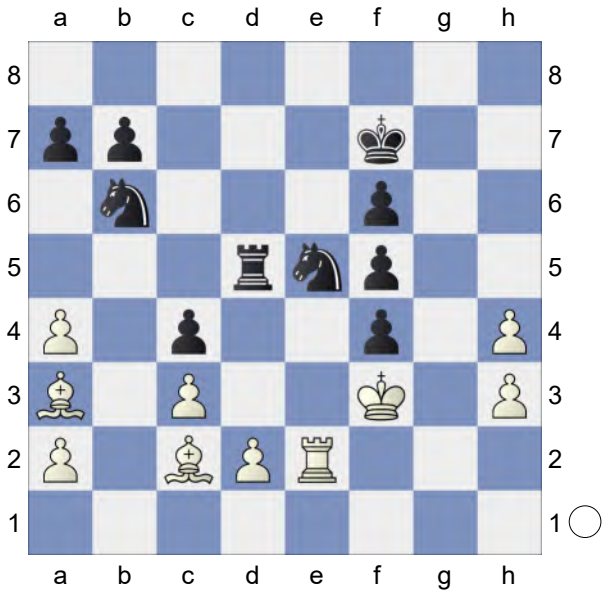


21.Rxd5 -0.27/22
[⌓21.g4 0.11/20]
21...Nxd5 22.g3 f6 23.f4 Kf7 24.Kf2 Nb6 25.Ba3 Rd5

(Diagram)



26.h3 h5 27.Kf3 -0.43/23
[27.h4= -0.01/24]
27...g5 0.01/21
[27...Ra5∓ -0.43/23 is more appropriate. 28.d3 Nd5 *(28...Nxa4 29.Bb4=)* 29.dxc4 Nxc3]
28.Kf2= h4 29.gxh4 gxf4 0.59/21
[29...gxh4= 0.13/24 feels stronger. 30.Kf3 Ra5]
30.Kf3!± Ne5+!



31.Kxf4 Nd3+ 32.Bxd3 Rxd3 1.61/23
[32...cxd3± 0.70/25 33.Re7+ Kg6]
33.Kxf5 1.18/22 Endgame. KRB-KRN

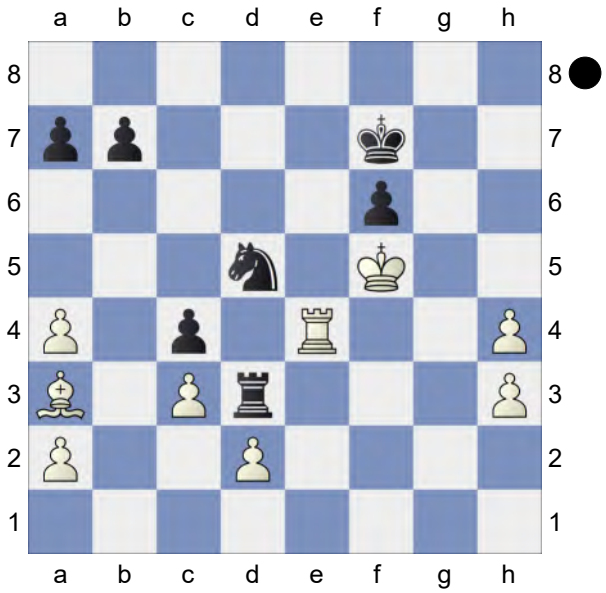
[Better is 33.a5+- 1.61/23 Nc8 *(33...Nd5+ 34.Kxf5 Rxh3 35.Re4=)* 34.a6 *(34.Kxf5 Rd5+ 35.Kg4 Rxa5±)* 34...bxa6 35.Kxf5]

33...Nd5 1.81/20

[33...Rd5+± 1.18/22 34.Kg4 Nxa4]

34.Re4? 0.08/22

[34.Kg4+- 1.81/20]

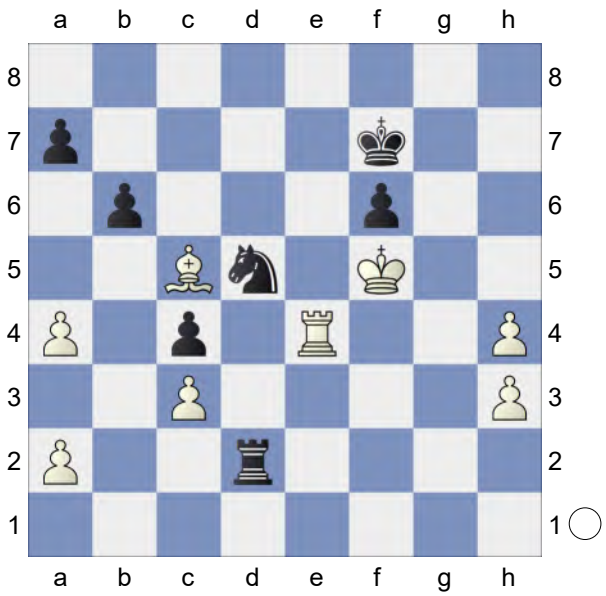


34...Rxd2= 35.Bc5 Inhibits Rf2+.

[35.Rxc4? perishes. Ne3+ *(35...Rxa2 36.Bc5=)* 36.Ke4 Nxc4-+]

35...b6

(Diagram)



36.Bd4 -0.59/20

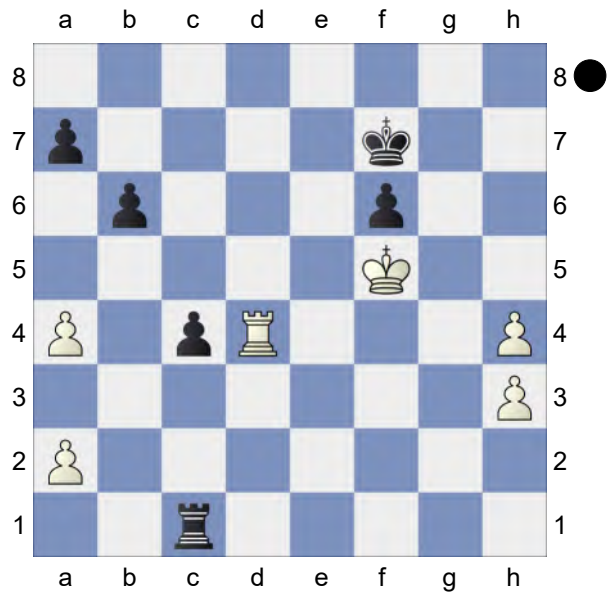
[White should play 36.Rd4= -0.01/24 Rf2+ *(36...Rxa2 37.Rxd5 bxc5 38.Rxc5±)* 37.Kg4 Ne3+ *(37...bxc5 38.Rxd5 Rg2+ 39.Kh5±)* 38.Kg3 Rg2+ *(38...bxc5?* is the wrong capture. *39.Rd7+ Ke6 40.Kxf2+-)* 39.Kf3 bxc5 40.Re4]

36...Rd3 37.Kg4! Nxc3 38.Bxc3 Rxc3 39.Rd4 Rc1 And now ...c3 would win.

40.Kf5? -3.09/21

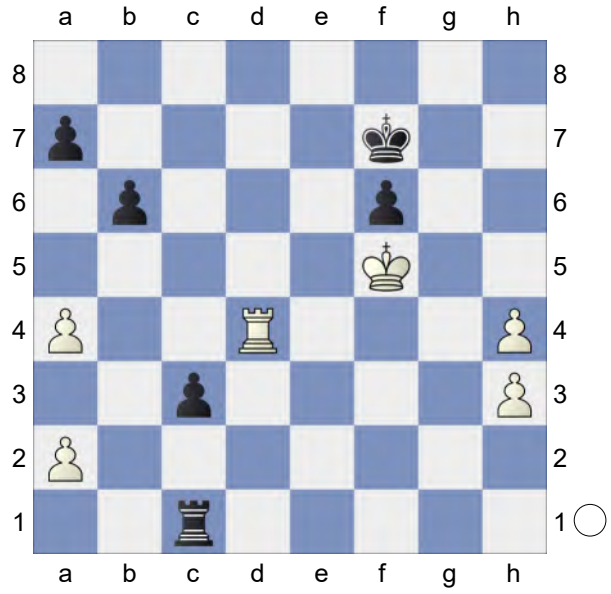
[40.h5!= -0.01/22 and White stays safe.]

(Diagram)



40...c3!-+

[And not 40...Rf1+ 41.Ke4=]

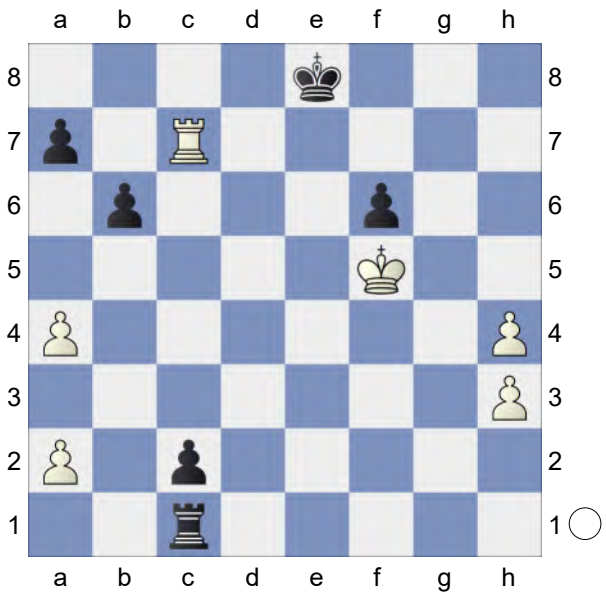


41.Rd7+? -8.04/27

[41.Rf4 -3.21/26]

41...Ke8 42.Rc7 c2

(Diagram)



Never resign too early!

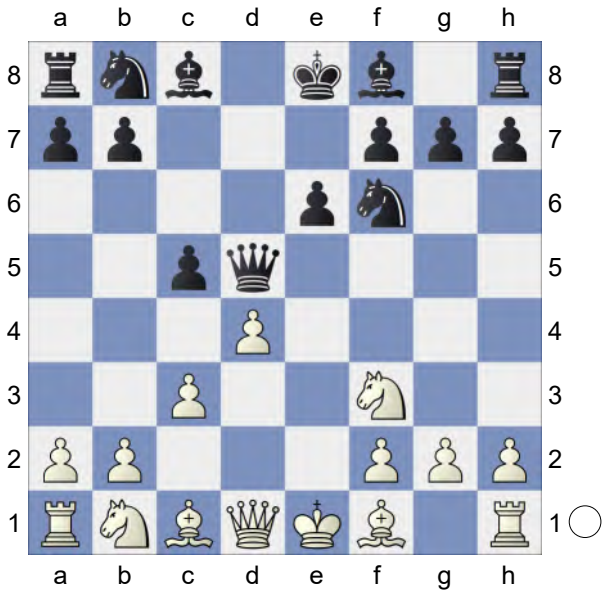
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.13 (very precise)

0-1

201 **B22**
□ **Rapport,Richard** **2715**
■ **Sarana,Alexey** **2712**
Tashkent UzChess Masters (5) 10.06.24
[Kitty Kat]

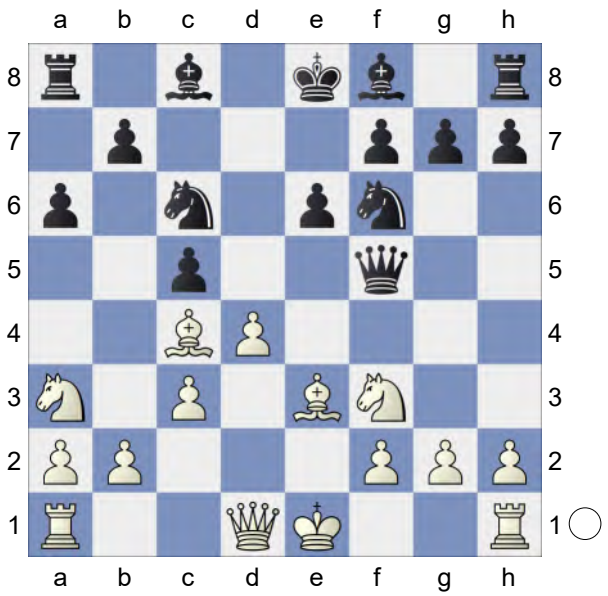
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship. This game ended up determining the clear winner of the 2008 European Championship.Tiviakov: 'This game from the last round of the European Championship was extremely important. Only this victory allowed me to win the tournament alone, without any tie. There were 8 players in the lead before the start of the last round and I was the only one to win (the other 3 games were quick draws). Emil also offered me a draw in the evening before this game. But being White in the last round and also having a big positive score against Emil I saw no single reason to accept it.
' Tiviakov: 'Diese Partie aus der letzten Runde der Europameisterschaft war extrem wichtig. Nur durch diesen Erfolg war es mir möglich, alleiniger, ungeteilter Turniersieger zu werden. Vor dem Start der letzten Runde führten 8 Spieler punktgleich, und ich war der Einzige, der gewann. Emil hatte mir am Vorabend der Partie ebenfalls Remis angeboten. Aber da ich Weiß hatte und dazu ein kräftiges Plusergebnis gegen Emil habe, sah ich keinerlei Grund anzunehmen.' **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 e6**

(Diagram)

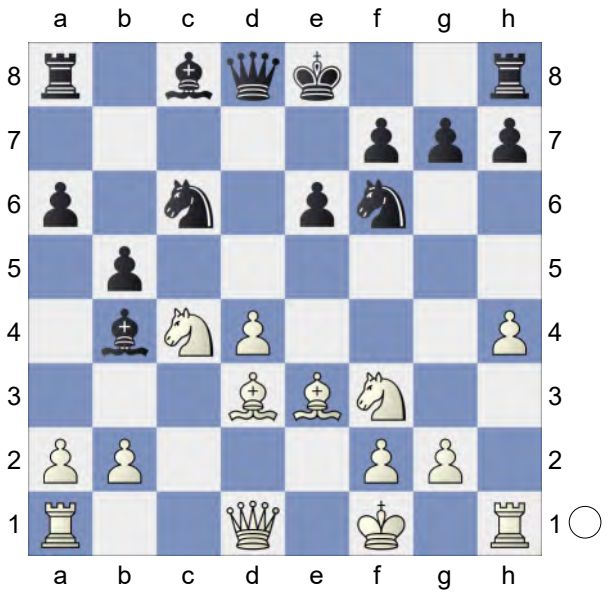


6.Na3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6N Prevents Nb5.
[7...Ng4 8.Bc4 Nxe3 9.fxe3 Qd8 10.d5 exd5 11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 Main Line without .-4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Na3 Nc6]
[7...cxd4 8.Nb5 Qd8 *(8...Qd7 9.Nbxd4 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qc2 Nd5 12.Bd2 Qe7 13.Bd3 h6 14.0-0 c5 15.Rae1 Qc7 16.Re4 Bb7 17.Bb5+ Kf8 18.Be2 g5 19.h3 Rb8 20.Bd1 Ne7 21.Ree1* ½-½ Willy,S (2320)-Pham,B (2199) Bellevue PNWCC Artist Point 2024 (1)*)* 9.Nbxd4 Nd5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Bc4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxd5 Bxd4 14.0-0 Bc5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Bc8 20.Rg3 Bd6 21.Qg4 g6 22.Bxh6 1-0 (59) Tiviakov,S (2635)-Sutovsky,E (2630) IX EICC Plovdiv BUL 2008 (11)]
8.Bc4 Qf5 9.Bd3 Qd5 10.Bc4 Qf5

(Diagram)

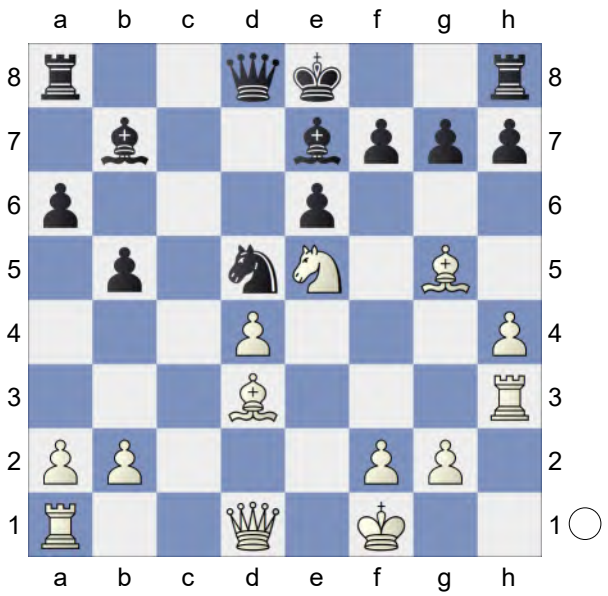


11.Bd3 Qd5 12.Nc4 Nb6 is the strong threat. **12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Bb4+ 14.Kf1 Qd8** Against Nb6 **15.h4 b5**

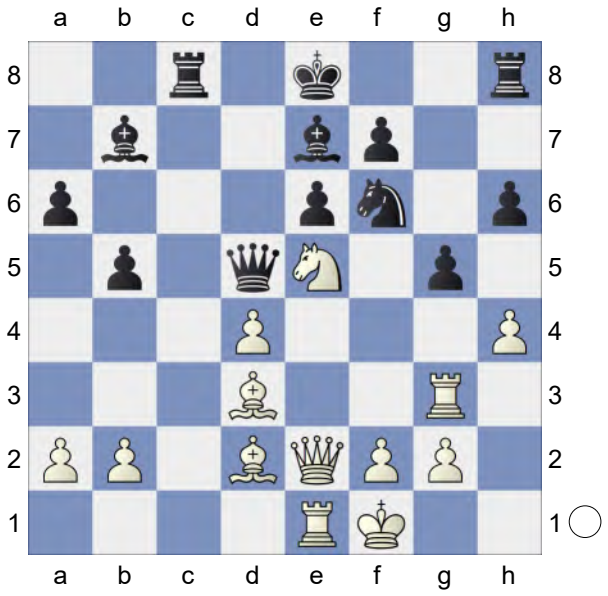


16.Nce5 Bb7 17.Rh3 Nd5 18.Bg5 Be7 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Ne5 Bb7

(Diagram)

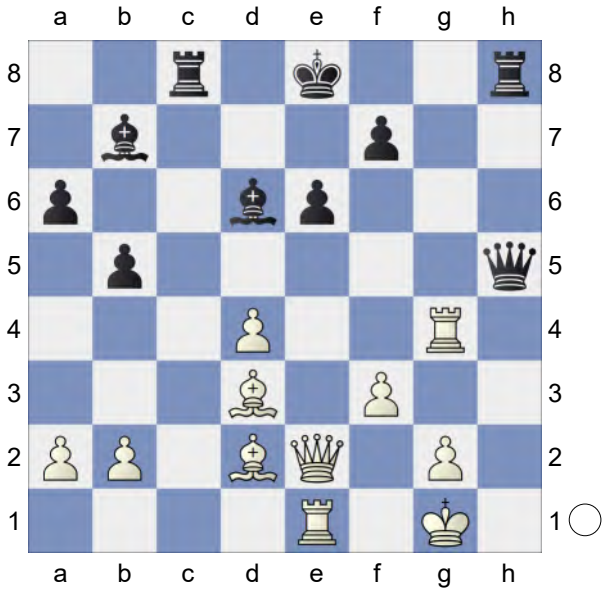


21.Qg4 0.05/18 White is more active.
[21.Qh5± 0.88/18 g6 22.Bxg6 *(22.Nxg6 fxg6 23.Bxg6+ Kd7±)* 22...fxg6 23.Nxg6 hxg6 24.Qxh8+ Kd7 25.Qe5]
21...Nf6= 22.Qe2 next Bxb5+! is good for White. **22...Qd5G** Black puts up resistance **23.Rg3 Rc8** 0.48/19
[23...Bd6= 0.12/18]
24.Re1 h6 25.Bd2 g5



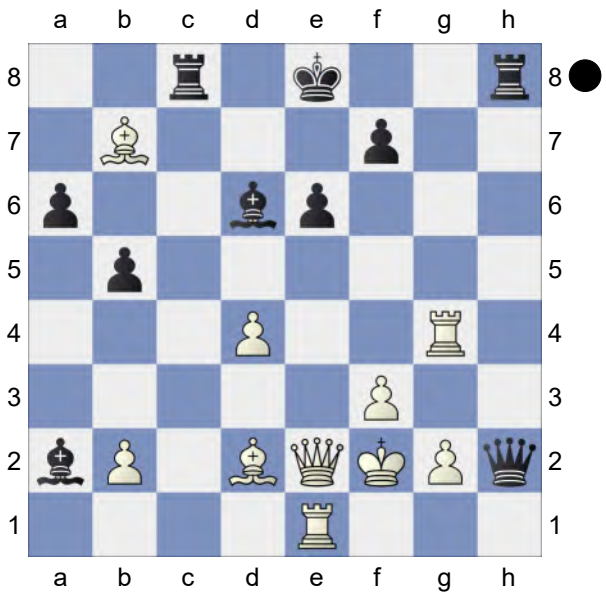
26.hxg5 hxg5 27.Kg1 Prevents Rh1+. **27...g4** 1.12/19
[27...Nd7± 0.31/20]

28.Nxg4 0.52/20
[White should try 28.Rxg4± 1.12/19 Rc7 *(28...Nxg4? 29.Qxg4 Qxg2+ 30.Qxg2+-)* 29.Rg3]
28...Nxg4± 29.Rxg4 0.01/20
[29.Qxg4± 0.54/22 Qxa2 30.Qg7]
29...Bd6= 30.f3 Qh5 0.63/18
[30...Qxa2= 0.01/21 31.Bf4 Bxf4 32.Rxf4 Qd5]

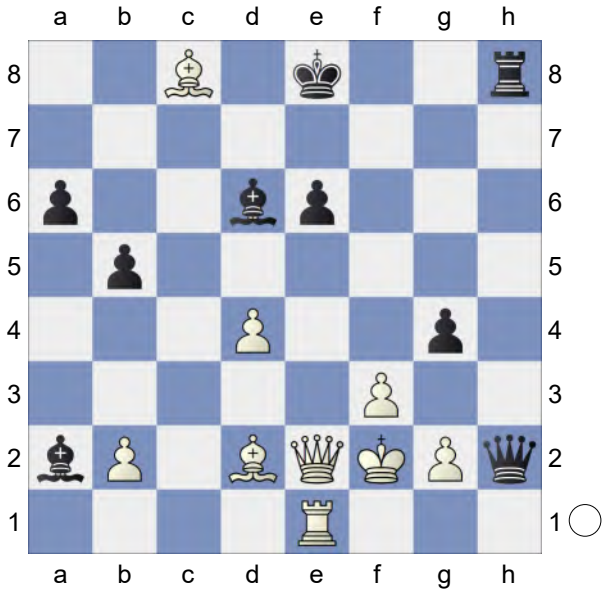


31.Bg6 -0.01/25 **Qh2+**
[31...fxg6 32.Qxe6+ Kf8 33.Qxd6+ Kg8 34.Rxg6+]
32.Kf2 Bd5
[32...fxg6 33.Qxe6+ Kd8 34.Ba5+ Rc7 35.Re5+- *(35.Bxc7+ Kxc7 36.Qf6 g5=; 35.Rh1 Re8+-; 35.Bxc7+ Kxc7 36.Rc1+ Kb8=; 35.Rh1 Re8+-)*]
33.Be4 Bxa2 34.Bb7? -3.19/21
[34.Qe3= 0.01/21 and White has nothing to worry. Be7 35.b3]

(Diagram)



34...f5!-+ 35.Bxc8 fxg4



36.Qe4 Bg3+ Deflection **37.Ke3 Bxe1**
[37...Qxg2 38.Qg6+ Kd8 39.Qf6+ Kxc8 *(39...Kc7 40.Qg7+ Kxc8 41.Qxh8+ Kb7 42.Qg7+ Kb6 43.Qf8∓)* 40.Qxh8+ Kb7 41.Qg7+ Kc6 42.Qxg4=]
38.Bxe1 gxf3? -0.84/22
[38...Qxg2 39.Bxe6 Qg1+ 40.Kd2 Bxe6 41.Qxe6+ Kf8 42.Qf6+ Kg8 43.Qe6+ *(43.Qg6+ Kf8=)* 43...Kg7 44.Qd7+ Kh6 45.Qd6+ Kg7 46.Qe5+ Kg8 47.Qe6+ Kg7

48.Qe7+ Kg8 49.Qe8+ Kh7 50.Qh5+ *(50.Qf7+ Kh6=)* 50...Kg7 51.Qe5+ Kg8 52.Qe8+ Kh7 53.Qf7+ Kh6 54.Qf4+ Kg6 55.Qe4+ Kh6 56.Qe6+ Kh7 *(56...Kg7 57.Qe7+ Kg6 58.Qe6+ Kh7 59.Qe4+ Kg8 60.Qg6+ Kf8 61.Qf6+ Kg8 62.Qe6+=)* 57.Qf5+ Kg8 58.Qg6+ Kf8 59.Qf5+ *(59.Qf6+ Kg8=)* 59...Kg7 60.Qd7+ Kh6 61.Qe6+ Kg7=]

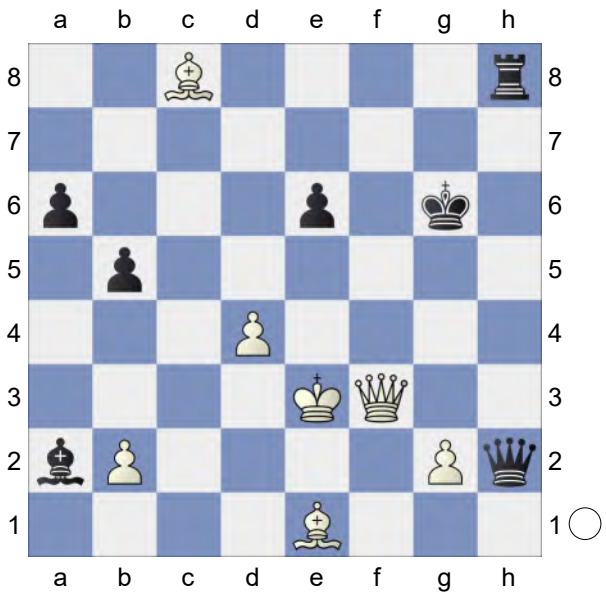
[38...Kf7-+ -3.66/20 has better winning chances. 39.Bxa6 Qg1+ *(39...Qxg2 40.Qf4+ Kg7 41.Qg5+ Kf7 42.Qf4+ Kg8 43.Qg5+ Kf7 44.Qf4+=)* 40.Kf4 Bd5 *(40...Qxg2? 41.Bb7-+)*]

39.Qc6+∓

[39.Bxa6? loses. Qg1+ *(39...fxg2 40.Qg6+ Kd8 41.Qf6+ Kd7 42.Qg7+ Kd6 43.Bb4+ Kd5 44.Qd7+ Kc4 45.Qc6+ Kb3 46.Qc3+ Ka4 47.Qa3#)* 40.Kf4 Rf8+ *(40...Qxg2? 41.Qa8+* Skewer *Kf7 42.Qxh8+-; 40...fxg2 41.Qg6+ Kd7 42.Qf7+ Kd6 43.Bb4+ Kd5 44.Qd7+ Kc4 45.Qc7+ Kxd4 46.Qc3+* Skewer *Kd5 47.Bb7#)* 41.Ke5 Rf5+ *(41...Qxg2? 42.Bxb5+ Kf7 43.Qh4-+)* 42.Kd6 fxg2 43.Bxb5+ Kf7-+ *(43...Rxb5 44.Qg6+ Kf8 45.Qf6+ Kg8 46.Qg6+ Kf8 47.Qf6+ Kg8 48.Qg6+ Kh8 49.Qh6+ Kg8 50.Qg6+=)*]

39...Kf7 40.Qxf3+ Kg6

(Diagram)



41.Qg4+ Kf6 42.Qf3+ Kg5 43.Bb7 -3.19/21

[43.Bd2∓ -0.86/22 Qh5 *(43...Rxc8? 44.Qf7+-)* 44.Qg3+ Kf6 45.Bxa6]

43...Qg1+-+ 44.Ke2! Bd2+ would kill now. The position is equal. **44...Bc4+**

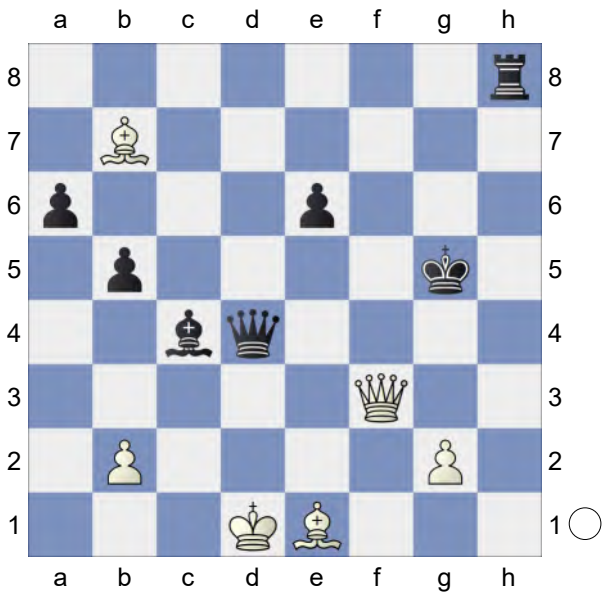
[44...Qxd4? is the wrong capture. 45.Bd2+ Kg6 46.Be4+ Kg7 47.Bc3 Bc4+ 48.Bd3+-]

45.Kd1! aiming for Qg3+. Really sharp!

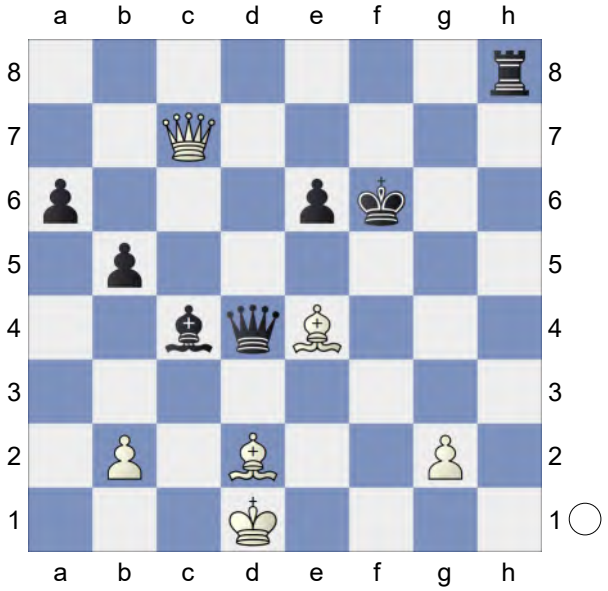
45...Qxd4+

[45...Qf1!? 46.Qg3+□ Kf6 47.Qe5+ Kf7=]

(Diagram)

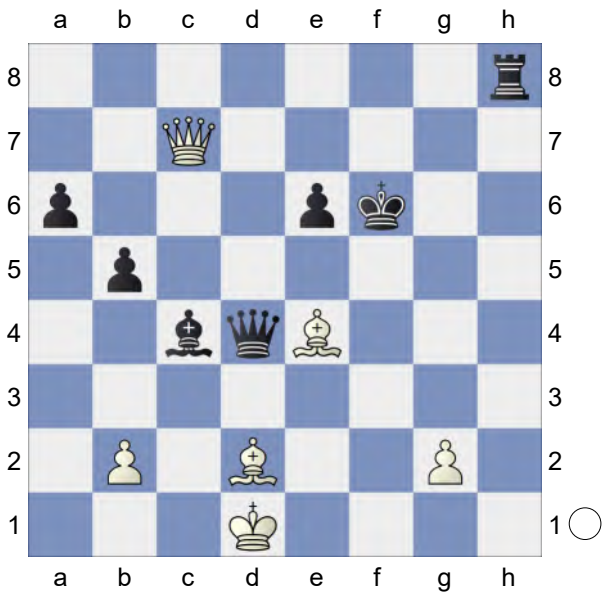


46.Bd2+ A strong pair of Bishops. **46...Kg6** Hoping for ...Rd8. **47.Be4+ Kg7** White must now prevent ...Rh1+. **48.Qg4+ Kf8 49.Qf4+ Ke7 50.Qc7+ Kf6**



51.Qf4+ Ke7 (-> ...Rh1+) **52.Qc7+ Kf6**

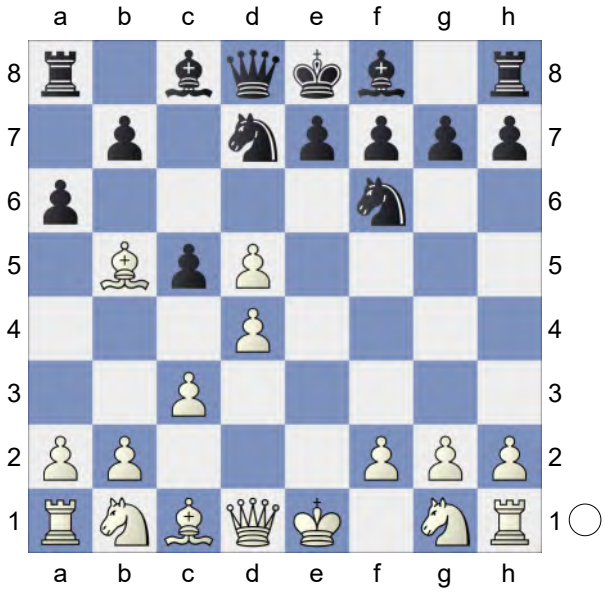
(Diagram)



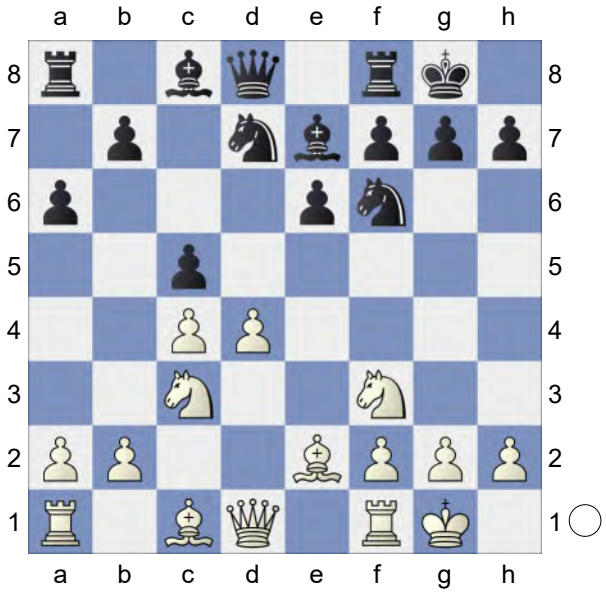
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise)
½-½

202 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**
Titled Tuesday intern op 10th Sep Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

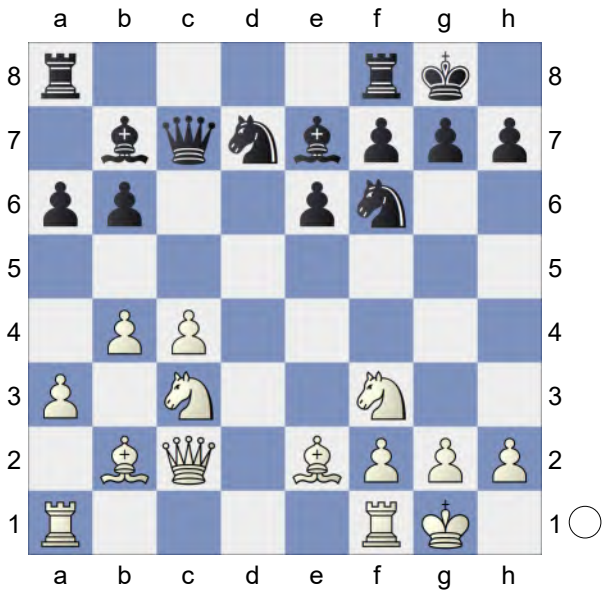
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd7 5.d4 a6



6.Be2 Nxd5 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0N
The position is equal.
[8.c4 N5f6 9.0-0 Qc7 *(9...cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bc5 11.Qh4 Nf8 12.Qg5* 11) 2...d5 3.exd5 Nf6-2... d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd*)* 10.Nc3 Be7 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.a3 b6 *(12...0-0 13.b4 Be7 14.Qd4 e5 15.Qe3* 11) 2...d5 3.exd5 Nf6-2... d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Nbd*)* 13.b4 Bd6 14.Qd2 Bb7 15.Rd1 Ke7 16.h3 Rhd8 17.Qc2 Rac8 18.Be3 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Qxc4 20.Rac1 Be5 21.Rd3 Bxc3 22.Rxc3 Qxc3 0-1 (37) Thanner,H (2472)-Beliavsky,A (2668) 12/(156) Cande 2011 (2)]
8...Be7 9.c4 N5f6 10.Nc3
[10.dxc5 feels hotter. Bxc5 11.Bf4 Nh5 12.Bg5]
10...0-0

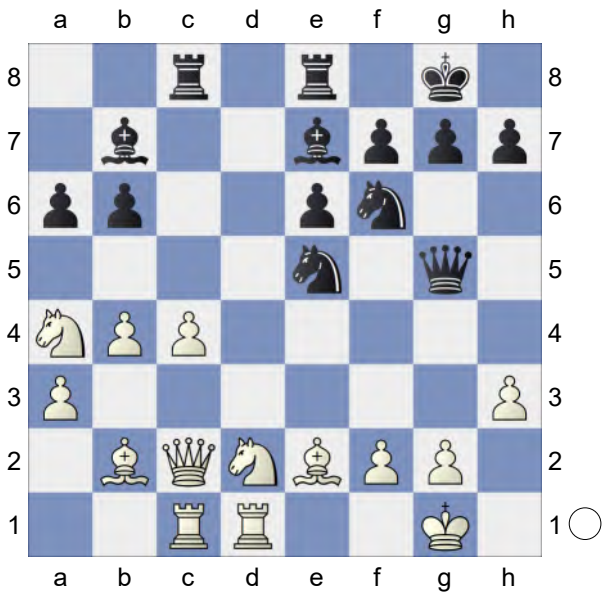


11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Qc2 Qc7 13.b4 Ncd7 14.a3 b6 15.Bb2 Bb7

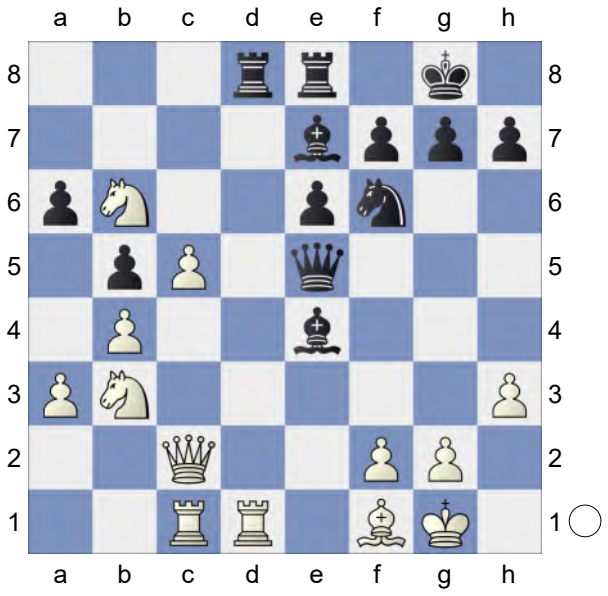


16.h3 Rac8 17.Rac1 Rfe8 18.Nd2 Qf4 19.Rfd1 Ne5 20.Na4 Qg5 0.37/20
[20...Nfd7= -0.20/18]

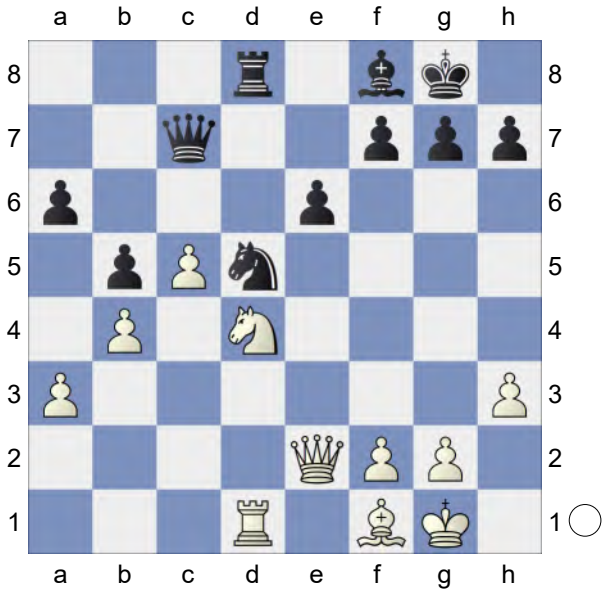
(Diagram)



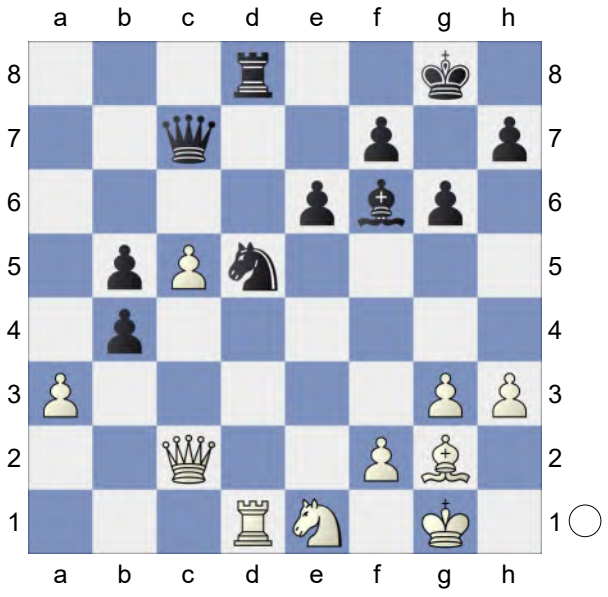
21.Bf1 b5 22.Nb6 Rcd8 23.Bxe5
[23.cxb5? Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Nf3+ 25.Kh1 Nxd2-+]
23...Qxe5 24.c5 Against Bd6 **24...Bc6 25.Nb3** -0.30/21
[⌓25.Re1 0.08/20 Qf4 26.Re2]
25...Be4!=



A strong pair of Bishops. **26.Qe2 Qc7** 0.39/19
[26...Rxd1= -0.13/21 27.Rxd1 Qc3]
27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Rd1 Bd5 0.78/20
[28...Qe5= 0.24/19]
29.Nd4 -0.01/21
[29.Nxd5!± 0.78/20 Nxd5 30.g3]
29...Bf8 0.76/22
[29...Bb7= -0.01/21]
30.Nxd5 Nxd5



31.Qc2 Dodges Nc3 **31...g6 32.g3 Bg7 33.Nf3 Bf6 34.Bg2 a5 35.Ne1** -0.62/22
[35.Qb3= 0.14/21]
35...axb4∓

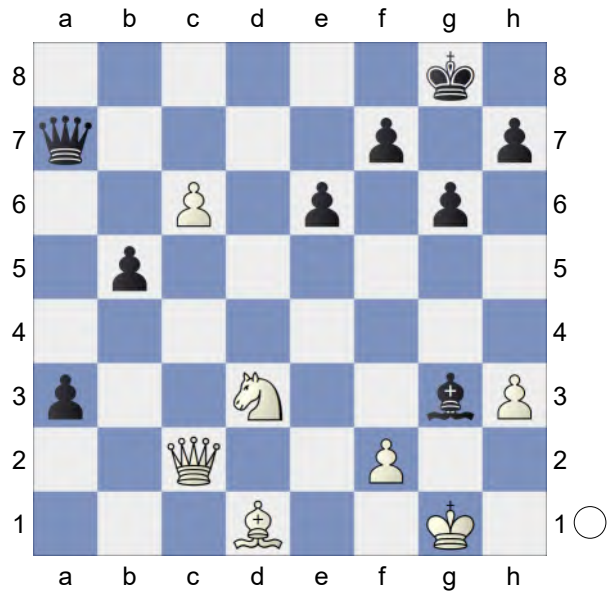


Black is more active. **36.Bxd5 bxa3 37.Bf3** -1.49/23
[37.Ba2∓ -0.63/21 Rxd1 38.Qxd1]
37...Rxd1 38.Bxd1 Qa7 -0.40/22
[38...Qa5∓ -1.54/22 ...a2! would now

be deadly. 39.Qe4 a2]

39.c6 Be5 Threatens to win with ...a2!

40.Nd3 Bxg3



...a2 is the strong threat. **41.Kg2?** -8.13/22

[41.Qa2∓ -0.72/22]

41...Bd6? -0.68/22

[41...a2-+ -8.13/22 42.Kxg3 Qc7+ *(42...a1B? too greedy. 43.c7+-)* 43.Kg2 a1Q *(43...a1B? perishes. 44.Qc5+-)*]

42.Nb4? -4.90/23 **Bc7?** -0.32/22

[42...Bxb4-+ -4.90/23 43.c7 Qb7+ 44.Bf3 Qc8]

43.Qb3 Bd6 -0.01/20

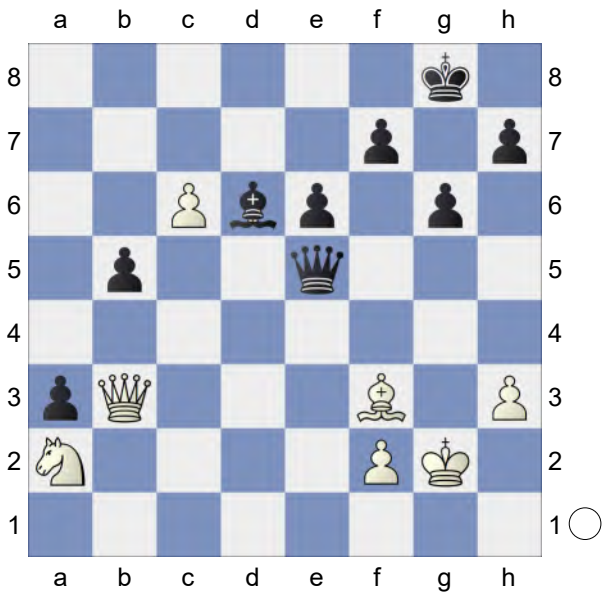
[43...h6∓ -0.49/19]

44.Na2 -0.81/22

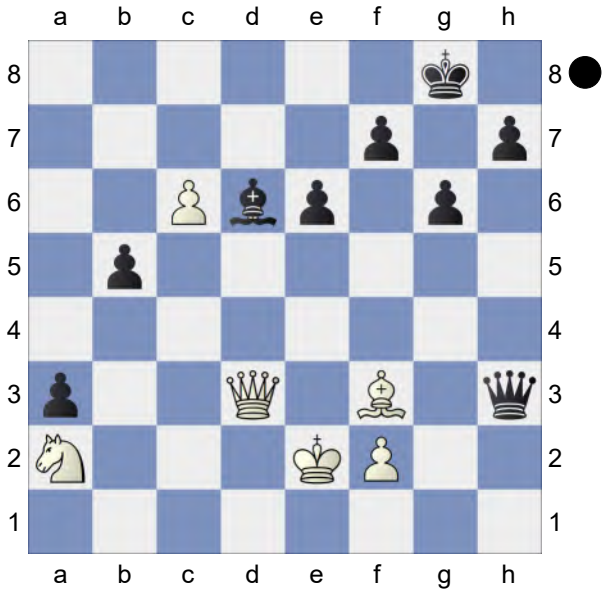
[44.Qc2!= -0.01/20]

44...Qc5∓ 45.Bf3 Qe5

(Diagram)



46.Qd3 Qh2+ 47.Kf1 Qxh3+ 48.Ke2



Qh2 49.Qxb5 Kg7 -0.01/20

[49...h5∓ -0.80/20]

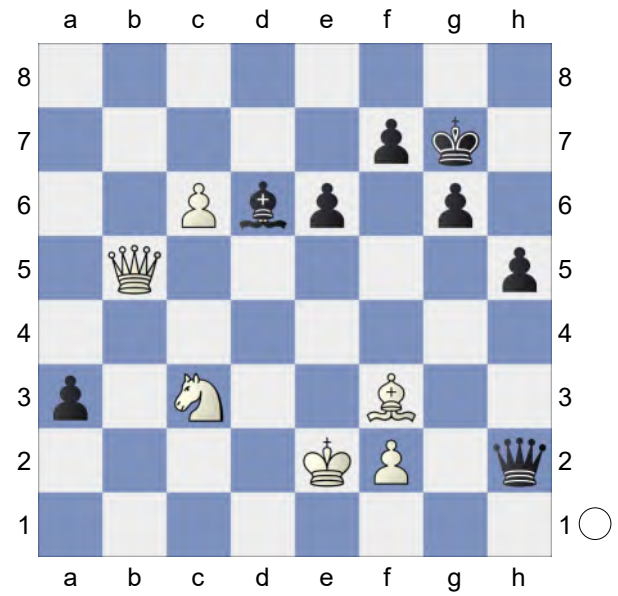
50.Nc3 -0.63/21

[50.Qa5= -0.01/20]

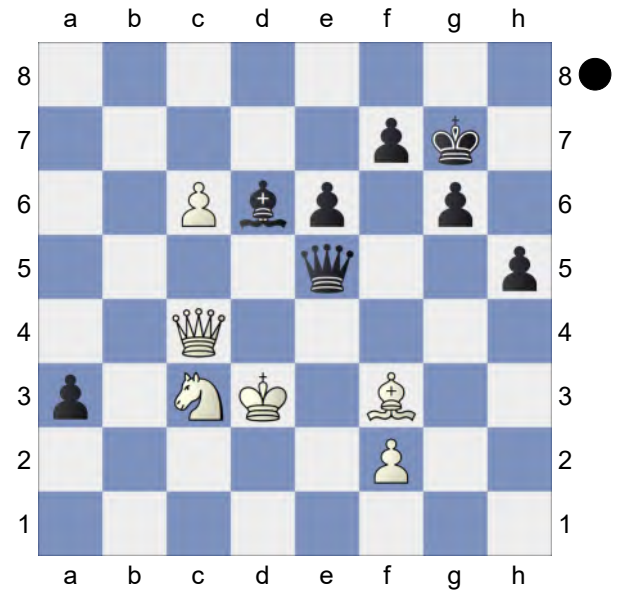
50...h5 -0.25/20

[50...Qf4∓ -0.63/21 should be considered.]

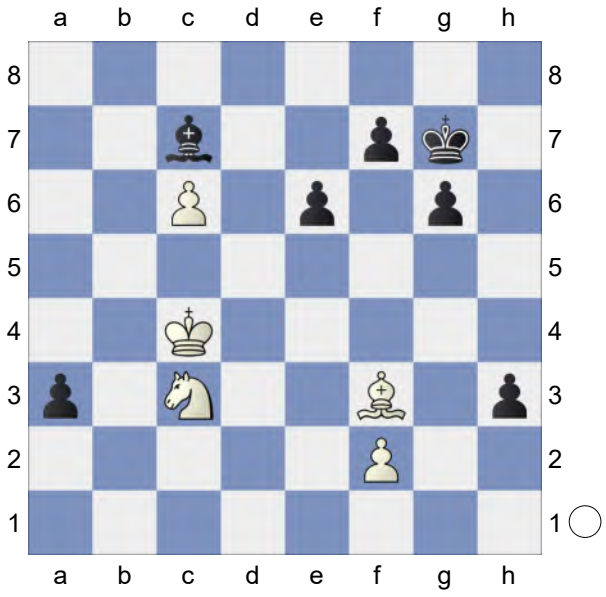
(Diagram)



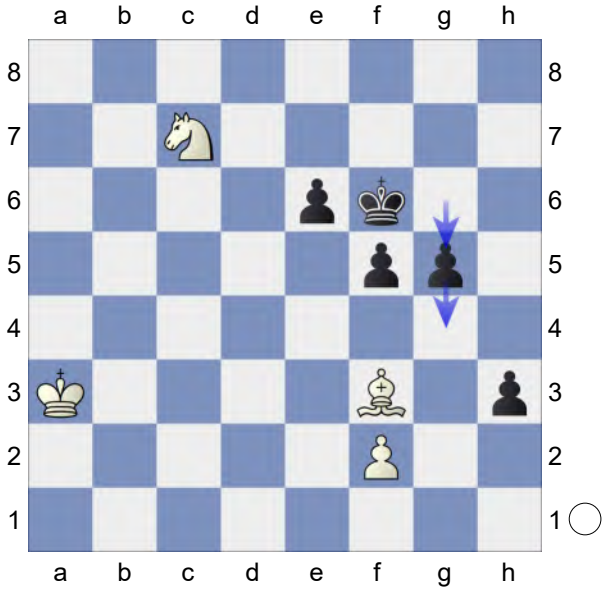
51.Qc4 -1.16/20
[51.Qg5!= -0.25/20]
51...Qe5+ 52.Kd3



Bc7 0.21/22
[52...Qf5+!∓ -0.97/19 53.Qe4 Qa5]
53.Qd4=
[53.Kc2 is interesting. Qa5 54.Kb3 Be5 55.Be2]
53...Qxd4+ 54.Kxd4 h4 1.22/21
[54...Kf8= 0.30/24 keeps the balance.]
55.Kc4± h3? 3.12/23
[55...Kf6± 0.82/22]

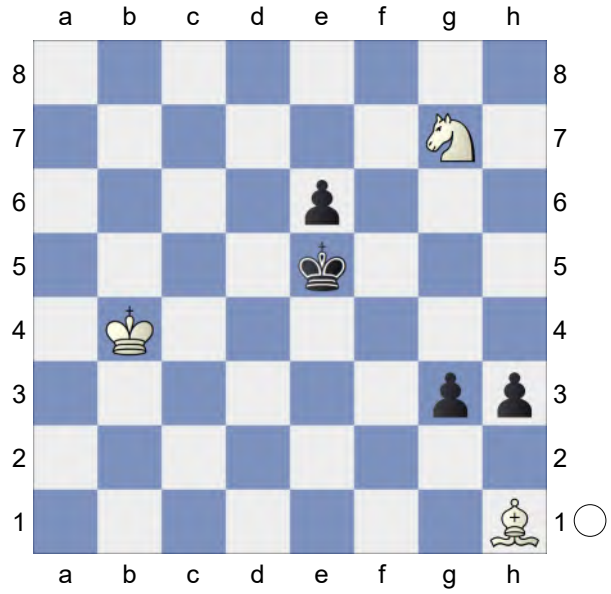


56.Kb3+- f5 57.Nb5
[57.Kxa3 Bd6+ 58.Kb3 Kf7±]
57...Be5 58.c7
[58.Kxa3 g5+-]
58...Bxc7 59.Nxc7 Kf6 60.Kxa3 g5

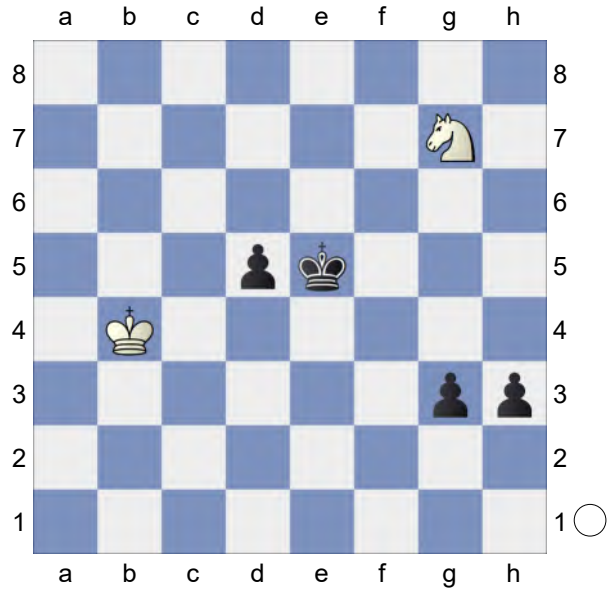


61.Kb4 1.84/23
[⌓61.Nb5 3.83/23]
61...g4 62.Bh1? 0.00/18
[White should play 62.Bc6+- 3.21/23]
62...f4= 63.Ne8+? -12.47/24
[63.Nb5= 0.00/18 g3 64.fxg3 fxg3 65.Nd4]

63...Ke5-+ And now ...g3 would win.
64.Ng7 g3 65.fxg3 fxg3



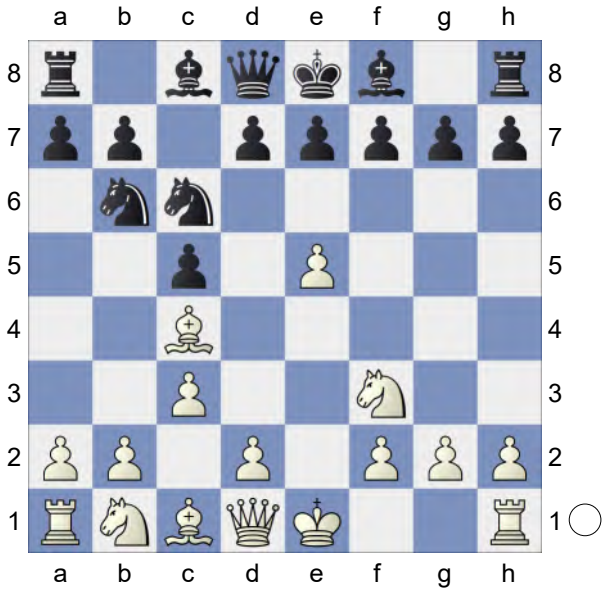
(-> ...g2) **66.Bd5 exd5**



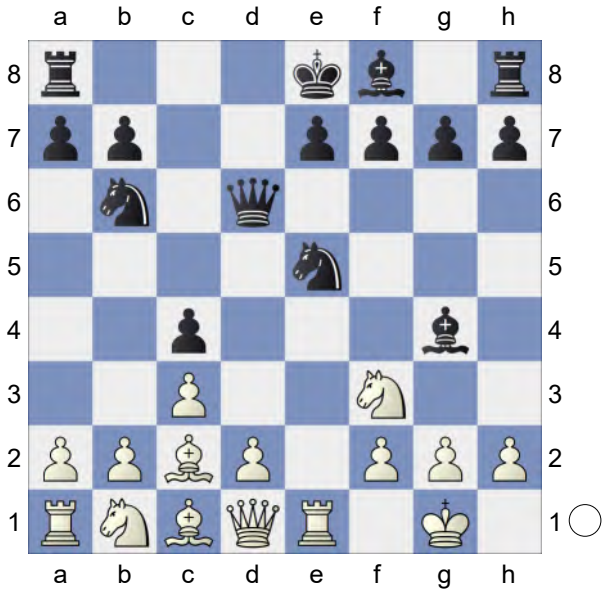
A wild game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.42
0-1

203 **B22**
□ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Indjic,Aleksandar** **2611**
Titled Tuesday intern op 03rd Sep Late b..
[Kitty Kat]

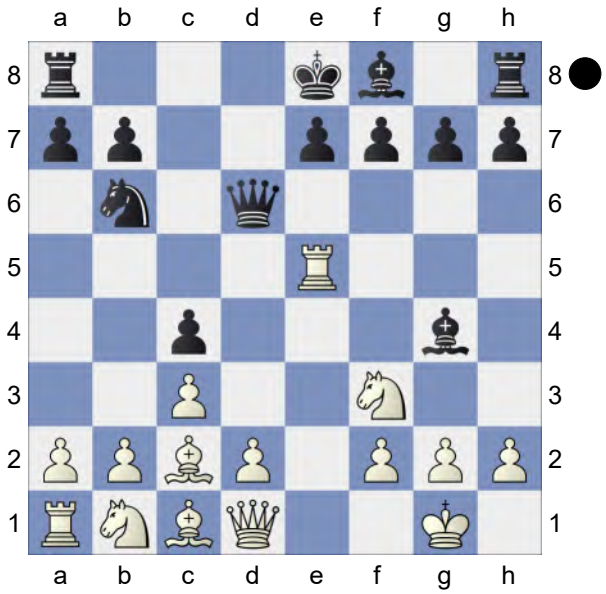
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6



6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.Re1 Prevents Ne5
10...Ne5



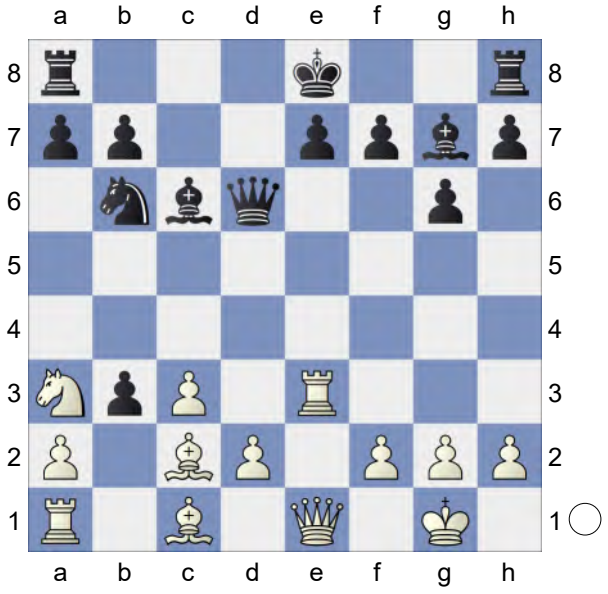
11.Rxe5



d4 is the strong threat. **11...Bxf3**
White has an edge. **12.Qe1 Bc6**
13.Na3 g6
[13...e6 14.b3 cxb3 15.axb3 a6 16.d4 Qd8 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.bxc4 Bd6 19.d5 Bd7 20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.Bg5 Qc8 22.Rd5 Qc7 23.Qe4 Kf8 24.Rd2 Bxh2+ 25.Kh1 h6 26.Be3 Be5 27.Rb1 Bxc3 28.Rxb7 ½-½ (33) Naroditsky,D (2619)-Zhou,J (2540) Charlotte Super op 2023 (5)]
14.b3 Bg7 15.Re3N
[15.Re2 cxb3 16.axb3 0-0 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.bxc4 Rfe8 *(18...Qc5 19.Bb3 Qf5 20.f3 e5 21.Ba3 Rfd8 22.Rd1 h5 23.Qf2 Qf4 24.Bc5 a5 25.Be3 Qf6 26.d4 a4 27.Ba2 exd4* ½-½ Londonderry,C (2493)-Dvoretski (2316) Dragons ChessPub Guide 2020 (3) *)* 19.Ba3 Qd7 20.d4 e6 21.Qd1 b5 22.cxb5 Bxb5 23.Bd3 a5 24.Bxb5 Qxb5 25.Bc5 Rec8 26.Rea2 Bf8 27.Bxf8 Kxf8 28.Qd2 a4 29.h4 Kg7 " -" (40) 7.♗e3 ♘c6 8. d5 ♗f3_6073 (2317)-Moore,T (2542) Dublin 1993 (2) 30.Qg5 Qc4 31.Qe5+ f6 32.Qd6 Ra7 33.Rxa4

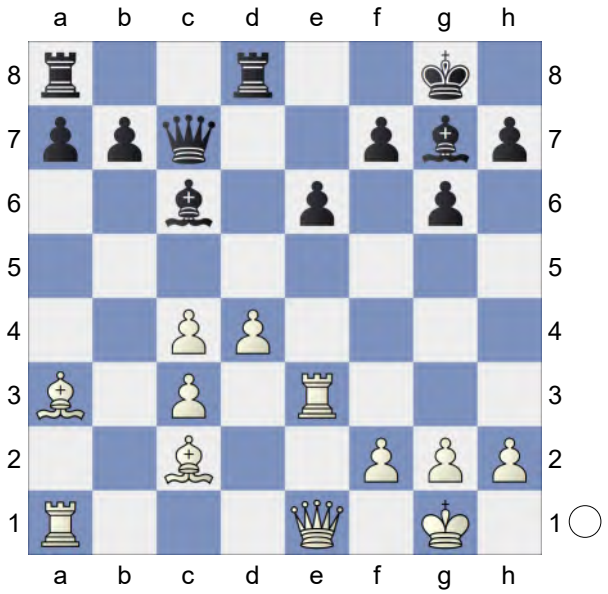
Rxa4 34.Qd7+ Kh6 35.Rxa4 Qxc3 36.Ra7 Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Qf4+ 38.Kh3 Rc3+ 39.f3 Rxf3+ 40.gxf3 ½-½ Ongut,T (2317)-Maze,S (2542) Reykjavik op 2023 (2)]

15...cxb3



16.axb3 0-0 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.bxc4 Rfd8 19.d4 Hoping for Ba3! **19...e6 20.Ba3 Qc7**

[20...Qd7 simplifies 21.h4 a6 22.Bc5 Re8]



21.Rd1 Bf8 0.53/18

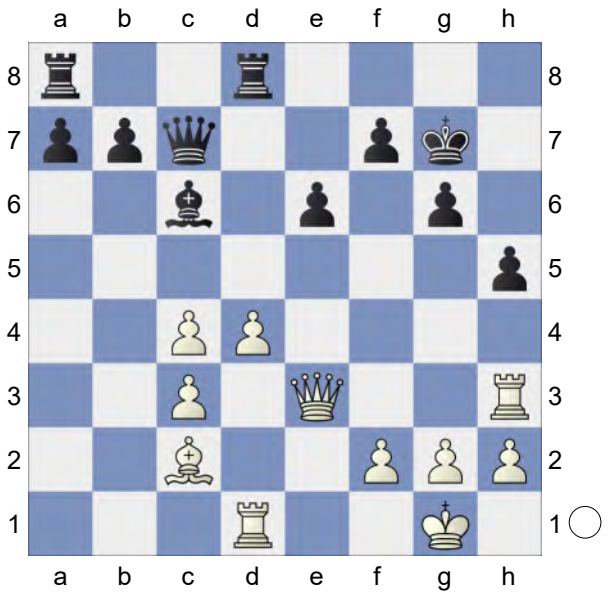
[21...Rab8= -0.23/18]

22.Bxf8± Kxf8 23.Rh3 h5 1.99/21

[23...Kg8± 0.75/19]

24.Qe3+- And now Qh6+ would win.

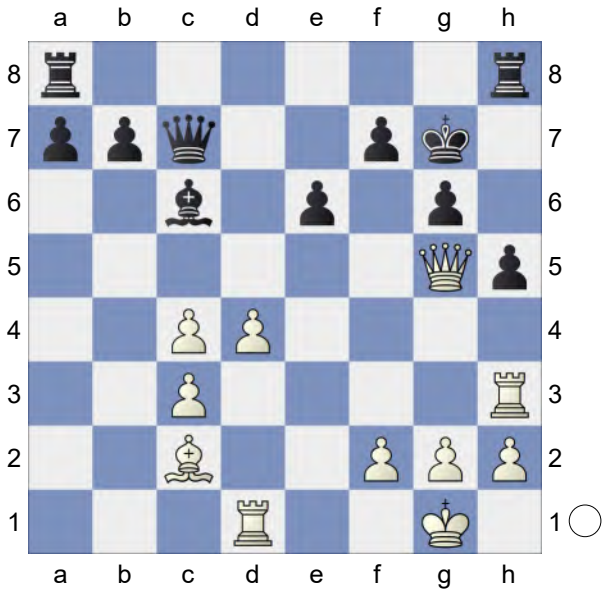
24...Kg7



25.Qg5 0.63/21

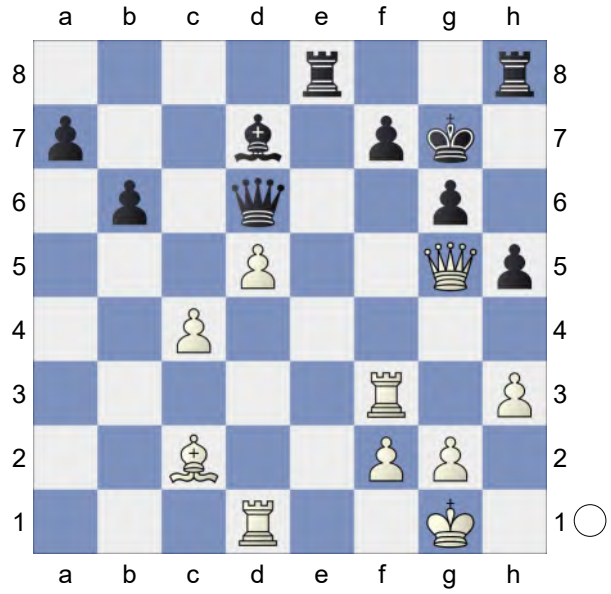
[25.d5!+- 1.90/20]

25...Rh8±



26.d5 exd5 27.cxd5 Bd7 28.Rf3 Rxf7+! would kill now. **28...Qd6 29.h3↑** Prevents Bg4. White fights for an advantage. **29...Rae8 30.c4** Strongly threatening c5! **30...b6** 0.92/21

[30...Rc8± 0.56/21]

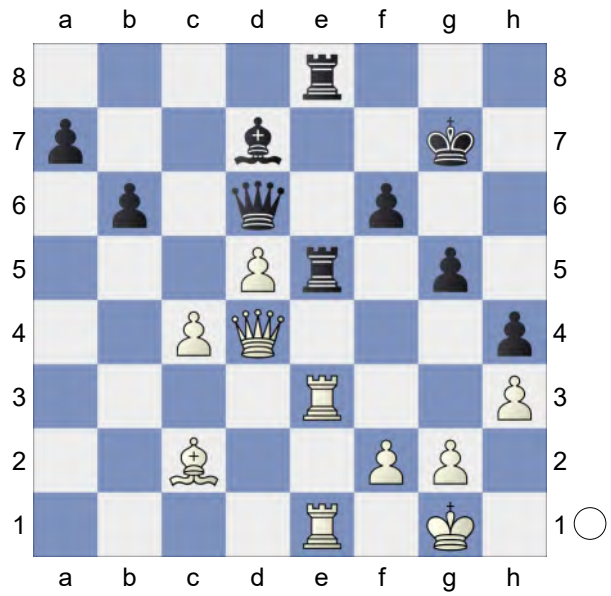


31.Qd2 White is more active. **31...Re5 32.Qf4 f6 33.Re3 g5 34.Qd4 Rhe8 35.Rde1** 0.01/22

[White should try 35.Ra1± 0.84/21 a5 36.Rb1]

35...h4 0.41/20

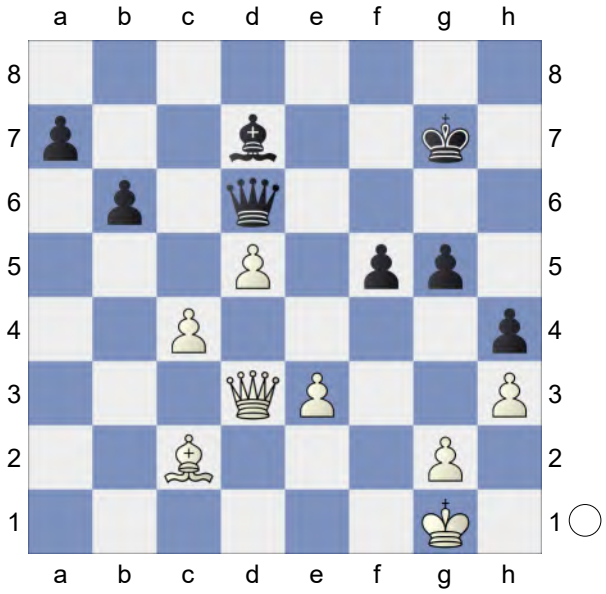
[35...Rxe3= 0.01/22 should be considered. 36.Rxe3 Rxe3 37.Qxe3 h4]



36.Qd3 0.01/22

[36.Kh1± 0.41/20]

36...Bf5= 37.Qc3 Rxe3 38.Rxe3 Rxe3 39.fxe3 Endgame. KQB-KQB **39...Bd7 40.Qd3 f5**



41.Qd4+

[41.e4 with more complications. Qe5 42.exf5 Kf6 43.Qa3]

41...Qf6

[41...Kf7 looks sharper. 42.Bd1 Qg3 43.Bh5+ Kg8]

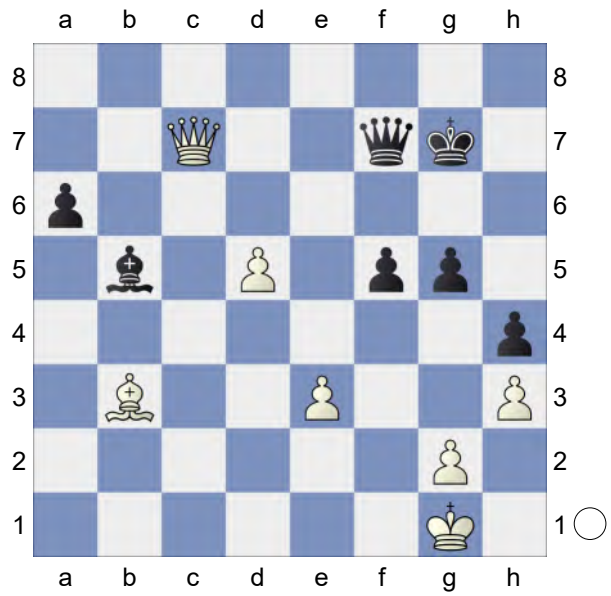
42.c5 bxc5 43.Qxc5 a6 0.63/23

[43...Qa1+= 0.01/22 44.Kf2 Qe5]

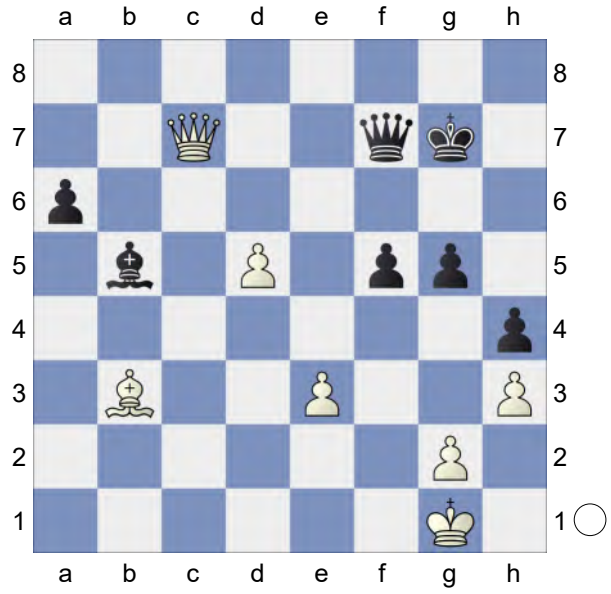
44.Qc7 Qf7 45.Bb3 Bb5 1.43/25

[45...g4!± 0.53/20]

(Diagram)



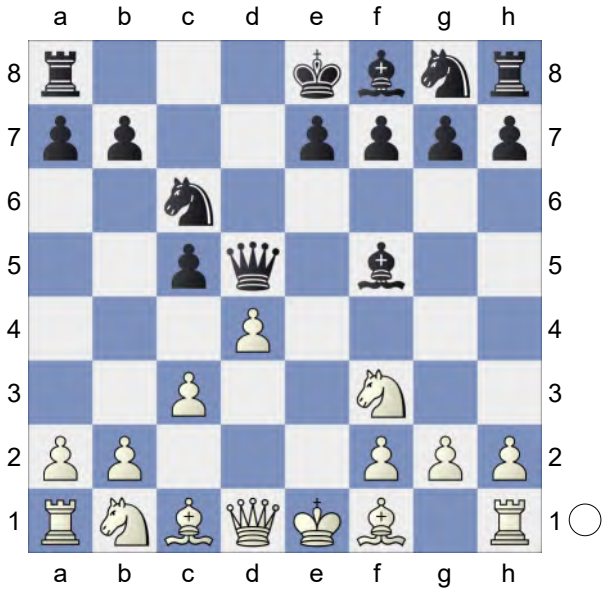
46.Qe5+ 0.01/21
[46.d6± 1.43/25 Qxc7
Remove Defender 47.dxc7]
46...Qf6 47.Qc7+
[47.Qxf6+ Kxf6 48.Kf2 a5-+]
47...Qf7 48.Qc8 -0.01/24
[Better is 48.d6± 1.27/24 Qxc7
Remove Defender 49.dxc7]
48...Qf6 49.Qc7+ Qf7



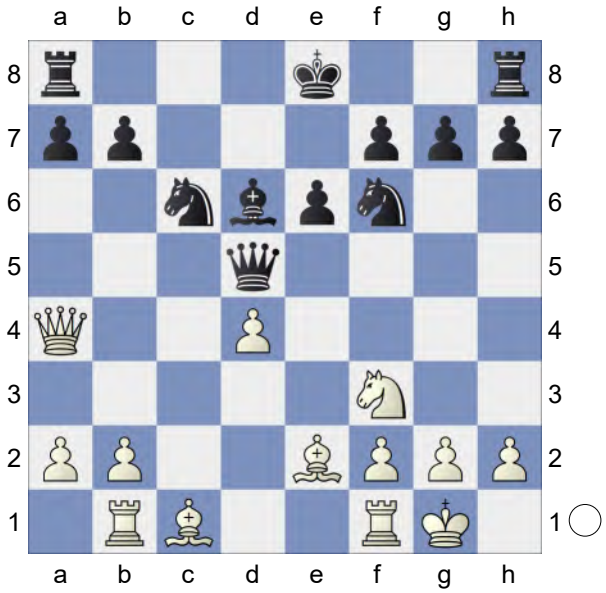
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
½-½

204 **B22**
□ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2703**
■ **Altini,Nicola** **2374**
Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Jul Late bl..
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5

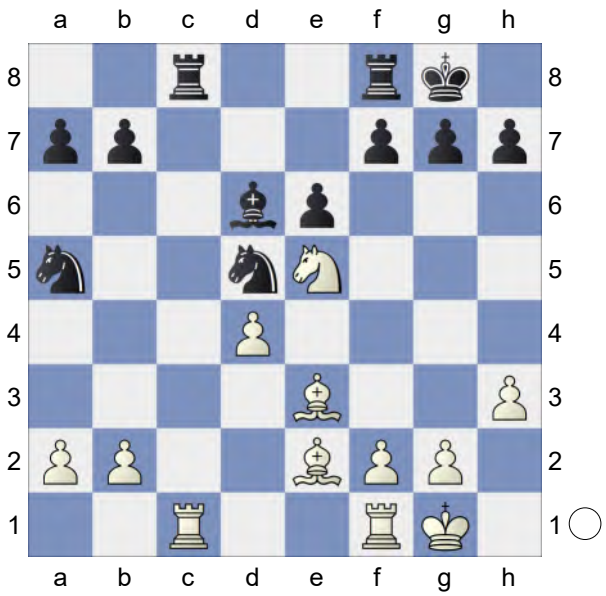


6.Be2
[6.dxc5 simplifies Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Nf6 8.Nbd2]
6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Bxb1 8.Rxb1
The position is equal. **8...e6 9.0-0 Nf6**
10.Qa4
[10.Bf4 Rd8 11.Qa4 Be7 12.Rfd1 0-0 13.Bc4 Qe4 14.Be3 Nd5 15.Bd3 Qg4 16.a3 Bf6 17.h3 Qh5 18.Bf1 e5 19.dxe5 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Bxe5 21.Qb5 Qh6 22.Kh1 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Qxe3 24.Qxb7 Qc5 " -" (59) 4. ♘gf3 b6 5.g3 (1631)-Soupizon,R (1577) TCh Zlatibor SCG 2006 (6)]
10...Bd6N
[10...Be7 11.Bc4 Qd6 12.Be3 0-0 13.Rfd1 Rfd8 14.Bb5 Nb4 15.Ne5 a6 16.Be2 b5 17.Qb3 Nbd5 18.Bf3 Rac8 19.Rbc1 Qb6 20.g4 h6 21.h4 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Nh7 23.Nc6 Rd7 24.Bxd5 exd5 25.Nxe7+ 1-0 (34) Fernandez Garcia,G (2172)-Barria Zuniga,D (2341) Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Nov Late blitz 2022 (11)]
[10...a6 11.Bc4 Qa5 12.Qb3 Qb4 13.Bg5 Qxb3 14.Bxb3 Be7 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.d5 Na5 17.dxe6 Nxb3 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.axb3 Rac8 20.Rfd1 Rhd8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.b4 Bxb2 23.Ng5+ Kg6 24.h4 Bf6 25.Nf3 ½-½ (74) Solozhenkin,E (2469)-Lambert,R (2096) Nantes op 11th 2012 (3)]

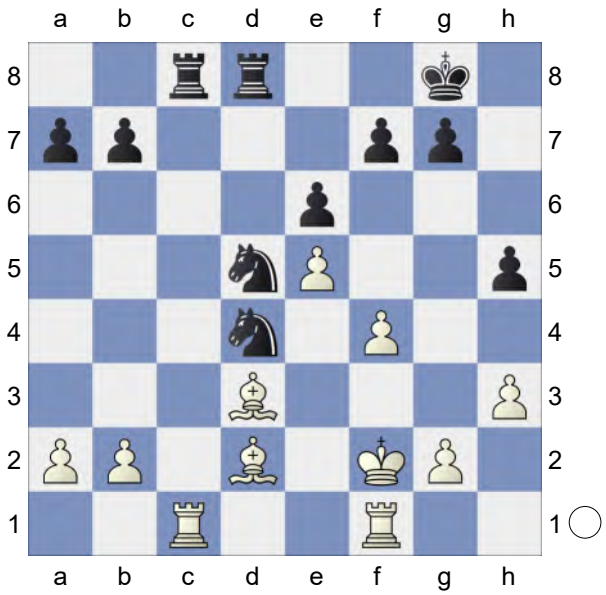


11.h3 -0.16/21
[11.Bc4± 0.31/20 might be stronger. Qa5 12.Qb3]
11...0-0 12.Be3 Rac8 13.Rbc1 Qa5 14.Qxa5 Nxa5 15.Ne5 Nd5

(Diagram)

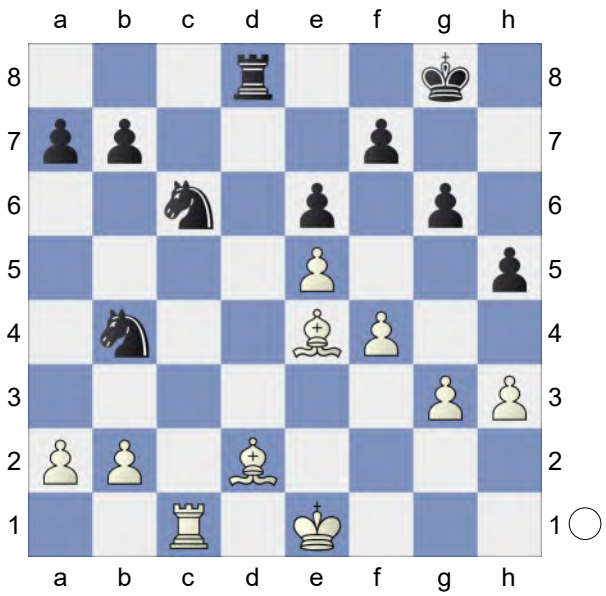


16.Bd2 Bxe5 17.dxe5 Nc6 18.f4 Nd4 19.Bd3 h5 20.Kf2 Rfd8



21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc1 Rd8 23.Be4 g6 24.g3 Nc6 25.Ke1 Ndb4

(Diagram)

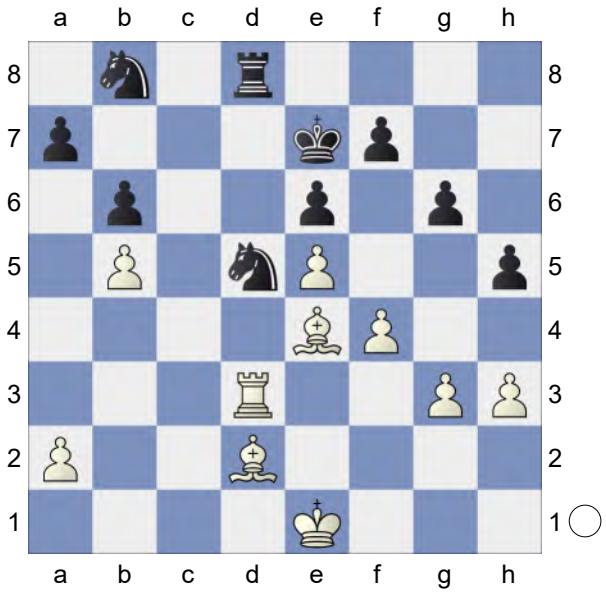


26.Rc3 Nd5 27.Rb3 b6 28.Rd3 Kf8 29.b4 Ke7 1.58/23

[29...a6± 0.31/21]

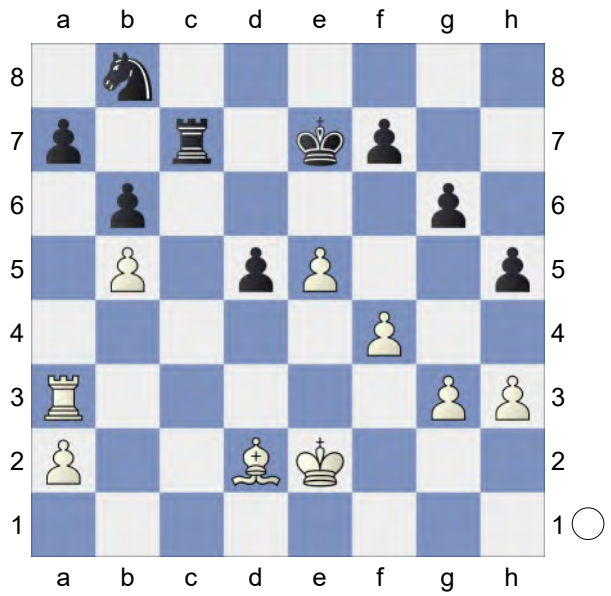
30.b5!± Nb8 2.03/22

[30...Na5± 1.41/24 31.Bxa5 bxa5]

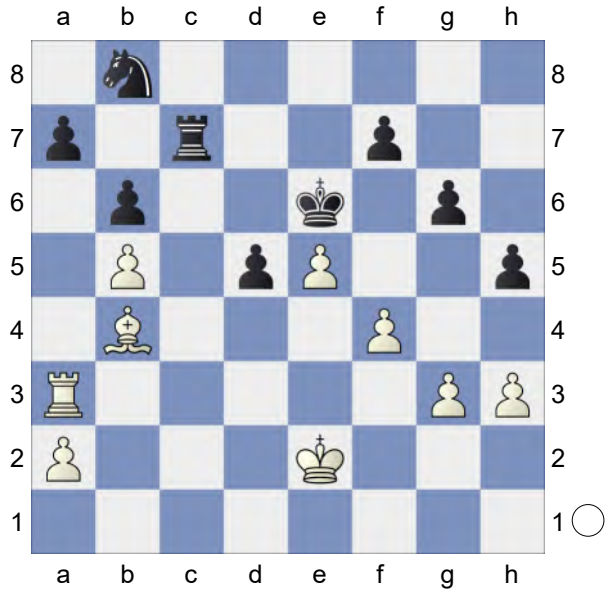


31.Ra3+- Rd7 32.Ke2 Rc7 33.Bxd5! exd5 Endgame.

(Diagram)



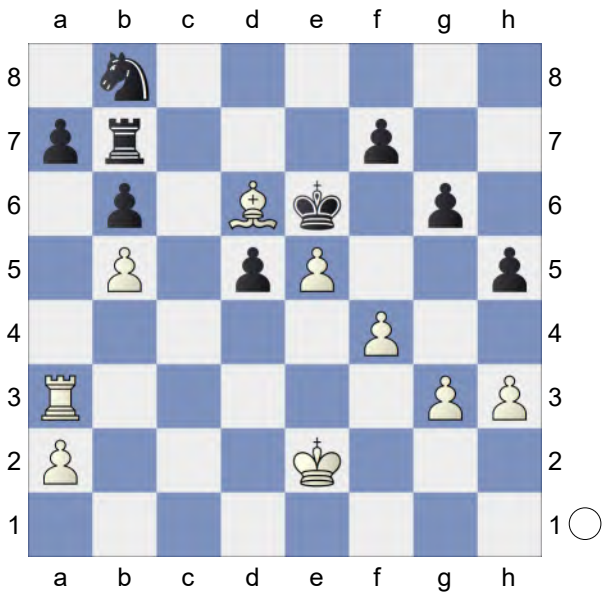
KRB-KRN **34.Bb4+! Ke6**



35.Bd6! White is more active. **35...Rb7** 3.21/24

[35...Rc2+± 1.35/22 36.Kd1 Rc8 37.Rxa7 Nd7]

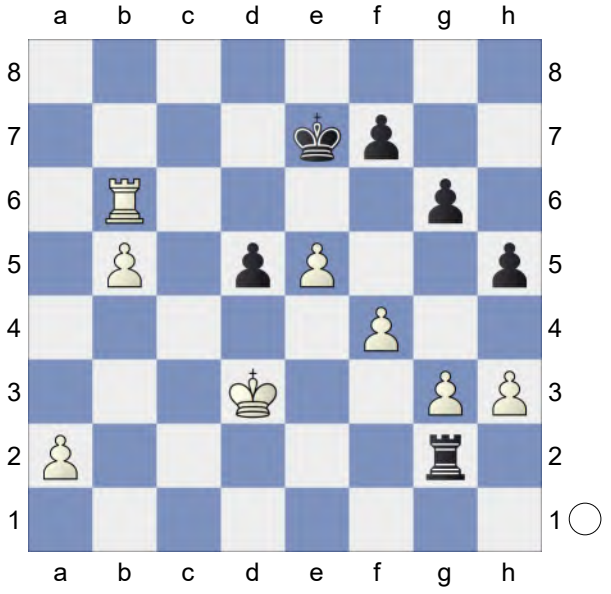
(Diagram)



A mistake that costs the game. **36.Bxb8 Rxb8 37.Rxa7** KR-KR **37...Rc8 38.Ra6 Rc2+?** 5.87/23

[38...d4 3.06/21 might work better. 39.Rxb6+ Kd5]

39.Kd3 Rg2 40.Rxb6+ Ke7

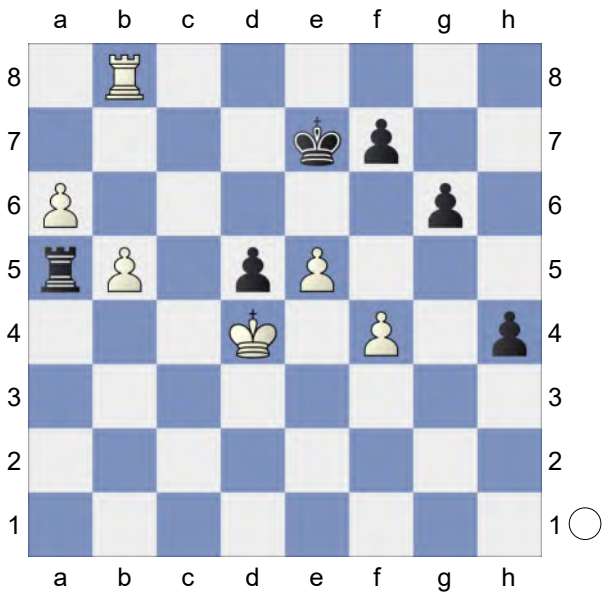


41.a4 Rxg3+ 42.Kd4 Rxh3 43.a5 Ra3 44.a6

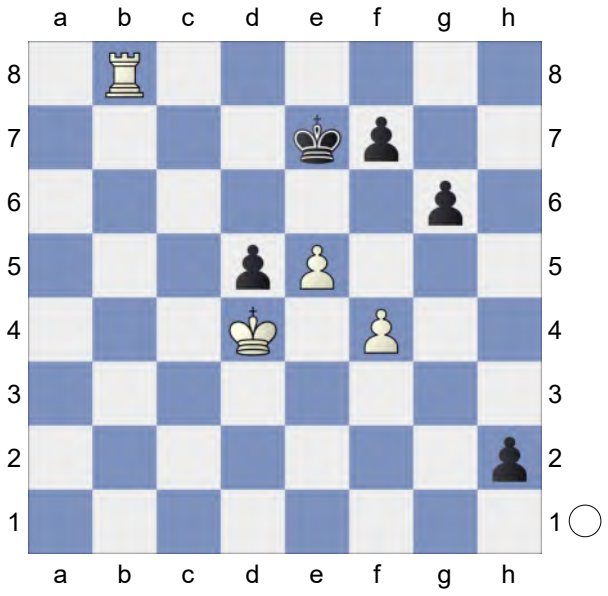
[44.Kxd5 Rxa5 45.Rb7+ Kf8±]

44...h4 45.Rb8 Ra5

(Diagram)

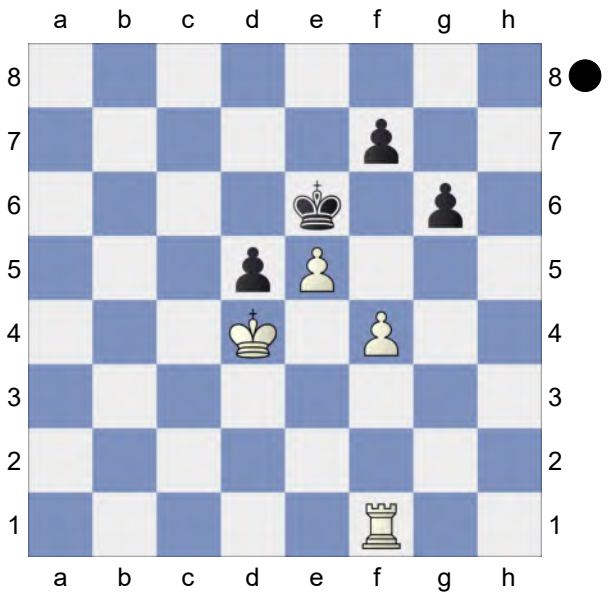


46.Rh8 Strongly threatening b6. **46...h3 47.b6 Rxa6 48.b7**
[And not 48.Rxh3 Rxb6 49.Kc5 Ra6=]
48...Rb6 49.b8Q White mates.
[Weaker is 49.b8B Ke6=]
49...Rxb8 50.Rxb8 h2



51.Rh8
[51.Kxd5? is the wrong capture. h1Q+ 52.Kd4 Qf3-+]
51...h1Q 52.Rxh1 Ke6 53.Rf1

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.44
1-0